

# OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL RELIQUARY

## WHAT IS A RELIC?

The word “relic” comes from the Latin word, *relinquo*, which means, “I leave” or “I relinquish.” Relics are part of the body of a saint (first-class), a thing used or owned by a saint (second-class), or an item that has been touched to the grave of a saint (third-class). They are literally things that they person “relinquished” or “left behind” after they died and entered the Communion of Saints in Heaven. A relic is deserving of special veneration and honor, because of the meritorious and admirable life lived by the person from which it originates.

## WHEN DID THE CHURCH BEGIN VENERATING RELICS?

“The veneration of relics is seen explicitly as early as the account of Polycarp’s martyrdom written by the Smyrnaeans in A.D. 156. In it, the Christians describe the events following his burning at the stake:

*‘We took up his bones, which are more valuable than precious stones and finer than refined gold, and laid them in a suitable place, where the Lord will permit us to gather ourselves together, as we are able, in gladness and joy and to celebrate the birthday of his martyrdom.’”*

## ARE RELICS “MAGICAL?”

Relics are not magical. They are *sacramentals*. A sacramental is an object that leads us to receive and respond to God’s grace; they do not *impart* God’s grace. Relics in and of themselves do not hold any grace or “power.” However, God may choose to impart miracles through these objects. We can see some of these instances in Scripture: raising a man from the dead through the use of Elisha’s bones (2 Kgs. 13:20-21), the healing of the hemorrhaging woman after she touched the hem of Christ’s cloak (Matt. 9:20-22), healing of the sick after Peter’s shadow passed over them (Acts 5:14-16), and healings and exorcisms occurring through the handkerchiefs of Paul (Acts 19:11-12). Again, it is not these *objects* that have done miraculous things, but God himself has done his work through these mediums.

## OLMC RELIQUARY

At OLMC, we are blessed to participate in this powerful connection to the Communion of Saints with our parish reliquary (the repository for relics). Our reliquary is hanging on the wall in between the two confessional doors. The relics of the saints of the following pages are included in our reliquary. Please stop by the reliquary for a closer look at these sacramentals!

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## SAINT BENEDICT THE ABBOT

*Born: 480    Died: 547*



The founder of Western Christian monasticism, Benedict founded monasteries and created the "Rule of St. Benedict"

## SAINT JOHN NEUMANN

*Born: 1811    Died: 1860*



Bishop of Philadelphia. Founded the first Catholic diocesan school system in the United States.

## SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON

*Born: 1774    Died: 1821*

First native born American citizen canonized. She founded the first Catholic girls' school in the United States.



## SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER CABRINI

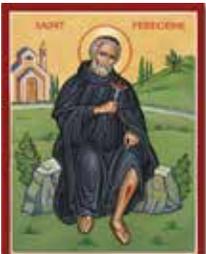
*Born: 1850    Died: 1917*

First naturalized American citizen canonized. Founded missionary sisters in support of Italian immigrants to the USA.



## SAINT PEREGRINE

*Born: 1260    Died: 1345*



Italian saint from the Servite Order. Patron of persons with cancer, AIDS, and other illnesses.

## SAINT DAMIAN OF MOLOKAI

*Born: 1840    Died: 1889*



Belgian priest and missionary. Ministered to lepers in Hawai'i and taught the Catholic faith.

## SAINT PHILOMENA

*Born: 291    Died: 304*

Greek princess and consecrated virgin. Martyred by Emperor Diocletian at age 13 for refusing to abandon her vow of chastity.



## SAINT CHARLES BORROMEEO

*Born: 1538    Died: 1584*

Archbishop of Milan. Led reforms in the Church in priestly formation. Significant leader in the counter-reformation.



### SAINT JOHN VIANNEY

*Born: 1786 Died: 1859*



Patron of parish priests. Inspired radical spiritual transformation in his area with his own self-mortification, persistence in sacramental confession, and devotion to Mary.

### SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA

*Born: 1656 Died: 1680*



First canonized Native American. Convert to the Faith. Took vow of virginity, known for her devotion to chastity and mortification of the flesh.

### SAINT ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE

*Born: 1769 Died: 1852*

French religious sister and educator. Spent second half of her life teaching and serving people of the Midwestern United States. Founded religious communities in the USA.



### POPE SAINT PIUS X

*Born: 1835 Died: 1914*

Encouraged frequent reception of Holy Communion. Codified Canon Law. Opposed modernism and promoted orthodoxy. Encouraged personal holiness.



### SAINT JOHN BOSCO

*Born: 1815 Died: 1888*



Devoted his life to educating street children and juvenile delinquents. Encouraged teaching through love instead of punishment.

### SAINT SIMON STOCK

*Born: 1165 Died: 1265*



Prior of the Carmelite mendicant order. Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and gave the Carmelite habit, the Brown Scapular.

### POPE SAINT LEO THE GREAT

*Born: 400 Died: 461*

Doctor of the Church. Taught on the hypostatic union – the nature of Christ. Turned Attila the Hun back from his invasion of Italy.



### BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER

*Born: 1935 Died: 1981*

Priest from Oklahoma martyred in Guatemala while serving as a missionary.



BLESSED MARY CATHERINE KASPER

*Born: 1820    Died: 1898*

Founded the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. She looked to Mary as her model and responded with courage to the will of God.



VENERABLE POPE PIUS XII

*Born: 1935    Died: 1981*

Infallibly proclaimed the dogma of Mary's Assumption. Resisted communism; taught extensively on ecclesiology and the relationship between science and faith.



SAINT URSULA

*Lived: Probably pre-500 AD*

Romano-British princess martyred by the Huns along with many other young Christian virgins.

