Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish-Shrine

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, July 9th, 2017

The Italian National Parish of the Archdiocese of Chicago
Served by The Missionaries of Saint Charles – Scalabrinians
1101 N 23rd Ave - Melrose Park - IL– 60160
P (708) 344 4140 — F (708)344 0902

Staff

Pastor
-Fr. Miguel Alvarez, C.S.

Associate Pastors
-Fr. Augusto Feccia, C.S.
-Fr. Yosef A. Sadipun C.S.

Parish Deacons
-John Battisto
-Giulio Camerini
-Jose Ramon Arenas

Secretaries
- Nancy Diaz
- Daniel Michel

Office Hours

Sunday
-8:00am—3:00pm

Tuesday- Friday
-8:30am—8:30pm

Saturday
-8:30am — 1:00pm
-2:00pm—5:30pm

Monday
- We're Closed

Sunday Mass Schedule

5:30pm - Sat. Vigil Mass
7:45am - English
9:00am - Español
10:30am - Italiano
12:00pm - English
1:30pm - Español
5:00pm - Español

Weekly Mass Schedule

English
-Monday - Saturday at 7:30am

Español
-Martes y Jueves a las 6:30pm

Italiano
-Sotto richiesta

THE SCALABRINIAN MISSIONARIES AT MOUNT CARMEL SINCE 1905

humilitas

Our Lady of Mt Carmel, is served
by the Congregation of the Missionaries of
St. Charles – Scalabrinians – .
We are an community of Catholic religious
serving migrants and refugees of different cultures,
religions and ethnicities in 32 countries.
The Congregation was founded in Italy
on November 28, 1887,
by Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini (1839-1905),
bishop of Piacenza (Italy).
Our missionary focus is to be migrants
with the migrants and to be in mission
with people on the move,
with a special priority for the poorest
And neediest migrants.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL —MISSION STATEMENT

We are a faith community bound by the Grace of God the Father
who adopted us all as beloved children through Baptism.
We journey as brothers and sisters
inspired in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nourished with the Eucharist
and strengthened by the love of the Holy Spirit.
Encouraged in the practice of our Catholic Tradition,
we experience and honor the maternal protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
while joyfully celebrating the religious practices of our ancestors in Faith.
Heartened by the zealous ministry of the Missionaries of St. Charles (Scalabrinians),
we strive to create a welcoming space were justice for all and the wellbeing of God's people
become the inspiration in our efforts to build God's Kingdom.

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NUESTRA SENORA DEL MONTE CARMEL — VISIÓN

Somos una comunidad de fe vinculada por la Gracia de Dios Padre,
que nos ha adoptado como hijos amados por el Bautismo.
Caminamos como hermanos y hermanas
inspirados en el Evangelio de Jesucristo, nutridos con la Eucaristía
y fortalecidos por el amor del Espíritu Santo.
Alentados en la práctica de nuestra Tradición Católica,
experimentamos y honramos a la protección materna de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo,
celebrando alegremente las prácticas religiosas de nuestros ancestros en la Fe.
Animados por el celo ministerial de los Misioneros de San Carlos (Scalabrinianos),
nos esforzamos por crear un espacio de bienvenida donde la justicia para todos
y el bienestar del pueblo de Dios nos inspiran en nuestros esfuerzos para construir el Reino de Dios.

Church Services

We encourage all to register at the Parish-Shrine.

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Les invitamos a registrarse en el Santuario Parroquial.

Support Staff

Business Manager
Alexander Sanchez 708.345.3632

Religious Education
Modesta Martinez 708.344.4140

Activities Coordinator
Miguel Aldana 708.345.3632

Music Coordinator
Ann Marie Nabor 708.579.5373

Community Center Site Director
Pablo Cruz 708.345.3632

Sacramental Life

Confessions *Confesiones*
Saturdays—*Sábados*
4:00pm—5:30pm or by appointment/ *o con cita.*

Baptisms *Bautizos*
Come to the parish office. *Pase a la oficina parroquial.*

Weddings *Bodas*
Contact the priest at least six months in advance.
Contactar al sacerdote seis meses antes de la ceremonia

Quinceañera
Contactar a la secretaria cuatro meses antes de la ceremonia.

