

December 26, 2021

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

NEWPORT NEWS, VA

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Parish Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 5 pm; Friday: 9 am - 3 pm

Outreach Office Phone: 757-596-1727

Outreach Office Hours: M, W, Th: 12 noon - 2 pm; T, F: 9 am - 11 am

Pregnancy Helpline: 757-870-3131

Pharmacy Outreach: ext. 125

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

Parish Offices Closed



Parish offices are closed until Monday, January 3, 2022. There will be no daily Masses from December 27th—31st, no confession or Adoration on Wednesday, December 29th and no Adoration, Thursday, December 30th.



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

It wasn't at all what Mary and Joseph expected their life to be like. Almost from the beginning, there were indications that something extraordinary was at work: Mary's angelic annunciation; Joseph's strange dream; the puzzling words of Simeon and Anna in the Temple. And now this: during Mary and Joseph's annual Passover journey to Jerusalem, the discovery that their son Jesus was lost—and even when he was found, they didn't totally recognize their twelve-year-old boy. Today's feast of the Holy Family reminds us of the perplexities and promise of family life. The mystery of "the Word made flesh" becomes very tangible indeed in the routines and foibles of family life—our Christmas gatherings were likely unmistakable reminders of that! From the pure flesh of a newborn child to the wizened flesh of a beloved grandmother, families are ground zero for glimpsing the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation.

DID YOU NOT KNOW?

A child's first words are usually a source of excitement and joy for family members. Today we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke. And they are challenging ones. "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" The words astounded, astonished, and great anxiety are used to describe Jesus' extended visit to the Temple. How familiar those emotions are to most parents! Had Jesus' parents forgotten the angel Gabriel's words or the prophecy of Simeon? In Luke's Gospel this passage foreshadows Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem where he will experience his own Passover and again be "lost" for three days. The story of Hannah in the first reading confirms the need and nature of trusting in God's activity in our lives. It seems clear that faithful attention to a family's spiritual life is no guarantee that life will be free from hardship.

EMMANUEL: GOD IS WITH US

Could Tolstoy have gotten it wrong when he wrote that all happy families are alike and that unhappy families are each unhappy in their own way? It seems that the opposite is equally true. Because happy families foster the unique talents and interests of each member, each person shines according to their own lights. A happy family's faith, goals, and challenges will be uniquely their own. Unhappy families, on the other hand, might look very similar in their woundedness, their fears and confrontations, and their tendency to give negative interpretations to another's actions.

It is tempting to conclude that family life today is more problematic than ever. It might be reassuring to learn that the feast of the Holy Family was added to the Church's universal calendar because of Pope Leo XIII's concern for the state of family life—one hundred years ago! During this season of Christmas when families are everywhere, we welcome Emmanuel—the God who has pitched his tent among us.

Today's Readings: 1 Sam 1:20–22, 24–28; Ps 84:2–3, 5–6, 9–10; 1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24; Lk 2:41–52

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Are you called to serve the family of the Lord and share the Father's love as a priest? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Brian Capuano; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

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Parish Email—Flocknote Subscribe on Parish Website or Select the ministries from which you would like to receive notices. Text mountcarmel to 84576 and follow the link sent to subscribe.

Initiation Programs and Adult Formation



Becoming Catholic

Is Christ calling you into the Catholic Church? What does the Catholic Church actually believe? What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ? If you are interested in exploring the answers to these questions, we'd like to help.

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, Youth & Children) process is one of conversion and spiritual formation for individuals interested in living the Christian life in the Catholic tradition. It is a time of prayer, reflection, study, faith sharing, discernment and participation in the life of the parish. This process is for those who have never been baptized, those who were baptized in another faith tradition, or those who were baptized Catholic and seek full initiation.

Awakening Faith

Have you been away from the active practice of your Catholic faith? Would you like to feel more connected with your childhood faith or learn more about it as an adult? Consider attending the Awakening Faith Series. We can assist you return to the active practice of your faith and welcome you back to the Lord's Table.

