

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, February 6, 2022
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



PARISH STAFF

Father Abuchi F. Nwosu Pastor
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Father Peter Oddo Weekend Assistant
Deacon Anthony Barile
Deacon Al Kucinski
Deacon Edward Muller (retired)
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WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am

DAILY MASSES

Monday-Saturday 8:30 am (except Wednesday)
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Holy Days 8:30 am & 7:00 pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:15 - 4:45 pm

SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, MARRIAGE & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the office to arrange.

Masses for the Week

Saturday, February 5 – Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

1 KGS 3:4-13 / MK 6:30-34

8:30 am Amarilis Torres *by C.Tirado*

5:00 pm Thanksgiving for Graces Received
by Marty & Mary Ann Chapkosky

Sunday, February 6

IS 6:1-2A, 3-8 / 1 COR 15:1-11 / LK 5:1-11

7:30 am Deceased Members of Muller & Weisser

Families *by Dcn. Ed & Mary Lou Muller*

9:00 am Amarilis Torres *by C. Tirado*

11:00 am Gail Sullivan *by Charles Sullivan*

Monday, February 7

1 KGS 8:1-7, 9-13 / MK 6:53-56

8:30 am Amarilis Torres *by C. Tirado*

Tuesday, February 8

1 KGS 8:22-23, 27-30 / MK 7:1-13

8:30 am Amarilis Torres *by C. Tirado*

Wednesday, February 9

1 KGS 10:1-10 / MK 7:14-23

7:00 pm Intentions of Barbara Froetscher
by Barbara Froetscher

Thursday, February 10 – Memorial of St. Scholastica

1 KGS 11:4-13 / MK 7:24-30

8:30 am Amarilis Torres *by C.Tirado*

Friday, February 11

1 KGS 11:29-32; 12:19

8:30 am Amarilis Torres *by C.Tirado*

Saturday, February 12

1 KGS 12:26-32; 13:33-34 / MK 8:1-10

8:30 am Amarilis Torres *by C.Tirado*

5:00 pm Annie Theresa Brengel
by JoAnn Lacovara - Friel

Sunday, February 13

JER 17:5-8 / 1 COR 15:12, 16-20 / LK 6:17, 20-26

7:30 am Hugh Marriott *by Lisa Cangelosi*

9:00 am Robert Provost *by Parish Staff*

11:00 am Amarilis Torres *by C.Tirado*

Please Remember To Pray For The Following:



Brianna Rose, Colleen Apter, Ted Cassera, Matt Chapkosky, Fr. Angelus Croce, Stephanie Cuomo, John, Joe Curulli, Marie Curulli, Larry Dmonkos, Emma Finnegan, Jason, Henry Kochanski, Bruce Konar, Susanne Martone, Mike Maldonado, Deacon Ed Muller, Yvette Murphy, Fr. Peter Oddo, Madelyn Patton, Joseph and Rosemary Sciascia, George Shammas, Stephanie, Charles Sullivan, Constance Van Hoven

This Week the Sanctuary Lamp Burns for Healing & Blessings for Ray Nazzaro



A GOOD STEWARD

January 30	\$ 2,055.63
Online Giving	\$ 490.00

Thank you for your generosity!

WOMEN AND MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES

We ask God the Father, through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, to protect all the men and women in our Armed Forces. May they be brought back safely to those whom they love: Captain Jason Gieniewski, US Army.



Scripture Message February 6, 2022

We continue to speak of Peter's leadership and influence in the Church today when we call the pope the "successor of Peter." We participate in the mission of the Church when we bring people to Christ through the example and positive influence of our lives.

What is the Eucharist?

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. The term "Eucharist" originates from the Greek word *eucharistia*, meaning thanksgiving. The presence of Christ in the Eucharist is true, real and substantial.

In the celebration of the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and the instrumentality of the priest. The whole Christ is truly present -- body, blood, soul, and divinity -- under the appearances of bread and wine, the glorified Christ who rose from the dead. This is what the Church means when she speaks of the "Real Presence" of Christ in the Eucharist.

Where is the Eucharist mentioned in the Bible?

The Lord Jesus, on the night before he suffered on the cross, shared one last meal with his disciples. During this meal our Savior instituted the sacrament of his Body and Blood. He did this in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the Cross throughout the ages and to entrust to the Church a memorial of his death and resurrection. The Institution of the Eucharist is written down in the four Gospels below: [Matthew 26:26-30](#), [Mark 14:22-26](#), [Luke 22:14-20](#), [John 6:22-59](#) (The Bread of Life Discourse).

Why does Jesus give himself to us as food and drink?

Jesus gives himself to us in the Eucharist as spiritual nourishment because he loves us. By eating the Body and drinking the Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, we become united to the person of Christ through his humanity. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him" (Jn 6:56). In being united to the humanity of Christ, we are at the same time united to his divinity. Our mortal and corruptible natures are transformed by being joined to the source of life.

