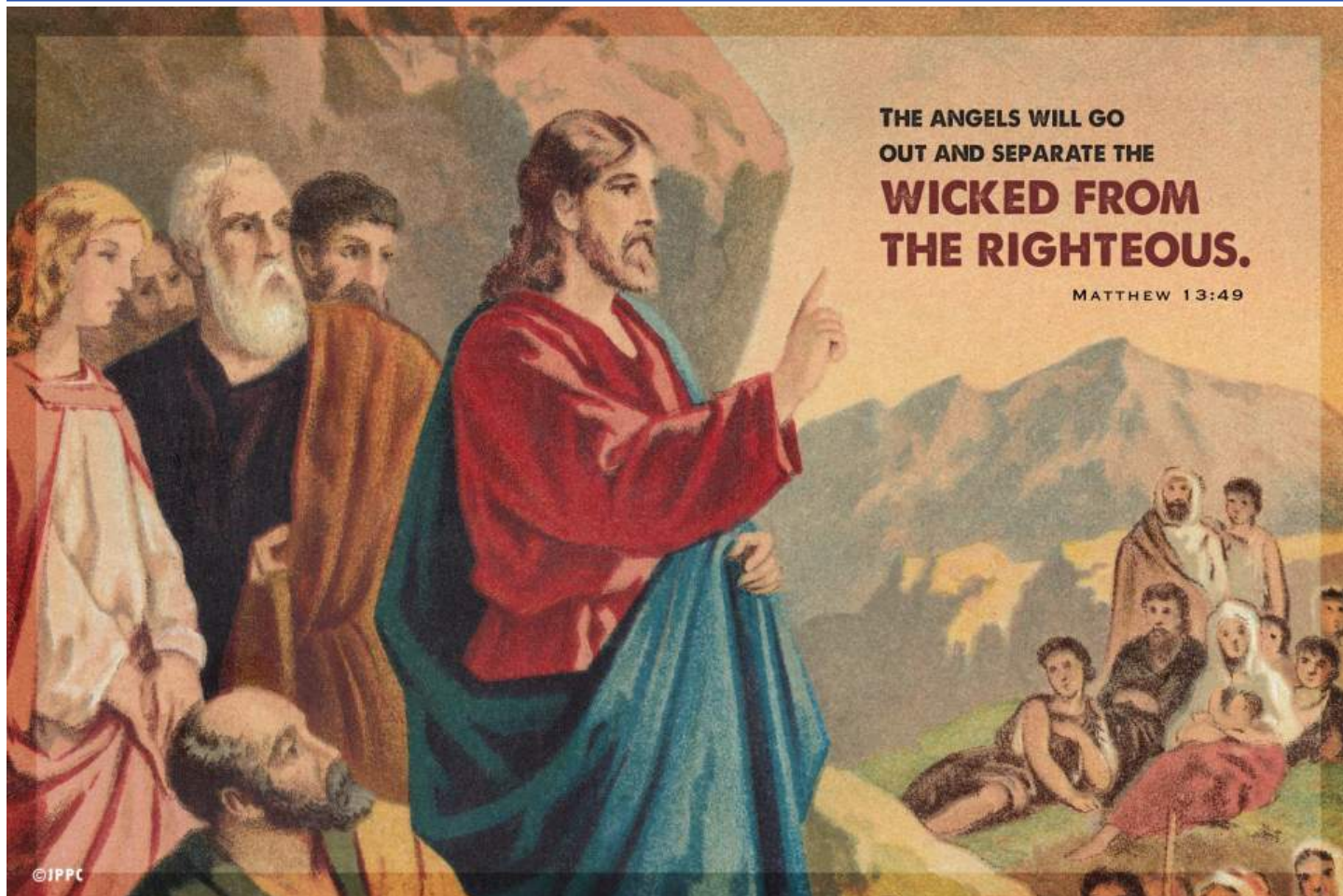


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NEWPORT NEWS, VA

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Outreach Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 12 noon - 2 pm

Tuesday & Friday: 9 am - 11 am

Pregnancy Helpline: 757-870-3131

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Text [mountcarmel](https://www.10text.com) to 84576 and follow the link sent to subscribe.

