

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

23-25 NEWTOWN AVENUE, ASTORIA, NY 11102 | 718.278.1834 | MOUNTCARMELASTORIA.ORG

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

EASTER SUNDAY



He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. - Jn 20:5-7

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH MANAGER

Celeste Stewart, Ext. 111
cstewart@diobrook.org
church@mountcarmelastoria.org

RELIGIOUS ED COORDINATOR

Nelly Gutierrez, Ext. 114
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OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

Luis Sanchez Ext. 110
Lsanchez@diobrook.org



PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

PAROCHIAL VICARS

Rev. Michael McHugh
Rev. Sy Hung Tran

PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon Ruben Mendez
Deacon Jacob Rodriguez

RETIRED PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Ed Brady, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Joseph Tan Pham
Rev. Msgr. John Harrington, K.H.S.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Lucille Mascia
music@mountcarmelastoria.org

Youth Minister

Dayonel Mejia
YouthMinister@mountcarmelastoria.org

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30—Easter Vigil

7:30pm Gilberto & Neida Martinez,
Cynthia Lorraine Siders,
Kevin Jamal Langaton, John Thu Pham,
Anna Hue & John Phuong, Mary Jane Hughs Smith

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

8:00am Elaine Chang (For Healing)
9:00am Privata
9:30am Alberto Aguilar Garcia (*1 Aniversario*)
11:00am Angelina Taibi
12:30pm Ricarda Delfina & Cecilia Perez, Leda Miches,
Fulton Castro, Ercilia Vidal (*1 Aniversario*)
Julia Isabel Bravo (*1 Mes Aniversario*)
Lucia Puente (*103 Cumpleaños*)
Por las Intenciones del Padre Joe Pham
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, APRIL 1

9:00am Jose Anibal Gutierrez & Jorge Amorini
(*16th Anniversaries*)

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

8:00am Deceased Members of the
Min & Suh Familles
12:00pm Domenick & Annabell Fucile

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

8:00am Gaspare Barretta
12:00pm Armando Rodriguez

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

8:00am Maria T. Garrovillas
12:00pm Joseph Zatura

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

8:00am Purgatorial Society
12:00pm Rocco & Assunta D'Angelo
7:30pm Michael Amaxtal (En Accion de Gracias)

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

8:00am Paula Ferrera
5:00pm Gerlando Graci (10th Anniversary)
Julia Danheiser Perno, Ed Ocampo,
Anita Seville Mondejar, John Duy Pham

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 (*Second Sunday of Easter*)

8:00am The Living & Deceased Members of
Our Parish's Rosary Society
9:00am Raffaele Carullo/ Divina Misericordia
9:30am Anibal Javier
11:00am Mario Nacinovich (Birthday Memorial)
12:30pm Wilfedo Ponce, Damiana Chavarria,
Maritza Cordero, Rosa Mendez,
Teodomiro Toribio Vasquez,
Por las intenciones del Mons. Cuong Pham,
En Honor a la Divina Misericordia
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

This week The Altar Bread & Wine are being offered for **Kathleen Wassell**, by Maria DiVaccaro; The Sanctuary Lamp is being offered for **Kathleen Wassell**, by the Collura Family; The Altar Candles are being offered in **Thanksgiving to Saint Jude**.

Dedicated offerings can be reserved every week in honor or in memory of a loved one. You can reserve by visiting the parish office.

Altar Candles: \$15.00 Sanctuary Lamp: \$25.00
Altar Bread & Wine \$35.00 Altar Flowers: \$100.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 31: There will be a second collection after communion for the Retired Priests of our Diocese. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

MASS SCHEDULE

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Saturday | 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass) |
| Sunday | <i>Main Church:</i> 8:00 AM (English) 9:30 AM (Bilingual) 11:00 AM (English) 12:30 PM (Spanish) 3:00 PM (Vietnamese) <i>Chapel:</i> 9:00 AM (Italian) 10:30 AM (Czech-Slovak) |
| Weekdays | 8:00 AM and 12:00 Noon |
| Saturday | 8:00 AM |
| First Fridays | 7:30 PM (Spanish) |
| Holy Days | 8:00 AM, 12 PM (English) and 7:30 PM (Bilingual) |
| Holidays | Only one Mass at 9:00 AM |