Adult Confirmation

Are you an active practicing Catholic adult who "missed" participating in the Sacrament of Confirmation? We invite you to enter the process of preparation at the parish.

To learn more, visit olmc.org or contact Christa at the parish office at extension 107 or email cblomstrom@olmc.org.



All women are invited to the next
Walking With Purpose Connect Coffee

Wednesday, January 5 at 7pm
at Saint Michael Hall

Connect Coffee Topic:

Your Heart – You are Captivating

Refreshments, Fellowship and an Inspirational Talk

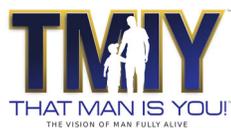
We have a seat waiting for you!

RSVP to cblomstrom@olmc.org

Women's Bible Study – NEW 8 WEEK STUDY begins 9am Thursday, January 6.

Embark on a guided tour of the "Holy of Holies" of biblical theology in **Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant**, an eight-part Bible study presented by Dr. Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins! In this study, Catholics will be able to see, appreciate, and take hold of the riches God has given them in the New Covenant. Highlighting the critical distinctions between the Old and New Covenants, Hebrews will help Catholics get to know the generosity of the Father's heart in a deeper way than ever before. **Don't wait to order your Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant Study Set (includes workbook and online video access) at ascensionpress.com.**

Are you new to the Women's Bible Study? Contact Christa to register at the parish office or register at olmc.org.



That Man Is You – New Sessions begin in January! - That Man Is You is an interactive, multimedia men's program focused on the development of authentic male leadership. That Man Is You! is successful at attracting large numbers of men, including younger men still actively parenting, and then transforming their spiritual lives. TMIY will meet on Saturday mornings at OLMC. Join the men of the parish for breakfast, a short video presentation and small group discussion designed especially for men. **Registration information is available at olmc.org.**

Small Groups: Faith and Fellowship – Life is better CONNECTED. Join a Small Group in 2022! Life is all about relationships. Small groups deepen our relationships with Christ and one another. The New Year is a great time to consider trying a small group! These small groups are a place to grow spiritually, find support and encouragement, face challenges together and share fellowship.

The groups will discuss life and faith, reflect on God's Word together, seek God together and pray for and with one another. If you have not participated in the past, give it a try this season! **Interested? Fill out the short interest form on our website at olmc.org or call the parish office.**

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

Pastoral Care



Emmaus Journey: A Retreat for Grieving Parents

The Emmaus Journey is a spiritual retreat for parents whose child(ren) of any age have died by any cause, no matter how long ago. The Emmaus Journey offers a safe place where you can find peace, comfort and hope.

Gather with us in a warm and loving environment with others who know something of your pain. One day retreats from 9:30am-7pm are available in locations below.

Saturday, January 29 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

Find out more at olmc.org or contact Christa at the parish office.



Nourish for Caregivers – 7:00pm, Thursday, JANUARY 6 at Saint Michael Hall

Do you care for a loved one? Be Nourished! Join our Nourish Group.

Nourish for Caregivers provides the tools and resources to build a caregiver's resilience in a format rich with inspiration, practical information, spiritual nourishment...AND time for open sharing and

interactive activities.

Topics include "The Realities of Stress", "Compassion Fatigue", "Advocating for Your Loved One and Yourself", "Facing End of Life"...and much more...with a focus on the spiritual side of caregiving. Leave less stressed, feel more confident and connected to others. Enrich your prayer life. Come! Be Nourished!

Circle of Hope – 10:00am Saturday, JANUARY 8 at Saint Michael Hall

Have you been touched in some way by cancer or by a chronic illness or condition?

You are invited to attend a Circle of Hope gathering to find faith-based support and encouragement. Circle of Hope is a community that prays together, shares stories with one another and finds hope in God together. Caretakers, survivors and those living with a diagnosis are all invited to attend our monthly gatherings.

