

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, February 9, 2020
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



PARISH STAFF

Father Abuchi F. Nwosu Pastor
fatherabuchi@aol.com
Father Peter Oddo Weekend Assistant
Deacon Anthony Barile
Deacon Al Kucinski
Deacon Edward Muller
Dan Salvatore Coordinator of Religious Education
Caroline Mazzola Secretary
Ann Johnson Secretary

PARISH OFFICE

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

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YOUTH MINISTER

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, Council 9920

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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
First Friday Mass 2:00 pm
@Homestead Nursing Home
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 8

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

8:30 am Vincent Martin

by Janet Autorino

5:00 pm Mary N. Nolan

by Parish Staff

Sunday, February 9

IS 58:7-10 / 1 COR 2:1-5 / MT 5:13-16

7:30 am Deceased Members of Muller & Weisser Families

by Deacon Ed & Mary Lou Muller

9:00 am Jay Morrone

by Calascibetta Family

11:00 am Don Don Nucum

by Rich & Elsie Allen

Monday, February 10 – Memorial of Saint Scholastica

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

8:30 am Mary Yanvary

by Parish Staff

Tuesday, February 11

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

8:30 am Intentions of Sandro Mazzola, Sr.

by Mazzola Family

Wednesday, February 12

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

7:00 pm Roberta Treptau

by Marty & Mary Ann Chapkosky

Thursday, February 13

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

8:30 am Intentions of Steve DeAngelis

by OLMC JOY Club

Friday, February 14 – Memorial of Saints Cyril, monk and Methodius, bishop

1 KGS 11:29-32; 12:19 / MK 7:31-37

8:30 am Neita Green

by Parish Staff

Saturday, February 15

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

8:30 am George Romano

by Parish Staff

5:00 pm Louise Stevans

by Dan & Ronnie Stevans

Sunday, February 16

SIR 15:15-20 / 1 COR 2:6-10 / MT 5:17-37

7:30 am Ceil Cerbo

by Parish Staff

9:00 am Bernice Golda

by Knas Family

11:00 am Tita Jurolan

by Rich & Elsie Allen

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Ann Bott, Walter & Concetta Brock Jr., Bradley Burchfield, Ted Cassera, Joseph Colon, Olivia Compton, Fr. Angelus Croce, Stephanie Cuomo, Ingrid Diaz, Kara Deserto, Ray Doyle, Richard Hennings, Barbara Ingallinera, Eva Kieger, Ava Kljajic, Michael Kochanski, Bruce Konar, Joshua Koontz, Alex Krucinski, John Kucinski, Kden LeoGrande, Pete Mahler, Maria Mallozzi, Mary Jo Manno, Betty Mastrelli, Deacon Charles Mathias, Susanne Martone, Greyson Christopher Mueller, Deacon Ed Muller, Mary Ellen Nienstedt, Stephen Osborn, Jason Parker, Harry Pasternak Sr., Lorraine Paxton, Peter F. Reynolds, Tammy Rivers, Charles Schult, William Schult, Carol Rock, Colleen Romano, Olga Romeo, Linda Ross, Rose Marie Sciascia, Carole Salvatore, John Samsock, Greg Schmiditty, Marianne Skrocki, Debbie Smith, Stephanie, Andrew Sorce, Richie Sorce, Dale Swoboda, Connie VanHoven, David & Vince Ventresca, Fred Worman, Brooke Zaleski

A GOOD STEWARD

Sunday, February 2

\$ 2,733.41

Online Giving

\$ 400.00

Thank you for your generosity!

**This weekend's 2nd collection is for the Diocesan Assessment*

*This Week the
Sanctuary Lamp Burns for
The Intentions of Steve DeAngelis
& His Family*



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: Major Brandon Bennett, NJ Army National Guard (Federal); Larisa Furs, US Navy; Lt. Jason Gieniewski, US Army; Pvt. Daniel Michael Mobilio, Army; Captain Richi M. Pazdzierski, US Army; Captain Jane Petrick, Army; Lt. Daniel T. Pevarnik, Jr., National Guard; Pvt. Chance Phillips, Army; Captain Cheryl Ryan, US Army; Seaman Recruit Tyler Joseph Salonia; Ethan Swartz; Michael Valeich, Staff Sergeant; Pvt. Kyle Titus, US Army; Pvt. Zachary Wharton, Robert Williams, Airman





Memorial of Saint Scholastica, virgin – February 10

St. Scholastica was the twin sister of St. Benedict, the Patriarch of Western monasticism. She was born in Umbria, Italy, about 480. Under Benedict's direction, Scholastica founded a community of nuns near the great Benedictine monastery Monte Cassino.

Inspired by Benedict's teaching, his sister devoted her whole life to seeking and serving God. She died in 547 and tradition holds that at her death her soul ascended to heaven in the form of a dove.