CONFESSIONS:
Saturday 3:30pm—4:30pm (Chapel)

CHURCH HOURS:
Weekday: 7:00am—7:00pm
Saturday: 7:00am—6:00pm
Sunday: 7:00am—4:00pm

OFFICE HOURS
Weekday:
9:00am—12:00 Noon
1:00pm—8:30pm
Saturday:
9:00am—12:00 Noon

PARISH REGISTRATION

We encourage all who worship with us to consider registering to our parish. This will enable our parish to serve your needs better. Please return this form in the collection or drop it off at the parish office. Your participation will strengthen your sense of belonging in God's family.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Apt _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

PLEASE CHECK:

New Registration Changed Address
 I prefer envelopes I prefer E-giving

2024 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Annual Catholic Appeal 2024

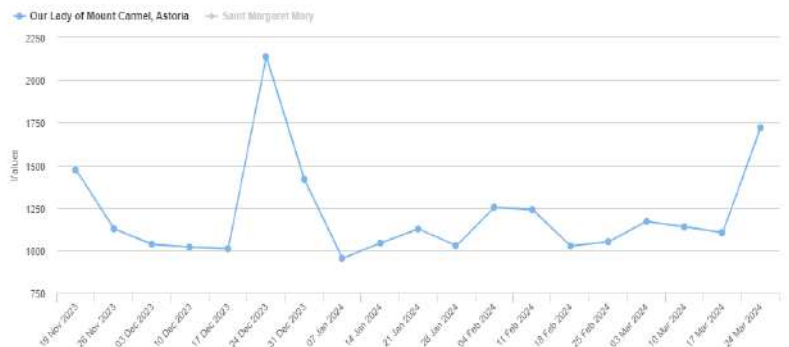
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

As of March 25, 2024, we have 48 donors who have pledged \$24,726 towards our parish goal of \$67,815. We have so far collected \$16,117. We encourage everyone to view the 2024 ACA video online at www.CFBQ.org/ACAVideo. Your contributions to the Annual Catholic Appeal make a significant impact, aiding individuals in Brooklyn & Queens in ways beyond the capacity of any single parish. We invite you to stand with our parish in supporting the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal. To donate, visit www.AnnualCatholicAppeal.org or text **DONATE** to **917.336.1255**.

MASS ATTENDANCE RECORD

| Weekend of March 23/24 | Number of Attendees |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Saturday English Vigil 5:00pm | 122 |
| Sunday English 8:00am | 170 |
| 9:00am Italian | 40 |
| 9:30am Bilingual | 185 |
| 10:00am Czech | 20 |
| English 11:00am | 470 |
| 12:30pm Spanish | 630 |
| 3:00pm Vietnamese | 85 |

Attendance



WEEKLY MASS OFFERINGS

REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Last Sunday: \$6,441

Same Week Last Year: \$5,276

FAITH DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS

February 2023: \$4,424

February 2024: \$4,897

Dear parish family and friends in Christ,

"Christ is Risen! Alleluia!" The Easter message of joy echoes through the whole world proclaiming Our Lord's ultimate victory of light over darkness, grace over sin, and life over death. It is the message upon which our faith rests and to which we anchor our own hope of victory with him.

There is something quite unique about the Easter liturgies, namely, the reality of movement—the joyful movement of going forth—that shows the Church at her best: *when she goes forth!* We see this in the Gospel for Easter Sunday with Peter and John running towards the empty tomb, after Mary Magdalene had run to them with the news that the Lord's body was no longer there! We read again, in the same Gospel, that Mary Magdalene encounters the Risen Lord outside the tomb after Peter and John had hurried off and she, in turn, runs to tell the other disciples: *"I have seen the Lord!"* Mary Magdalene was not only the first disciple to see the Risen Lord; she was also a missionary disciple—a *running disciple*—who could not contain within herself the Good News. She portrays, in a real way, the missionary image of the Church that goes forth with a joyful message to share!



One of the most hopeful and meaningful rituals of our faith occurs during the Easter Vigil Mass when the new Paschal Candle is brought into the darkened church. The simple light is held high and shines brightly in the darkness as a reminder that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. As people in the assembly light their small candles from the Easter Candle, one by one, the whole church becomes radiant with light, and a visible sign of hope begins radiating from each person holding his or her lighted candles. The movement of the Paschal Candle up the aisle amidst the exultant proclamations *"Christ our Light"* echoing through the gradually brightened church is a uniquely powerful visual experience of hope.