Presentaciones
Contactar la Secretaria al menos dos semanas antes

Religious Services

Recitation of the Holy Rosary
Mon—Sat at 7:00am

Adoration *Adoración al Stmo. Sacramento*
Wednesdays 6:00pm—8:00pm

Novena & Benediction
Wednesday/Miércoles 7:30pm

Grupo de Oración Carismática
Martes a las 7:00pm

Other Services

Gift Shop Hours *Venta de Artículos Religiosos*
During the regular office hours.
Durante las horas de oficina

Community Center *Centro Comunitario*
Social outreach *Servicios a la comunidad* (708) 345 - 3632

Food Pantry *Despensa de comida*
Wednesdays 4:00pm—6:00pm

Religious Education—*Catecismo*
Saturday - *Sábados* 3:30pm — 6:30pm
Sunday - *Domingos* 10:00am—1:00pm
- Mass Included—Incluye la Misa

For the Month of JULY

July 7th Fri/Vie

- 7:30pm Novena to OLMC Begins

July 11th Tue/Mar

- 7:00pm Banner Presentation

July 12th Wed/Mie

- 6:00pm Rose Presentation

July 13th Thu/Jue

- 7:00pm Feast Committee Memorial

July 15th Sat/ Sab

- 12;00pm Misa en Honor a Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo

July 16th Sun/Dom

- 9:00am Italian Mass — Procession
- 12:00pm English Mass — Procession

July 31st Mon/Lun

- 7:30pm Misa por la Paz

Monday/Lunes
5:30pm Clases de Guitarra

Tuesdays / Martes
6:30pm Ballet Folkorico
7:00pm Grupo de Oracion
7:00pm Eng. Choir Practice

Wednesday/ Miercoles
6:30pm Ballet Folkorico
7:00pm Men of Mt. Carmel
7:00pm OLMC Fitness Club

Thursday/Jueves
6:30pm Ballet Folkorico

Friday/Viernes
7:30pm Practica de Coros
7:00pm Matrimonios con Prop.
7:00pm Jornadas Matrimoniales
7:00pm Boys/Girls Scouts
7:00pm Jovenes para Cristo

Wedding Banns

♥ Franco Alcocer & Minerva Sida...1

From the Pastor's Desk

The Novena in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, has always been quite a religious experience for the Devotees of Our Lady. This year, it is no exception. Friar Johnpaul, is a well-recognized preacher who, I hold no doubt, will lead us in a true journey of Faith. He will help us deepen in our love for the Mother of God, while growing in awareness of what it means to be a Faith committed person in our contemporary society. We have been walking since Friday in this experience and I am sure by the time we reach the end of the journey, our devotion for our Lady will be much stronger, our hope and charity will be reinforced while our faith life will be -I hold no doubt- more exemplary.

Over 120 years ago, few people of simple faith gather together to celebrate a Feast in honor of *La Madonna*, little they knew that unpretentious act of Faith will continue to perpetuate itself generation after generation. Throughout all these years, devotees of Our Lady have continued to spread their devotion and love for the Mother of God, making out of this event, one of the largest and most well established religious festivities in the Archdiocese of Chicago. People come from all over, these days, to honor The Blessed Virgin under her august title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; they lite a candle, they offer some flowers, they present us with their mass intentions, they walk in the procession, they join us for the Eucharistic Celebration, they pray the Rosary, they faithfully attend novena… many can be the expressions, but one is the Faith, strong and well established in the hearts of all the pilgrims who honor our Parish-Shrine with their yearly visit. May Our Blessed Mother, intercede for them all and may our good Lord, grant them what their heart desire.

A week from today, we will be experiencing all the grandeur of Faith and Love, working together to express our religious sentiments. Let us make out of this novena in preparation for the Feast, an opportunity to prepare our hearts, no doubt the Lord has plenty of blessings for all believers who in honoring His Mother, acknowledge the greatness of Divine Mercy. Thank you, Father Johnpaul, for your dedication to our Faith Family these days. We pray for you and your ministry, and it is our hope you can truly feel at home here in Melrose Park.

Adsum,

A HUMBLE KING

Like a tonal center in music, the note to which we keep returning in today's readings is humility. We wait in joyful expectation for the coming of our Lord as King. But what we are told to expect and rejoice over is a meek and humble king, riding on an ass. Not horses or chariots of the great and mighty, but a humble beast carries the Ruler whose dominion stretches "from the River to the ends of the earth" (Zechariah 9:10). This King comes to banish the tools of the warrior and bring peace. No wonder that a weary world rejoices and gives thanks to God!

124th Annual Italian Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Sunday, July 16, 2017

Ave del Carmine
July 7th to 16th

The first celebration was initiated by Emanuela Pellettiere-DeStefano, founder of our first church, erected in 1894

ATM available on site

If unable to attend, mail intentions and donations with check payable to:
OLMC Feast Committee
1101 N. 23rd Avenue
Melrose Park, IL 60160
(708) 344-4140

Online donations:
https://www.givecentral.org/location/317/event/9521

Religious Events In Church

7:30 PM	July 7th-15th	Nightly solemn novena by Friar Johnpaul Cafiero, OFM
7:00 PM	Tues. July 11th	Presentation of the banners
6:00 PM	Wed. July 12th	Offering of rose bouquets to the Madonna
7:00 PM	Thurs. July 13th	Memorial service for deceased members of the Feast Committee
	July 7th-16th	Candle offerings, mass requests and donations may be obtained in church