St. Scholastica, like her brother, dedicated herself to God from early youth. Information on the virgin Scholastica is very scanty. In his *Second Book of Dialogues* (Ch. 33 and 34) Pope St. Gregory has described for us the last meeting between brother and sister:

"His sister Scholastica, who had been consecrated to God in early childhood, used to visit with him once a year. On these occasions he would go to meet her in a house belonging to the monastery a short distance from the entrance. For this particular visit he joined her there with a few of his disciples and they spent the whole day singing God's praises and conversing about the spiritual life.

"When darkness was setting in they took their meal together and continued their conversation at table until it was quite late. Then the holy nun said to him, 'Please do not leave me tonight, brother. Let us keep on talking about the joys of heaven till morning.' 'What are you saying, sister?' he replied. 'You know that I cannot stay away from the monastery.' The sky was so clear at the time, there was not a cloud in sight.

"At her brother's refusal Scholastica folded her hands on the table and rested her head upon them in earnest prayer. When she looked up again, there was a sudden burst of lightning and thunder accompanied by such a downpour that Benedict and his companions were unable to set foot outside the door. By shedding a flood of tears while she prayed, this holy nun had darkened the cloudless sky with a heavy rain. The storm began as soon as her prayer was over. In fact, the two coincided so closely that the thunder was already resounding as she raised her head from the table. The very instant she ended her prayer the rain poured down.

"Realizing that he could not return to the abbey in this terrible storm, Benedict complained bitterly. 'God forgive you, sister!' he said. 'What have you done?' Scholastica simply answered, 'When I appealed to you, you would not listen to me. So I turned to my God and

He heard my prayer. Leave now if you can. Leave me here and go back to your monastery.'

"This, of course, he could not do. He had no choice now but to stay, in spite of his unwillingness. They spent the entire night together and both of them derived great profit from the holy thoughts they exchanged about the interior life. The next morning Scholastica returned to her convent and Benedict to his monastery.

"Three days later as he stood in his room looking up toward the sky, he beheld his sister's soul leaving her body and entering the heavenly court in the form of a dove. Overjoyed at her eternal glory, he gave thanks to God in hymns of praise. Then, after informing his brethren of her death, he sent some of them to bring her body to the abbey and bury it in the tomb he had prepared for himself. The bodies of these two were now to share a common resting place, just as in life their souls had always been one in God."

Her tomb is at Monte Cassino.

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.

Charitable Statements

Please call the office if you'd like to receive a copy of your 2019 contributions.

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.

Youth Group Chili Cook-Off

The Youth Group would like to thank all those who entered a chili into the cook off. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us at the cook off. Everyone had a spicy good time. The Youth Group raised \$ 330.00. Congratulations to our top three cooks: -1st place The Mazzola Family
-2nd place The McMahon Family
-3rd place Dan Salvatore



Modern Obstacles to a Healthy Marriage
(continued from January 26)

2. We fail at self-giving love.

That “sincere gift of self” sacrifice. We aren’t all perfect at self-sacrifice, of course, and in a healthy marriage there is plenty of room for mistakes, mercy, and forgiveness. The fundamentally important call to hear, however, is the call to love one another and to fully find yourself through a “sincere gift of self” to your spouse. That kind of love isn’t just “nice if you can find it”; it’s what marriage *is*. permission in these instances is called a “dispensation from canonical form.”

3. We misunderstand the importance of vocation.

Vocation is a tough concept for many of today’s younger generations to understand. The idea of a calling—not a job, but a *calling*—to marriage, priesthood, or religious life is a foreign one to many. When we fail to recognize marriage as a calling, however, we belittle it. Culturally, it becomes a hobby or something nice to do “if you’re into that kind of thing.” It certainly isn’t something you would sacrifice your career for.

But our culture lets young people know that career goals can trump marriage. Travel plans can take precedence. There’s no hurry.

The sad result is that when people get married later in life, there is less likelihood that they will meet their spouses when both are ready to make a commitment, and there are fewer marriage-ready men and women in the dating pool even for those who are looking seriously for a spouse.

If marriage is a vocation, that means it’s your life’s work; it’s not a job and not something you do on the side. It’s something you do first, and then build to rest of your life around, not something you try to fit in later, once you’ve saved up enough money and you’ve accomplished “more important” things.

The saddest part of cultural obstacles to healthy marriage is that they negatively affect a lot of innocent people who desperately want to answer a call to marriage. They want to find their spouse, get married, begin a life-long commitment, and practice self-giving love. But our culture sometimes gets in the way.

The good news, though, is that our God is an awesome God. The power of an anti-marriage culture may be great,

but God is greater and He works with what we give Him. All of us, married, single, divorced, widowed, dating, or something in between, can pray every day for the grace we need to live out Christ’s call to perfection in an imperfect world.

Let’s support marriage. Let’s pray for each other. Let’s encourage each another.