July 30, 2023 – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

I have frequently asked St. Anthony to live up to his reputation as a “Finder of Lost Articles.” From his help long ago in finding my precious school ring as a senior in high school all the way up to my miraculous medal only two months ago, “Holy Tony” has been my “go to” man when I’ve lost something. Of course, these material objects are not to be ranked as the really important things in life. It’s just easier to live when we know where they are.

Young King Solomon knew that even before he asked for wisdom in governing as the new ruler of his people. He and the other unnamed people in Our Lord’s “kingdom parables” are Our Lord’s way of setting the standards for us on how to live and act with true wisdom. Implied here are items like anticipating the future; remembering the past as a guideline; acting in the present with your priorities aligned with God’s. Anticipating; remembering; acting: a threefold plan reflecting present day wisdom. When we adopt such wisdom, ultimately based on belief in God’s divine providence, we have a foolproof plan for life.

The question can arise “why do we so often go wrong?” One answer is “human weakness”. Another is “battle weariness” from our daily struggle with a world opposed to Christ and His ways.

The good news here is the antidote only the Church can give through sacramental grace. Using Pope Francis’ metaphor for the Church as a “field hospital,” amid the battlefield of the world makes the answer even clearer. There we will find doctors and nurses well-trained to give us the necessary “first aid.”

By that I mean a Church where forgiveness abides in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, formerly named Penance; where friendship and fine-tuned mercy flourish from the conviction that “God and other people” come before one’s self. Incidentally, that’s a new way to interpret the word “Joy” as an acronym expressing one’s priorities: J is for Jesus; O is for Others; and Y is for you (rightly in last place.) As a member of such a Church, we can never really get lost. Besides that, we can learn a new way to spell “joy” and be happy to live it.

God love you; keep you found; and mindful of what real joy is.

Reading I: I Kings 3: 5, 7-12

Solomon’s dream involves his request for wisdom from God to govern his people. By not asking for a long life or riches, Yahweh also grants them.

Reading II: Romans 8: 28-30

Wise disciples become “conformed to the image of the Son.” God cooperates in all things with those who love.

The Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52, or 13: 44-46

Here is a “kingdom parable,” one of three unique to Matthew. The behavior of those who sell everything in order to possess a certain found object is the main lesson.

Pastoral Care

Circle of Hope – Join us on August 5th



How best can we pray for you?

Are you going through or have gone through a health issue, cancer diagnosis, or chronic illness?

Come join a **Catholic faith-based, spiritually uplifting group of OLMC men and women** who gather on the first Saturday of every month for fellowship, prayer and support. We learn how Jesus, Our Blessed Mother Mary, and our Saints all give us a perfect example of how to persevere during difficult times.

We meet at Saint Michael Hall on the first Saturday of each month at 10:30am.

You're invited to **come join our prayer and fellowship with us over refreshments.** Contact Christa at 757-595-0385 x107 or cblomstrom@olmc.org for more information.



Emmaus Journey Retreat

Emmaus Journey: A Retreat for Grieving Parents

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

The Emmaus Journey is a spiritual retreat for parents whose child or children 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. The one-day

retreats are offered in the Diocese of Richmond. The next retreat will be at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. Stop by the Welcome Desk after Mass to pick up a brochure which includes an outline of the retreat.

If you would like to speak with someone about the retreat, contact Christa at 757-595-0385 x107 or email cblomstrom@olmc.org

To register, scan the code or visit: <https://evangelizerichmond.org/family/emmaus-journey/>



Nourish for Caregivers - Support you need. When you need it

Nourish for Caregivers is a faith-based initiative to address the practical, emotional, and spiritual needs of families caring for a loved one.



Did you know that you can connect and find faith-based support in 3 WAYS?