Outdoor Festivities July 13th - 16th

Enjoy games, rides, music, and Italian food specialties

Thursday, July 13th 5:00 - 10:30 PM

5:00 PM	Street festival begins
6 - 10:00 PM	Children's day with unlimited rides for $25
7:00 PM	Caliendo's Banda Napoletana marches through the streets
7:00 PM	The Redmonds with special guest Tony Caponi

Friday, July 14th 5:00 - 11:00 PM

6:30 PM	Jack Muccio
9:00 PM	Party Time with Souled Out

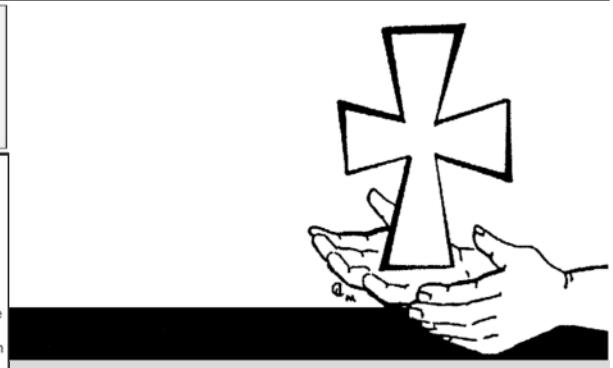
Saturday, July 15th Noon - 11:30 PM

Noon - 5:00 PM	Children's day with unlimited rides for $25
9 AM - 3:00 PM	Outdoor car show
1:00 PM	Alive Rescue, dog rescue - Dogs for adoption
4:30 PM	Johnny Maggio
6:30 PM	The Jersey Girls
8:30 PM	Hollywood Swinging tribute to Kool & the Gang

Sunday, July 16th 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM

7:00 AM	Mass in English
9:00 AM	Solemn Mass in Italian
10:30 AM	Statue leaves church for the first part of the procession
Noon	Statue returns to Church grounds for field mass
	Mass transmitted live to Church for those who wish to remain indoors
1:30 PM	Final part of the procession
4:00 PM	Statue returns to Church. Benediction follows
4:00 PM	The Nick Pontarelli Band with special tribute to Dean Martin
6:00 PM	El Bandolero Band

www.olmcparish.org - www.facebook.com/olmcparish
feast.olmc@gmail.com



The Feast Committee and the Altar & Rosary Society are sponsoring the Rose Presentation for the 124th Feast on Wednesday, July 12, 2017; 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM prior to Novena.

Baskets of roses will be available for $50.00 and must be ordered and pre-paid by July 7, 2017. No baskets will be sold on the evening of the presentation. Please make checks payable to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

Single roses will also be available at $1.00 each or $10.00 a dozen in front of church on that evening. Order forms for the roses are available in the rectory or on the table in back of the church.

If you have any questions, please call the rectory.

Registrations for the Catechism Classes

When is the last day to register? This is the question I often hear when someone is interested in registering their children for Religious Education. Registrations started on June 4, 2017: Registration closes when the class rooms are filled; the number is limited.

Two consecutive years are required for one to make the First Communion Sacrament. Also two consecutive years are required for one to make the Sacrament of Confirmation.
The registration fee is $ 150 for one Student, $ 50 for an additional student of the same family; A family of three or more is a total of $ 225.

The appropriate age for Communion Registration is 7 years old and going to second grade in school; Registrations for the Sacrament of Confirmation is when the student goes to sixth grade. Please register your students as soon as possible. We still have availability for the two programs: Saturdays and Sundays. Enrollment will be on a first come, first serve basis. For more information call the office at 708-344-4140

Mensaje del Párroco

Nos estamos preparando a celebrar con fe la Fiesta Patronal de nuestro Santuario Parroquial. Es importante que en la medida de lo posible hagamos de estas festividades, una oportunidad para crecer en Fe y Devoción hacia La Virgen Santísima en su advocación del Monte Carmelo. Nuestro pueblo hispano se caracteriza por su fuerte devoción a la Madre de Dios, a quien amorosamente descubrimos también como Madre Nuestra, es por ello que considero importante abrir el corazón estos días a las bendiciones que Dios quiere derramar sobre nuestras vidas a través de Nuestra Señora del Cielo.