Respite Ministry

Are you a caregiver who is seeking some respite time for yourself? The Respite Ministry provides parishioners who are full time caretakers of a home-bound loved one, a break of a few hours' time to use as he or she sees fit. During that time, a trained parish Respite Minister will provide safety, supervision, and companionship to the homebound family member.

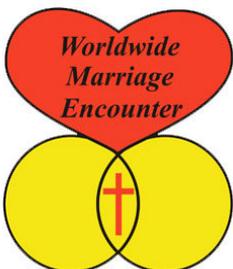
To find out more about Nourish for Caregivers, Circle of Hope and/or the Respite Ministry, call Christa at the parish office ext. 107.



Virtus Training at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

The Diocese of Richmond requires that all those who minister with children, youth or vulnerable adults complete the Virtus Safe Environment Training.

To register for the Virtus Training and to view additional training dates, please visit virtusonline.org.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter has all the tools you need for a great marriage. Sign up today to attend the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience **Jan. 28-30, 2022** in **NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC**. For more information visit our website at:

<https://renewmarriage-vasouth.org/>



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

CCD, Edge and Life Teen



Children's Faith Formation (CCD)

We resume faith formation at 9 AM on January 9th, 2022(play practice). Our play will begin at 9:40 AM (front lawn of the church). Parents and parishioners are invited to watch our Epiphany at 9:40 AM (before Mass).

NO Faith Formation (CCD), NO Sacrament Workshops on the following dates: December 26th, January 2nd.



Parent retreat for the parents of children who will be receiving their First Eucharist will held Sunday, **January 23rd** in Saint Michael Hall and at the Church from 11 AM to 1:30 PM.

IMPACT THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

You can support our parish families in choosing a Catholic education for their children

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Call Sister Anna Joseph, O.P. at 757-596-2754 or sajoseph@olmc-school.com



McMahon Parater
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Parish Bunco Party

Our Parish Bunco Party & Silent Auction is BACK!



Let's get together again and join your fellow parishioners for a night of fun and excitement at the Bunco Party & Silent Auction on Friday, January 28, in St. Michael Hall. The evening will begin at 7:00 with our Silent Auction, accompanied by complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wine, and beer. The guilds of the Ladies of Carmel are donating themed gift baskets and other wonderful items to the auction. Bunco begins at 7:45. **Never played Bunco before? Fear not!** It's really easy, and our resident Bunco expert, Susan Adams, will teach us all how to play! Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories of winners (& even losers)! We will also have a 50/50 raffle that evening.

Tickets are \$25 per person and are available in the Parish Office during the week and in the Commons the weekends of January 8/9 and 22/23. **Only 80 Tickets will be sold, so get yours soon!**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

Social Ministry

*Transformed by **The Eucharist...**
Reaching Out into community*

Contact Tina Wandersee at twandersee@olmc.org or ext. 118

PORT: December 30, 2021 Site: St. Jerome Catholic Church, 116 Denbigh Blvd, N.N. 23608
Coordinator: Tina Wandersee twandersee@olmc.org
Contact Tina for more information or to volunteer

NEXT PORT date is January 6-7, 2022

Food Pantry Needs

Peanut Butter/Jelly, Tuna/Chicken Helper, Canned Salmon, Tuna, Fruit, Chunky Soups, Chef Boy R Dee, Pasta Noodles - all shapes and sizes, Pasta Sauce, Pancake Mix/Syrup, Dry Milk Packets, Cake Mix/Frosting, Canned Vegetables, Boxed Potatoes, Bags of Rice, Brown Paper Bags

Personal Care Needs

Shampoo, Lotion, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Deodorant (women/men), Bars of Soap - any cleaning supplies of your choice.

Thank you so very much for your continued support!