In these challenging times, marked by global unrest and division, the message of Easter becomes even more pertinent. We are beckoned to be beacons of hope, to carry the light of Christ into the world's darkness. The ongoing conflicts in many parts of the world, societal divisions at all levels in our own nation, and threats of violence everywhere underscore the urgency of our mission to share the Gospel's hope. Our task, as Christians, to go forth and to proclaim Christ, the reasons for our hope symbolized by that light at the Easter Vigil—becomes even more imperative in this holy season.

St. Paul says, *"If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is useless, and our faith too is in vain"* (Cf. 1 Cor 15:14). The Resurrection is thus the foundation and cornerstone of our faith. On Easter we are called to live as people deeply touched by the Lord's Resurrection, those who cannot contain the Good News within themselves, and those who must run out to proclaim it. Like Mary Magdalene, Peter, John and all the disciples of Christ, may our encounter with the Risen Lord on our journey of faith touch us deeply and transform us into eager witnesses as well. May we become what St. Augustine referred to as an *"Easter People"*, a people changed into *"running disciples"*.

I extend heartfelt thanks to our priests, deacons, staff, volunteers, and all parish members for your dedication and spirit of service throughout Lent and the Holy Week. Your *"going forth"* has certainly borne much fruit in the spiritual renewal of countless people who came through our doors. I also want to welcome and congratulate all the newly baptized and confirmed members of our parish. I pray that your zeal and enthusiastic commitment to faith will inspire us to be *"running disciples"* as well.

May the joy of the Resurrection fill your hearts and homes this Easter and always.

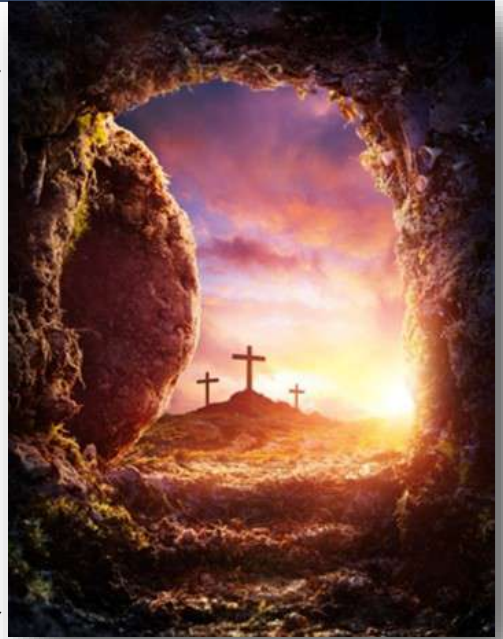
With warmest Easter wishes,

Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

Querida familia parroquial y amigos en Cristo,

“¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡Aleluya!” El mensaje de alegría de Pascua resuena por todo el mundo proclamando la victoria definitiva de nuestro Señor de la luz sobre la oscuridad, la gracia sobre el pecado y la vida sobre la muerte. Es el mensaje en el cual se basa nuestra fe y al que anclamos nuestra propia esperanza de victoria con Él.

Hay algo verdaderamente único en las liturgias de Pascua, a saber, la realidad del movimiento—el movimiento alegre de avanzar—que muestra a la Iglesia en su mejor momento: *¡cuando avanza!* Vemos esto en el Evangelio del Domingo de Pascua con Pedro y Juan corriendo hacia la tumba vacía, después de que María Magdalena corriera hacia ellos con la noticia de que el cuerpo del Señor ya no estaba allí. Leemos nuevamente, en el mismo Evangelio, que María Magdalena encuentra al Señor Resucitado fuera de la tumba después de que Pedro y Juan se habían apresurado a irse y ella, a su vez, corre a decirles a los otros discípulos: *“¡He visto al Señor!”* María Magdalena no solo fue la primera discípula en ver al Señor Resucitado; también fue una discípula misionera—*una discípula corredora*—que no podía contener dentro de sí misma la Buena Nueva. Ella retrata, de una manera real, la imagen misionera de la Iglesia que avanza con un mensaje alegre para compartir.



