

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

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Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas ~ Dec. 22, 2019

Parish Center Hours

Monday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Parish Phones

Parish Center Office: (650) 366-3802
Pastor's Office: (650) 306-9583
Religious Education Office: (650) 368-8237
Mt. Carmel School Office: (650) 366-6127
Mt. Carmel Pre-School: (650) 366-6587

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Ulysses D'Aquila
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Thomas J. Boyle
Principal: Dr. Deborah Farrington
Administrative Assistant: Ivette Meléndez
Director of Religious Ed.: Magdalena Hernández
Youth Confirmation: Judy Draper
Director of Music: Bianca Remlinger



“Come after me, and I will make you
fishers of men.” Matthew 4:12-17



Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm (Español), and 5 pm

Saturday: 8:15 am and 5:00 pm Vigil Mass

Monday to Friday 8:15 am

Reconciliation/Confession Saturday 3:30 -4:30 pm

Baptisms / Bautismos

Call parish at least two months in advance.

Llame a la parroquia a lo menos dos meses antes.

Weddings / Bodas

Call parish at least six months in advance.

Llame a la parroquia a lo menos seis meses antes.

Mission Statement

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish is a Christ-centered community in the Roman Catholic tradition. We try to share the Good News of salvation with others. As a diverse community, we value and respect individual differences. As God's people, we gather in the Spirit to pray, to celebrate the sacraments, to teach, to learn, to console, to rejoice, to minister and to renew our faith with one another.

Notes from the Pastor

The story of Jesus' nativity occurs in only two of the Gospels, that of Luke and that of Matthew. Luke's version is focused entirely on the Blessed Virgin and the story of how the Archangel Gabriel appears to Mary, telling her that she has been chosen to be the Mother of the Savior. Matthew's version centers instead on Joseph's reaction to this unexpected pregnancy. The subtext of this story, the story of the Annunciation, is easy to miss. Most women who wish to have a child would be nothing less than overjoyed at the great news. Not so with Mary.



We have to consider the dangerous reality of her situation: a young, unmarried girl living in a village must now explain to her family that she's expecting a child. It's a serious predicament; after all, women of those times accused of illicit sexual relations could be stoned to death. At first, Joseph reacts predictably. He wants to protect Mary from public shame, but since he's not the father of the child he decides to quietly break off the engagement. That is, until an angel of God appears to him in a dream and tells him to have faith and to believe in Mary, and to know that this baby who will be born to them is destined to be the Redeemer of his people. So both Gospels – Luke's and Matthew's -- tell a story of fidelity. First, of an abiding trust in God's plan, and then of the faithful covenant between two people, Joseph and Mary, whose first year of married life was beset by so many troubles. I have sometimes thought that as appealing and beautiful as our traditional nativity scene is, with Mary and Joseph gazing at the haloed infant lying in the manger, it must have been a picture far less cozy than that. Since Jesus was born in the natural way, we might wonder if there was anyone besides Joseph to help the Blessed Mother with her labor. Did they have sufficient blankets against the chill? Did they have anything to eat? The hovering angels, the shining star and the adoring Wise Men shouldn't obscure for us the tough reality of a baby born on a cold winter's night to a couple who could not find a place to lodge, with little money to their names, and their fate very insecure. What was God's intention, then, in sending His Son Jesus into the world in such precarious circumstances? What message does our Lord God wish to convey to us by this? Could it be that true power (that is spiritual power), and wisdom and holiness are to be discovered where we least expect them, and that if it's Christ we seek, and if we have trouble finding him, then we might look for Jesus, not so much in the glow and glitter of the shopping malls, but in some cramped apartment in the worst part of town, or among the elderly in a nursing home, in the loneliness of a jail cell, or with a family of refugees crossing a border in the middle of the night. And if we search for Jesus there, we might find that he, too, is seeking us, looking for a corner of our hearts where he can finally lay his head. *Fr. Ulysses*

Notas del Párroco

La historia del nacimiento de Jesús ocurre en sólo dos de los Evangelios, el de Lucas y el de Mateo. La versión de Lucas

se centra por completo en la Santísima Virgen y la historia de cómo el Arcángel Gabriel apareció a María, diciéndole que ella ha sido elegida para ser la Madre del Salvador. La versión de Mateo se centra en cambio en la reacción de José a este embarazo inesperado. El subtexto de esta historia, la historia de la Anunciación, es fácil perderse. Mujeres que desean tener hijos están muy alegres al descubrir que están encintas. No es así con María. Tenemos que considerar la peligrosa realidad de su situación: una muchacha joven y soltera viviendo en un pueblo con sus padres que ya tiene que explicar a su