Is the Eucharist a symbol?

The transformed bread and wine are truly the Body and Blood of Christ and are not merely symbols. When Christ said "This is my body" and "This is my blood," the bread and wine are transubstantiated. Though the bread and wine appear the same to our human faculties, they are actually the real body and

blood of Jesus. Jesus is not physically present in the Eucharist but He is true, real, and substantially present in the Eucharist.

By his Real Presence in the Eucharist Christ fulfills his promise to be with us "always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). As St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, "It is the law of friendship that friends should live together. . . . Christ has not left us without his bodily presence in this our pilgrimage, but he joins us to himself in this sacrament in the reality of his body and blood" (*Summa Theologiae*, III q. 75, a. 1). With this gift of Christ's presence in our midst, the Church is truly blessed. As Jesus told his disciples, referring to his presence among them, "Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it" (Mt 13:17). In the Eucharist the Church both receives the gift of Jesus Christ and gives grateful thanks to God for such a blessing. This thanksgiving is the only proper response, for through this gift of himself in the celebration of the Eucharist under the appearances of bread and wine Christ gives us the gift of eternal life.

Which saints are mentioned in the Eucharistic prayer?

The list we have today in the first Eucharistic prayer is ancient. It comprised those saints who enjoyed a special veneration in Rome in the first three centuries. In the first place, there are the apostles, followed by several early popes: Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus and Cornelius. St. Cyprian was closely linked to Cornelius, and they share a feast day. Lawrence was one of the seven deacons of Rome and widely noted for his care of the poor. Of Chrysogonus, John and Paul we know little except that they were Roman martyrs and widely venerated in the Roman Church. Cosmas and Damian were physicians and widely known for their medical care of the poor. The second list of saints begins with saints well known from Scripture: St. John the Baptist, Stephen (the first martyr), Matthias (who replaced Judas) and Barnabas (who accompanied St. Paul on the first missionary journey). Following them are several early bishops and priests who were martyred and venerated in Rome: Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus and Peter. Lastly, there are seven women who were martyrs and highly venerated in Rome: Perpetua and Felicity, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia and Anastasia. This list became fixed as the Roman Canon also became fixed.



Charitable Statements

Please call the office if you'd like to receive a copy of your 2021 contributions.

SACRAMENTAL NEEDS

Sacrament of Anointing: Please call the parish priest as soon as there is any serious illness.

Ministry to the Sick: Please call the parish office for a priest visit to the physically handicapped, aged, hospitalized, sick and shut in.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated individually every Saturday afternoon at 4:15pm or by individual appointment with Fr. Abuchi at any time.

Baptisms: Parents may contact the parish before or after their child's birth. The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated every Sunday at the 11 am Mass or after. We also accommodate other days. You will be invited to attend a Pre-Baptismal session either before or after the birth of your child.

Sacramental Marriage ~ The couple should contact the office several months before the desired date for the marriage to insure proper preparation for this Sacrament. Those who are civilly married may also contact the priest to help them convalidate their marriage in the Church.

Sponsor Certificates: Letters of recommendation for sponsors of the Sacraments can be issued only to active registered members of the parish who are receiving the Sacraments on a regular basis.

The saints of February offer advice about not giving up on God

February is the month not only of St. Valentine, but also many other saints and feasts to celebrate.

We live in a time when celebrities are made into idols and influencers sell us the latest trends. But when it comes to true inspiration, no one outshines the saints!

As Catholics, we are not meant to be overly impressed with the "achievements" of this world. We can and should be wowed by the great cloud of witnesses that surround us and whose intercession we seek, so that we can be inspired by their example. The more we read about what they sacrificed and how they loved and the authentic joy they found, we come to realize, if we're honest: No one is cooler than the saints!

The month of February is notable for its connection to the secular celebration of St. Valentine, but it also

features an array of many remarkable men and women who can inspire us in our daily lives.

Here is a list of 10 of the most notable saints to imitate and feasts to celebrate in February.

1. St. Brigid of Ireland – February 1

St. Brigid of Ireland is a patron saint of Ireland and one of St. Patrick's disciples.

2. Presentation of Jesus in the Temple – February 2

The Church celebrates the Presentation of the Lord on February 2, marking the final "Christmas" related feast.

3. St. Blaise – February 3

St. Blaise is known for the special blessing of throats that occurs on his feast.

4. St. Josephine Bakhita – February 8

Sold into slavery, St. Josephine Bakhita was eventually baptized, gained her freedom and joined a religious order in Italy.

5. St. Scholastica – February 10

Sister of St. Benedict, St. Scholastica became the founder of the female branch of the Benedictine Order.

6. Our Lady of Lourdes – February 11

Our Lady of Lourdes appeared to St. Bernadette on February 11, 1858, and millions continue to travel to Lourdes in hopes of healing.

7. St. Valentine – February 14

Known for his association with lovers, St. Valentine was a 3rd-century saint who was martyred for his Christian faith.