Uno de los rituales más esperanzadores y significativos de nuestra fe ocurre durante la Misa de la Vigilia Pascual cuando se introduce el nuevo Cirio Pascual en la iglesia oscurecida. La luz sencilla se sostiene alta y brilla intensamente en la oscuridad como un recordatorio de que Jesucristo es la luz del mundo. A medida que las personas en la asamblea encienden sus pequeñas velas del Cirio Pascual, una por una, toda la iglesia se ilumina radiante con luz, y un signo visible de esperanza comienza a irradiar de cada persona sosteniendo sus velas encendidas. El movimiento del Cirio Pascual por el pasillo en medio de las proclamaciones exultantes de *“Cristo nuestra Luz”* que resuenan a través de la iglesia gradualmente iluminada es una experiencia visual poderosamente única de esperanza.

En estos tiempos desafiantes, marcados por la inquietud global y la división, el mensaje de Pascua se vuelve aún más pertinente. Estamos llamados a ser faros de esperanza, a llevar la luz de Cristo a la oscuridad del mundo. Los conflictos en curso en muchas partes del mundo, las divisiones sociales en todos los niveles en nuestra propia nación y las amenazas de violencia en todas partes subrayan la urgencia de nuestra misión de compartir la esperanza del Evangelio. Nuestra tarea, como cristianos, de avanzar y proclamar a Cristo, las razones de nuestra esperanza simbolizadas por esa luz en la Vigilia Pascual, se vuelve aún más imperativa en esta santa temporada.

San Pablo dice: *“Si Cristo no ha resucitado, entonces nuestra predicación es inútil, y nuestra fe también es en vano”* (Cf. 1 Cor 15:14). Por lo tanto, la Resurrección es la base y piedra angular de nuestra fe. En Pascua estamos llamados a vivir como personas profundamente tocadas por la Resurrección del Señor, aquellos que no pueden contener la Buena Nueva dentro de sí mismos y aquellos que deben salir a proclamarla. Como María Magdalena, Pedro, Juan y todos los discípulos de Cristo, que nuestro encuentro con el Señor Resucitado en nuestro camino de fe nos toque profundamente y nos transforme en testigos ansiosos también. Que lleguemos a ser lo que San Agustín se refería como un *“Pueblo de Pascua”*, un pueblo transformado en *“discípulos corredores”*.

Extiendo mi más sincero agradecimiento a nuestros sacerdotes, diáconos, personal, voluntarios y todos los miembros de nuestra parroquia por su dedicación y espíritu de servicio durante la Cuaresma y la Semana Santa. Su *“avance”* ha dado sin duda muchos frutos en la renovación espiritual de innumerables personas que han pasado por nuestras puertas. También quiero dar la bienvenida y felicitar a todos los recién bautizados y confirmados de nuestra parroquia. Oro para que su entusiasmo y compromiso entusiasta con la fe nos inspire a ser *“discípulos corredores”* también.

Que la alegría de la Resurrección llene sus corazones y hogares esta Pascua y siempre.

Con los más cálidos deseos de Pascua,

Mons. Cuong M. Pham

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

Sunday, March 31

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 10:00am—1:00pm | Czech Community | Lourdes A/B |
| 10:00am—12:00pm | Spanish OCIA | Fatima |
| 10:00am—11:00am | Grupo de Amistad | Upper Room |
| 10:30am—12:30pm | Cursillo | Guadalupe A/B |
| 1:00pm—7:00pm | Vietnamese Community | Guadalupe A/B |

Tuesday, April 2

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 3:30pm—6:00pm | Porque Ser Catolico? | Fatima |
| 5:30pm—7:00pm | Mariachi School | Balcony |
| 6:00pm—9:00pm | Marriage Encounter | Guadalupe+ Fatima |
| 7:00pm—9:00pm | Coro #1 | Nazareth |

Wednesday, April 3

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 4:00pm—7:30pm | Religious Education | All Rooms |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------|

Thursday, April 4

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 10:00am—11:30am | Legion of Mary | Guadalupe A/B |
| 7:30pm—8:30pm | Grupo de Amistad | Lourdes A/B |

Friday, April 5

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 6:30pm—9:00pm | Practica de Instrumentos | Upper Room |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------|