Our Lady of Mount Carmel
PRE-K THROUGH 8TH GRADE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



above: Lia Jo, our youngest Crusader, keeps the tradition of placing the baby Jesus in the school manger

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

MINISTERIO HISPANO

La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José

Director - Diácono Francisco Anleu: Oficina - (757) 595-0385 Ext. 123, Email - fanleu@olmc.org

Misas en Español: Domingos - 2:00 PM

Confesiones: Sábados, 3 PM, Miércoles, 5 PM



Ministerios de Niños

La mini obra de Epifanía antes de la misa de las 10 AM en el frente de la iglesia por los niños de Formación de Fe. Hay Formación de fe esa mañana a las 9 AM. La mini obra de teatro será a las 9:40 AM, todos son bienvenidos a verla.



El retiro para padres de niños que recibirán su Primera Eucaristía será el domingo 23 de enero en Saint Michael Hall y en la Iglesia de 11 a. M. A 1:30 p. M. La formación en la fe continúa, no hay taller de Primera Eucaristía en enero.

La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José

No era en absoluto lo que María y José esperaban que fueran sus vidas. Casi desde el principio, hubo indicios de que algo extraordinario estaba sucediendo: la anunciación angélica a María, el extraño sueño de José, las desconcertantes palabras de Simeón y Ana en el Templo. Y ahora esto: durante el viaje anual de María y José a Jerusalén por la Pascua, el descubrimiento de que su hijo Jesús se había perdido, e incluso cuando lo encontraron, no reconocieron del todo a su hijo de doce años. La fiesta de hoy de la Sagrada Familia nos recuerda las perplejidades y las promesas de la vida familiar. El misterio del “Verbo hecho carne” se hace muy tangible en las rutinas y debilidades de la vida familiar. Desde la carne pura de un niño recién nacido hasta la carne envejecida de una abuela querida, las familias son el punto cero para vislumbrar el maravilloso misterio de la Encarnación.

¿NO LO SABÍAN?

Las primeras palabras de un niño suelen ser motivo de emoción y alegría para los miembros de la familia. Hoy escuchamos las primeras palabras de Jesús en el Evangelio según Lucas. Y son desafiantes. “¿Por qué me buscan? ¿No sabían que debía estar en la casa de mi Padre?” Las palabras asombradas, sorprendidas y con gran ansiedad se utilizan para describir la prolongada visita de Jesús al Templo. ¿Qué familiares son esas emociones para la mayoría de los padres! ¿Habían olvidado los padres de Jesús las palabras del ángel Gabriel o la profecía de Simeón? En el Evangelio de Lucas, este pasaje presagia el último viaje de Jesús a Jerusalén, donde vivirá su propia Pascua y volverá a estar “perdido” durante tres días. La historia de Ana en la primera lectura confirma la necesidad y la naturaleza de la confianza en la actividad de Dios en nuestras vidas. Parece claro que la atención fiel a la vida espiritual de una familia no garantiza que la vida esté libre de dificultades.

EMMANUEL: DIOS CON NOSOTROS

¿Se equivocó Tolstoi cuando escribió que todas las familias felices son iguales y que las infelices lo son cada una a su manera? Parece que lo contrario es igualmente cierto. Como las familias felices fomentan los talentos e intereses únicos de cada miembro, cada persona brilla según sus propias luces. La fe, los objetivos y los retos de una familia feliz serán los suyos propios. Las familias infelices, en cambio, pueden parecerse mucho en sus heridas, sus miedos y enfrentamientos, y su tendencia a dar interpretaciones negativas a las acciones de los demás.

Es tentador concluir que la vida familiar actual es más problemática que nunca. Puede ser tranquilizador saber que la fiesta de la Sagrada Familia se añadió al calendario universal de la Iglesia debido a la preocupación del Papa León XIII por el estado de la vida familiar, hace cien años. En este tiempo de Navidad, en el que las familias están por todas partes, damos la bienvenida al Emmanuel, el Dios que puso su morada entre nosotros.

Lecturas de hoy: 1 Sam 1:20–22, 24–28; Sal 84 (83):2–3, 5–6, 9–10; 1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24; Lc 2:41–52

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¿Estás llamado a servir la familia del Señor y compartir el amor del Padre como sacerdote? Llama al Padre Brian Capuano al (804) 359-5661 o escríbele a: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

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