8. St. Claude de la Colombiere – February 15

St. Claude de la Colombiere was the spiritual director for St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and helped her spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

9. St. Peter Damian – February 21

St. Peter Damian is highly regarded for his role in reforming religious and clergy life in the 11th century.

10. Chair of St. Peter – February 22

This feast celebrates the office of St. Peter as pope by honoring his *sede* ("chair"), a symbol of his teaching authority.

Quote of the week:

"I asked a favor of you and you refused. I asked it of God and he granted it." – St. Scholastica



Here I am send me! The mysterious nature of God's call.

I am usually amazed listening to people's life, vocations stories and mysterious ways God calls people as well their responses. God also calls those who are 'unqualified' in the eyes of the world. One great example is **St. John Vianney**, in full **Saint Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney**, also called **Curé d'Ars**, born May 8, 1786. "Because of the French Revolution, Vianney received little education. Given the anticlerical sentiment of the Hébertists during the Reign of Terror, he was forced to make his first communion and confession secretly and was impressed by the heroism of the nuns and priests who risked their lives for their faith. He felt called to pursue the priesthood but struggled with Latin and needed private tutoring to supplement his lack of formal education. His studies were interrupted when he was drafted into Napoleon's armies in 1809. Whether deliberately or by serendipity, he was separated from his draft group and ended up in a rural village with a number of army deserters, where he was forced to hide until the decree of amnesty for all deserters in 1810. He was ordained in 1815 and was made assistant priest at Écully, France." As a seminarian, he lacks the academic requirement to be a priest but he defies the odds. In 1818 he became priest of the small village of Ars, which he made a model parish and from which reports of his holiness and his supernatural powers soon spread. From 1845 until Vianney's death, about 20,000 persons visited Ars to see Vianney and especially to make their confession to him. The holy curé spent as many as 12 or 15 hours daily in his confessional. He died August 4, 1859, Ars; canonized May 31, 1925.

Today's readings show us how God can make use of the most unlikely people to fulfill the divine purpose. **The call of God often comes in the midst of very ordinary circumstances.** You would think that the call of God would come to us clearest when we are on spiritual pilgrimage, or after a thirty day retreat of silence in monastery. But God also calls people in ordinary moments, while they were just going about their daily lives. That is how God called Isaiah, Peter, and Paul as presented to us in today's reading. For instance, "Isaiah was in the Temple (so it is possible to hear God's call in a place of worship). But Isaiah did not come to the Temple that day to receive a call from God. Isaiah was more consumed with grief over the recent death of King Uzziah, who had reigned over Judah for 52 years. Isaiah was worried about the future, about issues of economy and national security. Like many of his countrymen, he was focused on the lost safety of his past, and wondering if the future could be trusted. And while he twirled his mind on these matters, God interrupted his daydreaming during the worship service, and called him to a vision of a new future and new security, along with a new vocation as a prophet." According to Isaiah, he heard the voice of God "**Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?**" "**Here I am, I said; Send me!**" Could God interrupt your wandering thoughts today with a call on your life?

God also calls his enemies too. "Saint Paul heard his call on the road to Damascus, a Divine interruption of his duties as a Pharisee persecuting this new troublesome sect of Christians. But despite that horrible resume for a future saint, God called this self-righteous, brilliant, type-A driven man to a life of ministry that would reshape the Church. Likewise, Peter was just coming to shore in the morning after a long a fruitless night of fishing when Jesus asked him to borrow his boat as a floating pulpit. It was an inconvenience, to say the least, especially after a long night pulling on the nets, and empty nets at that! Later Jesus asked him to lower his nets again. He obeyed the command. Consequently, he caught enormous amounts of fish. And yet this interruption of his ordinary life was the beginning of Saint Peter's extraordinary life."

The call of God also transforms the individual, even as God uses that person to help transform the world. In fact, one of the first impressions by those who are called by God is an overwhelming humility and not having the credentials. The lessons from Isaiah, First Corinthians, and Luke's Gospel have a common thread running through them. Isaiah, Paul and Peter acknowledged their unworthiness, weaknesses and vulnerabilities before God. Simon Peter changed his career and his life. He walked away from his business and his identity as a fisherman, and he took a giant leap of faith to follow Jesus. He had a change of occupation, a change of direction and a change of life. With that change began a course of events that would eventually help change the world.

When Jesus Christ comes into your life, he affects not only your private life but every part of your life including your vocation. Jesus becomes the priority, and your relationship with him becomes an important thing in every area of your life. Is God calling you today? It may not be for a lifetime service across the world, but just to cross the street for a single act of kindness. For you and me? God knows, and you may have some idea about what God wants you to be, where God wants you to go and of what God wants you to let go. It may be challenging. But just listen, especially during the interruptions of your life. If your heart's caller ID is working, you just might be overwhelmed to see who has your number. Go ahead. Answer the call and say like Isaiah, "Here I am send me."

- Fr. Abuchi