Saturday, April 6

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| All Day | CYO | Gym |
| 9:00am—12:30pm | AA Meeting | Guadalupe A/B |
| 10:00am—1:00pm | Saturday Lessons in Faith | Lourdes A/B |
| 10:00am—12:00pm | Spanish Children's Choir | Upper Room |
| 4:00pm—9:00pm | Adult Sewing Group | Lourdes A/B |
| 5:00pm—7:00pm | Bilingual Choir Practice | Nazareth |
| 5:00pm—7:00pm | Ministerio de Consolacion | Guadalupe |
| 6:00pm—7:30pm | Porque Ser Catolico? | Fatima |

OFFICE CLOSING & EASTER MASSES

The parish office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 1st. There will be no group meetings in the Parish Institute on that day & there will be only one Mass celebrated in the Main Church at 9:00am. The parish office will re-open on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Please remember that during the Easter season all weekday Masses will continue to be celebrated in the Upper Church until further notice. We wish everyone a happy and blessed Easter.



Follow us on Social Media:

@OLMCAstoria



PRAYING FOR THE SICK

Prayer is one of the most powerful tools we have. It's a way for us to communicate with God and obtain His divine intervention. It can help sick people get well again and also gives us the strength in our own weakness and suffering. If you wish your loved ones who is sick to be prayed for at our daily Mass, kindly contact our parish office to place their names in our Prayer List. This week please pray for **Roseann Rodeschini, Elaine Gannon and Frances Camisa**

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED DECEASED

Remembering our deceased loved ones by having them prayed for at Mass on every first Friday of the month — the day traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is a meaningful way to express our love. Enrollment is \$10 per name. Those enrolled the Purgatorial Society will be remembered for a whole year. We have currently enrolled **Minda Balhaman, Ralph Vitacco, Leonida Soresca, Eugenio Acevedo, Wasyl Bodnar, Lillie Bonanno, Jalil Illera, Dilara Ayse Osman, Setiminio Ravik, Bronko Kos, Alvin Trusty, John Agius, Manuele Vdokakes, Vincent Arnone, Sadie Arnone, George Vdokakes, Grace Vdokakes, Solita Escubio Ruendo, Ruben Amado Talavera, Padraic O'Connor, Maribel Castellano.**



JOIN FAITH DIRECT FOR E-GIVING

Your recurring gifts will help strengthen our parish and sustain our ministries throughout the year, even if you need to miss a Sunday service. It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to sign up:

- * Visit faith.direct/NY370
- * Call the parish office at 718.278.1834
- * Scan the QR code
- * Text "Enroll" to 929.254.3850



DIOCESAN YOUTH HOLY HOURS

The Diocese of Brooklyn & Queens invites all youth and young adults and their families to their monthly Youth Holy Hours. Below are the upcoming dates and locations. For more information please call the parish office.

- May 3, 2024 Mary's Nativity/St. Ann, 4602 Parsons Blvd. Queens
- June 7, 2024 Holy Family/St. Thomas Aquinas, 249 9th St. Brooklyn

WITNESSING EASTER JOY



Having celebrated the holiest events of Christ's passion, death and resurrection during the Paschal Triduum, we now delight in the fifty days of Eastertide with rejoicing, feasting and giving witness to our faith.

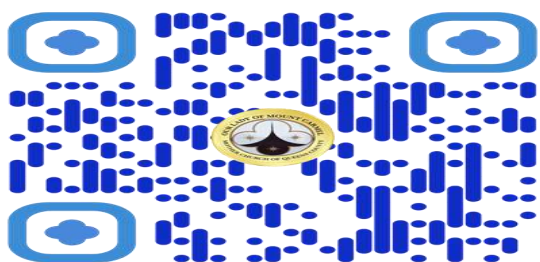
These are days when we look for the risen Lord among us; hear in each other's stories of rising from the big and small deaths; experience something of Christ's triumph in our lives. That is why we look to the newly baptized, robed in bright new clothes and oily with gladness: at Easter, they died to sins and rose with Christ to a new life. Now they take their places in church among us. Together, like the first witnesses of Christ's resurrection who were so full of joy on that Easter morn, we rush about with good and giddy news: *Death is not the last word! Life and love are forever!* Eastertide is the perfect time for evangelization, for sharing our happy faith, for working together to change this world into the world to come. *Sing Alleluia!*