- **IN PERSON Gatherings** - Monthly at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm
- **VIRTUAL Check-ins** - Weekly House Calls for Caregivers
Tuesday Morning at 11am or
Monthly - 2nd & 4th Thursday Evening at 8pm
- **VIA EMAIL** - Nourishment for Your Soul Newsletter: Hope, Encouragement and Messages of Inspiration

Contact Christa at 757-595-0385 x 107 or cblomstrom@olmc.org for more information. www.nourishforcaregivers.com

SEASONS OF HOPE – Catholic Grief Support

The next series begins on Tuesday, August 1, 2023

A 6-week faith sharing group for those who mourn.

Tuesdays from 10 am to noon.

When you or someone you care about is suffering from the loss of a loved one, the process of grieving is a natural part of healing. Grief, however natural, can be intense and experienced in very individual ways. It is sometimes hard to know, "Is what I'm going through 'normal' or natural?"

Seasons of Hope offers a safe and understanding environment for adults whose loved one has died. Seasons of Hope, rooted in Catholic tradition, conveys God's consolation through scripture, prayer, reflection and sharing our faith. Seasons of Hope meets for six consecutive weeks.

Are you grieving the loss of a husband, wife, son, daughter, parent or other loved one?

To register contact Christa at the Parish Office 757-595-0385 ext 107 or at cblomstrom@olmc.org.



Social Ministry

FEED THE POOR

And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh.”

Lk 6:20-21

This week's gospel is a continuation of Jesus' discourse on the Kingdom of Heaven (the 13th Chapter of Matthew). It is as if Jesus is sending us on a type of scavenger hunt to gain understanding about the nature of the Kingdom. It's like a buried treasure or a perfect pearl for which a man joyfully sells all he has to possess it. It is like a tiny mustard seed or a small measure of yeast, which mysteriously grows to the benefit of all.

But then, He tells us it is like a great catch of fish (good and bad) or a great harvest of wheat interspersed with weeds. At the end of the age, Jesus will send his angels to cull the sinners from the righteous. This should remind us of the separating of the sheep and goats at the end of the age, at which time the sheep inherit the Kingdom and the goats have a bad end. Sheep-like-ness constitutes feeding the poor; goat-like-ness constitutes ignoring the needs of the poor.

Mt 25:31-46.

What we do know is that the Kingdom belongs to the poor, the hungry, the sorrowing.

That is where you and I come in. Most every week, there is a list of items needed for the Pantry at the end of this column. That is just not enough now. Generally, in summer the demand for food goes up and the donated supply goes down. The situation in the Pantry is much worse than mere seasonal variations can explain. When the Pantry is this low, we give what are essentially emergency rations: three meals a day for three days for each person in the household, paying close attention to the suggested serving size on the packaging. This is less than half of what we usually provide.

Here is what we are really in need of: starches of all kind (potatoes, helpers, rice, crackers and pasta); breakfast items (cereal, oatmeal, milk pancake mix and flour); canned meats of all kind; canned fruits and vegetables of all kind (even green beans); pasta sauce and peanut butter. We are so low on food that it would be much better to donate food than personal products. Note: jumbo sizes of food items are less helpful than two regular sized items.

AVOID A BAD END – DON'T BE A GOAT

Kim Taylor: ktaylor@olmc.org; 757-595-0385 ext. 118

Ministerio Hispano

Director - Diácono Francisco Anleu

Oficina - (757) 595-0385 Ext. 123

Email - fanleu@olmc.org

Misas en Español: Domingos 2:00 PM, Jueves 6:30 PM

Confesiones: Sábados, 3 PM, Miércoles, 5 PM,

Jueves 5:30 PM en Español solamente

Guarde la fecha:

21 de octubre de 2023

**Peregrinación Diocesana a D.C.
para el Avivamiento Eucarístico**

Únase al obispo Knestout y fieles de todo el Commonwealth en el Santuario Nacional de la Inmaculada Concepción para una peregrinación centrada en la fuente y cumbre de nuestra fe, la Eucaristía.