National Marriage Week – February 7-14

Every year from February 7-14, National Marriage Week reminds us that marriage is more than a day or a ceremony. A marriage requires dedication and commitment that generates a lifetime of rewards.

The upcoming observances of National Marriage Week (Feb. 7-14) and World Marriage Day (Sunday, Feb. 9) are an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. The theme for 2020 is **“Stories from the Domestic Church.”**

Married Life

Marriage is a vocation to holiness. From their 1st days as husband and wife through their golden years, married couples have the awesome task of witnessing to God’s faithful love to each other, their children and society. No couple does this perfectly and everyone needs help when love feels strained and the going gets tough. All marriages can grow in faith, joy and love. Whether you are just starting out in marriage or have 50 years under your belt, the advice, real life stories and Church teachings can help strengthen and bless your marriage.

Parking Lot Expense Breakdown

Option 1 : Rear Lot – Repair cracks, install tac oil and 2 ½” of plant mixed FABC and roll to 2” while hot with a 10 ton roller - \$48,000.00.

Option 2: Loop and back lot entry road – Install tac oil and 2 ½” of plant mixed FABC and roll 2” while hot with a 10 ton roller - \$21,000.00.

Total for both from 11/29/2016 was \$69,000.00

New total for both on 4/25/2019 is \$77,000.00.

The NJ Dot Asphalt Index was \$299.00 in 2016, the NJ Dot Asphalt Index in April 2019 is \$483.00 per ton of liquid asphalt. All increases and or decreases will be based on the NJ Dot Asphalt Index at time mobilization. To install overlay pavement fabric to entire project \$15,000.00. A one year guarantee on workmanship and material. A 30% deposit is required upon acceptance of this contract, balance is due upon completion of work.



Christians call to be the salt and the light of the world. But what does this mean?

Salt and light are the basic necessities of human life. In the first-century the imagery of salt and light were well-used metaphors for the most important things in life. Although in modern times we might wonder the importance placed on salt. Certainly, we understand the value and importance of light. We understand the power of light when there are power outages caused by severe storms. In fact, lack of light affects the function of many things which consequently affect human activities. But salt? It's just sodium chloride. "We have salt in such abundance that it seems strange to our ears to hear Jesus use such a common substance for such uncommon value. Perhaps a little reminder of ancient life is in order. The first century had no refrigeration, so salt was the substance that allowed the people to preserve food. Without salt the residents of Palestine would likely have starved through the winters. Salt was a precious commodity, and an absolute necessity in the Palestinian household. Salt not only preserved food, it also seasoned it to taste, as it does in our diet today. Fortunately, a little pinch of salt goes a long way, so even the poor could afford enough salt to survive."

Jesus uses the metaphor of salt and light to remind Christians that we have a responsibility in the world. Christians are not salt and light to the earth for only their own sake. "The whole purpose of salt and light is to transform a world that is bland and blind apart from the salt and light that God provides." Salt was used then, as now, as a flavor enhancer. In the same way that salt enhances the flavor of the food it seasons, the followers of Christ stand out as those who "enhance" the flavor of life in this world. Christians, living under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in obedience to Christ, will inevitably influence the world for good, as salt has a positive influence on the flavor of the food it seasons. Where there is strife, we are to be peacemakers; where there is sorrow, we are to be the ministers of Christ, binding up wounds and giving comfort, and where there is hatred, we are to exemplify the love of God in Christ, returning good for evil. Thus by these act, we become the salt that preserve the world. "The presence of Christians in the world must be like a light in the darkness, not only in the sense that the truth of God's Word brings light to the darkened hearts of sinful man ([John 1:1-10](#)), but also in the sense that our good deeds must be evident for all to see. The behavior of God's people should be a light that draws other to it. Outsiders should be drawn to praise God when they see our good deeds."

Today's first reading from the book of prophet Isaiah points how we can demonstrate that we are the salt and the light of the world. Isaiah warns that oppression, false accusations and malicious speech should not be part of our Christian life. Besides, our worship of God will have real value if we practice justice to the poor, feeding and sheltering those in need. When we respond positively to the needs of people around us, God will also respond to us. According to Isaiah, "Then you shall call, the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and He will say: Here I am!" For this reason Jesus intends that His followers be active in the world, acting as agents of change and reconciliation, working as peacemakers, advocating social justice, practicing kindness and generosity to the poor and dispossessed.

The reason Jesus uses the metaphors of salt and light is to address the impact that Christians should have to the world. They should illuminate and preserve. Like salt and light that has a strong effect to our life, our relationship with God should also impact everyone who comes in contact with it. Jesus is not only calling you and I to be salt and light of the world, but He is also asking you and I to be devoted, to transform the world and to have an influence in whatever we do and everywhere we go.

–Fr. Abuchi



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"When I appealed to you, you would not listen to me. So I turned to my God and He heard my prayer."

–*Saint Scholastica*