familia que está esperando un hijo. Es una situación grave; después de todo, las mujeres de aquellos tiempos acusadas de relaciones sexuales ilícitas podrían ser apedreadas hasta la muerte. Al principio, José reacciona previsiblemente. Él quiere proteger a María de la vergüenza pública, pero como él no es el padre del niño, decide romper el compromiso que tiene con ella. Así está, hasta que aparezca un ángel a José en un sueño y le dice que debe tener fe y creer en María, sabiendo que este bebé que nacerá a ellos está destinado a ser el Redentor de su pueblo. Así que ambos Evangelios – de Lucas y de Mateo - cuentan una historia de fidelidad. En primer lugar, en la firme confianza en el plan de Dios, y luego en el pacto entre dos personas, José y María, cuyo primer año de vida conyugal fue acosado por tantas angustias. A veces he pensado que tan atractivo y hermoso que es nuestra escena tradicional de la natividad -- con María y José contemplando el infante acostado en el pesebre -- la realidad probablemente fue menos acogedor que eso. Puesto que Jesús nació en la manera natural, podríamos preguntarnos si había alguien además que José para ayudar a la Santísima Madre con su parto. ¿Tenían mantas suficientes contra el frío? ¿Tenían algo de comer? Los ángeles que rodeaban el pesebre, la estrella brillante, y la presencia de los Tres Reyes Magos no debe ocultar para nosotros la dura realidad de un bebé recién nacido en una noche de invierno, y una pareja que no podía encontrar lugar para alojarse, con poco dinero, y su futuro muy inseguro. ¿Cuál fue la intención de Dios, entonces, enviar a su Hijo Jesús al mundo en circunstancias tan precarias? ¿Qué mensaje desea nuestro Señor Dios transmitir a nosotros por esto? ¿Podría ser que el verdadero poder (es decir el poder espiritual), y la sabiduría y la santidad se encuentra donde menos las esperamos. Mas, si es Cristo que buscamos, y si no podemos encontrarlo, tal vez podríamos buscar a Jesús, no tanto en el resplandor y el brillo de los centros comerciales, pero mas bien en un comedor para los pobres, o en un asilo de ancianos, o con un grupo de refugiados cruzando en secreto una frontera durante la noche. Y si buscamos a Jesús allá, podríamos encontrar, también, que él nos esta buscando, solicitando un rincón en nuestros corazones donde finalmente puede reclinar su cabeza. *Padre Ulises*

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2019

Our assessment for this year is **\$78,542.98**. This Archdiocesan tax supports all those many offices, ministries and charities that individual parishes alone cannot cover. These include the Marriage Tribunal, support of retired priests and nuns, and financial help to our Catholic Schools. As of this week, we still need **\$4,000** to finish. Please consider what you might do to help us meet our obligation by the end of the year. **Thank you!**



OLMC Bible Study

New 2020 program begins January 15.

We will be studying the Gospel of St. Matthew. The class will meet every Wednesday in the Parish Center at 7:00 p.m. Bible Study includes a video presentation followed by discussion.



For more information and to register, contact Ray Smith at **(650) 400-5425**, or ray2@comcast.net. Class and materials: **\$35**.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

If someone in your family is homebound, lives nearby and is unable to attend Mass, but would like to receive the Eucharist, please contact **Julie O'Leary** at **(650) 361-8681**.

Communion ministers are needed to bring the Eucharist to homebound parishioners. Please call Julie O'Leary if you would like to participate in this worthy ministry.



Christmas Eve ~ Tuesday, Dec. 24

FAMILY MASS AT 4:00 P.M.

EVENING MASS AT 10:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve ~ Wednesday, Dec. 25

MASS IN ENGLISH AT 10:00 A.M.

MISA EN ESPAÑOL A LAS 12:00 P.M.

Today's 2nd Collection:

Retired Religious Sisters

Religious Sisters and Brothers have served the Catholic Church for years as teachers, nurses, missionaries and in many other roles. Because they did not earn personal salaries during their active ministries, they now need our help and support in their retirement. Please be generous in the collection.

The second collection next week will be for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

ELECTRONIC DONATIONS

VANCOPAYMENTS.COM is an agency created to facilitate the process of donations, if you wish to make your donations to the Church electronically or by Credit Card, please see our website, **www.mountcarmel.org** press **Donate** and follow the easy instructions.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 21, 2019

5:00 PM Felicita Rivera †

Sunday, December 22, 2019

8:00 AM Charles & Theresa Elacqua †

10:00 AM Rico Gozun †

12:00 PM Tomasa Islas †

5:00 PM Pro Populo

Monday, December 23, 2019

8:15 AM Salvador Manuel †

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

8:15 AM Giuseppe Rigali †

4:00 PM Jones and Absi families (Int.)

10:00 PM For our parish families

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

10:00 AM For our parish families

12:00 PM Para las familias de nuestra parroquia

Thursday, December 26, 2019

8:15 AM Rev. Mario Matteucci †

Friday, December 27, 2019

8:15 AM Chito de Leon †

Saturday, December 28, 2019

8:15 AM The Souls in Purgatory †

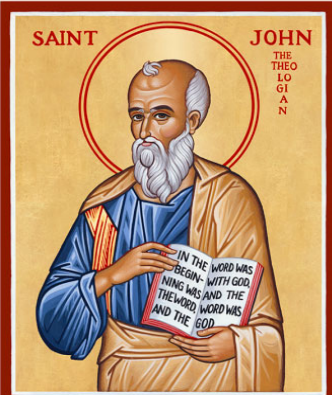
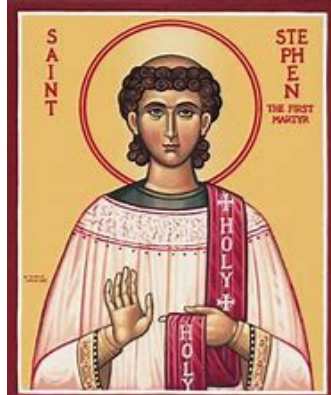
Dear Mount Carmel Parishioners and friends,
I just want to take this very special opportunity to thank you all for your participation in the parish throughout the year. Through your kindness and generosity we have been able to accomplish a great deal. We're especially happy with our new carillon church bells that call us to prayer at the daily and Sunday Masses. May you all have a wonderful Christmas shared with family and friends, and may the light of Jesus Christ which enlightens our minds and hearts illuminate your lives now and in the coming year of the Lord, 2020.

Blessings, Father Ulysses & OLMC Staff



Saints & Special Observances

Sunday: The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday: Saint John of Kanty
Tuesday: Hannukah begins
Wednesday: The Nativity of our Lord Jesus
Thursday: Saint Stephen, Martyr
Friday: Saint John Evangelist
Saturday: The Holy Innocents



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