Se invitará a los peregrinos a charlas, recorridos, procesión eucarística, adoración, música y misa con el obispo, todo ello rodeado de la imponente belleza de la iglesia católica más grande de América del Norte.

Regístrese en <https://evangelizerichmond.org/events/diocesan-pilgrimage/>

Bautismo Infantil

Los bautizos de infantes se llevan a cabo el cuarto domingo de cada mes. Los padres deben asistir a una breve clase de bautismo antes de bautizar a su bebé. **Las clases de bautismo se llevan a cabo en Saint Michael Hall de 9:30 a. m. a 11:30 a. m.** en las siguientes fechas:

5 de Agosto

2 de Septiembre

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la señorita **Elizabeth Kassel** en la oficina parroquial, **757-595-0385 ext 104** o envíe un correo electrónico a ekassel@olmc.org.



RVA Priest

“Todo el que pide, recibe; y el que busca, halla; y al que llama, se le abrirá”. ¡Pide en oración conocer tu vocación! ¡Busca y encuentra

formas de servir! ¡Llama a las puertas de aquellos que puedan ayudarte a guiarte! ¿Crees que Dios puede estar ofreciéndote la gracia de una vocación al sacerdocio o la vida consagrada? Llame al Padre Brian Capuano al 804-359-5661 o envíe un correo electrónico a: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

Community



"Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock and it will be opened to you." Ask in prayer to know your vocation! Seek and find ways to serve! Knock on the doors of those who can help guide you! Do you think God may be offering you the grace of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? Call Father Brian Capuano 804-359-5661 or e-mail: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.



Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers to help with meal delivery during the week (Monday through Friday). Delivery takes about two hours a day.

If you are interested, please call

757-246-1903 or 757-246-1905.



Ladies of Carmel Garage Sale Thank You!

The Ladies of Carmel would like to thank everyone who made the garage sale a success... those who donated, the shoppers, and the volunteers comprised of This Man is You, parishioners from ages 3-85 and teens from OLMC School and Peninsula Catholic.

At the conclusion of the sale, Proclaiming Grace Outreach, a non-profit organization located in Barhamsville, picked up the bulk of the unsold items for Grace Village Thrift.

After the sale, volunteers also donated items to various organizations. Sheets will be donated to Peninsula SPCA, kids' books and puzzles are being mailed to Magsaysay Elementary school in Baguio City, Philippines; books, toys and a baby blanket were donated to OLMC's Pregnancy Outreach, books are being donated to various libraries and thrift shops; gardening books will be delivered to the Newport News Master Gardeners; and books and DVDs are being sent to the Apostleship of the Sea at the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Thank you and Bless You!

Diocesan Pilgrimage to D.C. for the Eucharistic Revival, October 21, 2023

Join Bishop Knestout and faithful from across the Commonwealth at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for a pilgrimage focused on the source and summit of our faith, the Eucharist.

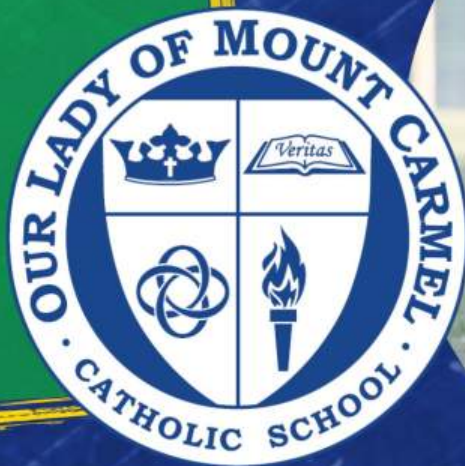
The diocese is coordinating free bus transportation from Holy Trinity (Norfolk), St. Bede (Williamsburg), or you have the option to drive yourself.

To register, go to <https://evangelizerichmond.org/events/diocesan-pilgrimage/>

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School

RUNNING INTO AUGUST!

School starts in just a few weeks. Please keep our students and their families in your prayers in the home stretch of summer break!



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