TESTIFICANDO LA ALEGRIA DE LA PASCUA



Después de haber celebrado los eventos más sagrados de la pasión, muerte y resurrección de Cristo durante el Triduo Pascual, ahora nos regocijamos en los cincuenta días del Tiempo Pascual con alegría, festines y dando testimonio de nuestra fe. Estos son días en los que buscamos al Señor resucitado entre nosotros; escuchamos en las historias de unos y otros sobre cómo hemos resurgido de las muertes grandes y pequeñas; experimentamos algo del triunfo de Cristo en nuestras vidas. Por eso miramos a los recién bautizados, vestidos con ropas nuevas y ungidos de alegría: en Pascua, murieron al pecado y resucitaron con Cristo a una nueva vida. Ahora toman sus lugares en la iglesia entre nosotros. Juntos, como los primeros testigos de la resurrección de Cristo que estaban llenos de alegría en esa mañana de Pascua, corremos por todas partes con buenas y emocionantes noticias: *¡La muerte no es la última palabra! ¡La vida y el amor son eternos!* El Tiempo Pascual es el momento perfecto para la evangelización, para compartir nuestra fe feliz, para trabajar juntos para transformar este mundo en el mundo venidero. *¡Cantemos Aleluya!*

NEW TO THE PARISH?



ASK THE VOCATION DIRECTOR!

Fr. Chris Bethge, Vocation Director, is here to help as you seek to discover God's call for your life! If you have questions, need to talk through your discernment, or want to make an appointment, please feel free to contact him at 718-827-2454 or email cbethge@cathedralprep.org



INFANT BAPTISM/ BAUTISMOS

Preparation Meeting

Tuesday—6:00pm—Institute

April 23, 2024

May 21, 2024

June— NO CLASS

July 23, 2024

August 20, 2024

September 24, 2024

October 22, 2024

November 19, 2024

December 17, 2024

Baptism Ceremony

12:00pm— Upper Church

April 27, 2024

May 25, 2024

No English Baptisms

July 27, 2024

August 24, 2024

September 28, 2024

October 26, 2024

November 23, 2024

December 21, 2024

Reunión de Preparación

Martes—6:00pm—Instituto

9 de Abril

NO HABRA BAUTISMOS EL MES DE MAYO

4 de Junio

9 de Julio

6 de Agosto

10 de Septiembre

8 de Octubre

5 de Noviembre

10 de Diciembre

Ceremonia de Bautismo

12:00pm—Iglesia de Arriba

13 de Abril

8 de Junio

13 de Julio

10 de Agosto

14 de Septiembre

12 de Octubre

9 de Noviembre

14 de Diciembre

DIGGING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

In his speech, Peter places much emphasis on his personal witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. To whom this week could you witness your faith in the resurrection of Jesus?

Second Reading:

Paul taught the believers in Colossae to anticipate the return of the resurrected Jesus. How does your family celebrate Easter Sunday?

Gospel Question:

Mary Magdala, Peter, and the Beloved Disciple were the first to experience the joy and mystery of the empty tomb. Do you recall when you first started believing in the resurrection of Jesus?

OUR YOUTH AROUND THE DIOCESE

CAMINATA 2024



On Saturday, March 23, the Jornada Movement planned to have their annual Caminata (walk-a-thon) in the streets of Williamsburg, however, because of the rain storm, the leadership committee decided to change plans to keep the event indoors. The Jornadistas & youth of the Diocese of Brooklyn & Queens were welcomed at St. Martin of Tours, where Bishop Brennan celebrated Mass for over 200 youth! We continued in the parish hall with praise & worship and reflections by Fr. Jose Henriquez (*Spiritual Director*) and Fr. James Kuroly, (*Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry*). If you would like to learn more about the Jornada Movement you may call the parish office and ask to speak with Luis Sanchez.



Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo
23-25 Newtown Avenue
Astoria, NY 11102

CORONILLA CANTADA

6:30pm en la Iglesia de Arriba

Sabados en 2024:
~~27 de enero~~
~~10 de febrero~~
~~23 de marzo~~

Celebracion de la Divina Misericordia sera el Domingo 7 de Abril; Misa a las 12:30pm seguido con la fiesta en el gimnasio.

25 de mayo
 29 de junio
 20 de julio
 31 de agosto
 28 de september
 26 de octubre
 30 de noviembre

Jesus, en Ti confio!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Venerable Francis-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, was a cardinal from Huế, Vietnam. Imprisoned for his faith for 13 years, nine of which were in solitary confinement, he never stopped preaching, even from scraps of prison paper. Once released, he continued to serve the Church until his death.

Prayer of Blessing

Dear Lord, Pour your blessings upon us today, we who trust in your name and call upon you. Send us your Spirit, enlighten our hearts, fill our lives with your abundance. Amen.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Outside Chicago, there is a small cemetery in the woods behind Mundelein Seminary, where I was a student. One night I was exploring it. I looked up and was shocked to see an imposing seventeen-foot angel towering over me and preparing to blow a trumpet. Adrenaline rushed through me. I gasped and uttered, "Oh my God!" Quickly I realized it was in fact a massive bronze statue. I tried to calm myself down. But it still freaked me out. As we begin to celebrate Easter today, this image might seem a bit unnerving. But please recall that for the first disciples on the morning of the resurrection, it was precisely that. It wasn't joyful at first, it was terrifying. It wasn't peaceful,

it was unsettling. In that Jerusalem cemetery, something otherworldly had happened. Angels announced that he was no longer dead, but alive. They had blown their trumpets, so to speak, and Jesus had risen. Soon the disciples' shock in that dark cemetery would turn into joy. We all have our own places of the dead, too, don't we? Deceased loved ones. Our tired patterns of blame. Relationships stuck in resentment. Indifference to the poor. Lost dreams. Despair about our future. Fear of sickness and death. These are our "cemeteries" where we don't expect much to happen. Today we enter if we dare those places with the disciples. See the mighty angel standing there, trumpet ready to blare!

Father John Muir

WHAT WOULD MARY DO?

This Easter morning, I am thinking of Mary Magdalene. I want to know her state of mind as she approached the tomb in the darkness. Was she afraid? Was she thinking clearly? Was she tired? Had grief and trauma robbed her of her sleep the last two nights? What did she intend to do? Anoint Christ's body, yes but what else? Kiss his hands, trace the markings where the lash had fallen upon his skin? Say goodbye? Weep? Despair?

What were the words she planned to whisper into the cold, empty darkness that morning, as she wept over God's body?

I don't know anything about her state of mind that Easter morning, except that I know she wanted to be with Christ. Perhaps that was all she knew, too. Perhaps she had no other thought, no other desire, than nearness to him. She didn't need to understand everything, and she didn't expect answers - she didn't dare hope for that.

But everything and everyone had fallen apart around her, and in Jesus presence she knew her heart would be able to rest.

If you have ever been in the midst of a crisis in your life and found yourself pacing the floors of your house when no one else is awake, muttering the words to a prayer you know by heart, you know what Mary Magdalene felt.

In those moments, we do not always feel God's presence. Sometimes, when we look for Him, we only see an empty tomb.

When these dark moments come, I pray you will remember the faithfulness of this great saint. Be like Mary Magdalene. Look for Jesus, always. You may not always find him, but he will always find you.



"She ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him.'" John 20:2.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL COMMUNION AND DO YOU NEED TO BE IN A STATE OF GRACE TO RECEIVE IT?

The practice of a "spiritual communion" dates back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him." Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive communion because of health, inability to attend Mass or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin. This has been encouraged by many saints, spiritual writers and most

recently Pope Francis encouraged this when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving communion. Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way.

DIOCESAN WOMEN'S *Conference*

9 AM - 4 PM
APRIL 13TH

Theme: The Holy Women at the Empty Tomb
Join us for a day of prayer, Mass, talks, Holy Hour and Confession.



**SR. ANA MARGARITA
LANZAS , SCTJM**



**MOTHER ADELA GALINDO,
FOUNDRESS, SCTJM
KEYNOTE SPEAKER**



**FR. JOE ROGERS,
SCTJM**



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Living & Leading by Faith credit will be offered to those who participate for the entire day.

Visit us at www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org or call us at 718-399-5986 for more information.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Easter Mass Schedule



He is risen!

Saturday, March 30 - Easter Vigil

7:30pm - Multilingual

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Masses

8:00am & 11:00am English

9:00am Italian (Chapel)

9:30am Bilingual

10:30am Czech (Chapel)

12:30pm Spanish

3:00pm Vietnamese