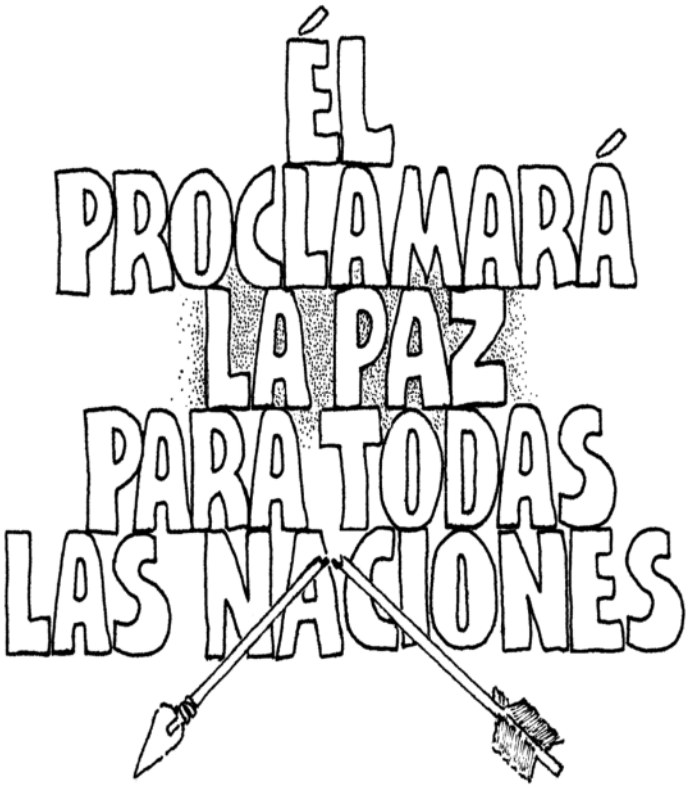
La devoción a la Virgen del Carmen comenzó en estos lugares hace 124 años, cuando Melrose Park era un lugar de granjas y habitado por gente que se dedicaba a trabajar el campo. Un pequeño grupo de inmigrantes italianos se reunió el año de 1894 para celebrar con sencillez y devoción la primera fiesta en honor de la Virgen del Carmen, desde ese entonces y hasta nuestro tiempo, a pesar de las dificultades que a lo largo de la historia se han enfrentado tantas veces, año tras año, esta fiesta religiosa se ha celebrado fielmente y sin interrupción. Los devotos de *La Madonna* (Como le llaman a la Virgen los Italianos) se han encargado de heredar de padres a hijos esta hermosa tradición que ahora nos toca vivir a nosotros con todo su esplendor. Desde el viernes 7 de Julio se está llevando a cabo el rezo de la novena con predicación cada tarde a las 7:30pm, el jueves 13 comenzará nuestro carnaval en la calle, con venta de comida, entretenimiento en vivo y juegos para los pequeños de la familia. El Domingo 16 como se ha venido haciendo por más de un siglo, la imagen de nuestra Patrona saldrá a recorrer las calles de Melrose Park, acompañada de miles de peregrinos devotos que hacen de esta procesión una autentica manifestación de su Fe. Les invito a ser parte de nuestras festividades y asistir como familia a los diferentes eventos religiosos y de entretenimiento que estamos planeando.

Que Nuestra Señora continúe protegiendo a sus devotos, y que su Divino Hijo colme nuestras vidas con toda clase de Bendiciones. No se les olvide lo importante de su presencia en la Misa que celebraremos en español el día sábado 15 a las 12:00 mediodía. ¡Allí nos vemos!

Adsum,

UN REY HUMILDE

Como el centro tonal en música, la nota que sigue retornando en las lecturas de hoy es la humildad. Esperamos con gozosa expectativa la venida de nuestro Señor como Rey. Pero eso nos dice que esperemos y nos regocijemos en este manso y humilde rey, montado en un burrito. No en el caballo o el carruaje de los grandes y poderosos, sino en una humilde bestia que carga al Rey cuyo dominio se extiende "desde el gran rio hasta los últimos rincones de la tierra" (Zacarias 9:10). Este Rey viene a desterrar las armas de guerrero y a traer la paz. ¡No es de extrañar que un mundo abatido se regocije y de gracias a Dios!



ROSAS PARA LA VIRGEN DEL CARMEN

La Sociedad del Altar y del Santo Rosario está patrocinando la Presentación de Rosas para la Fiesta Patronal el Miércoles, 12 de julio antes de la Novena.

Las Canastas de Rosas Se ofrecen a la Virgen del Carmen y estarán disponibles por $ 50.00 cada una. Deben ser ordenadas y pagadas por adelantado antes del 7 de julio. Rosas individuales también estarán disponibles a $ 1.00 cada uno o $ 10.00 por docena en frente de la iglesia esa noche.

Los formularios de pedido para las rosas están disponibles en la oficina parroquial. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta, por favor llame a la rectoría.

Inscripciones del Catecismo

¿Cuando se terminan las inscripciones para el catecismo? Esta es la primera pregunta que escucho cuando alguien quiere inscribir a sus hijos en el Programa de educacion Religiosa. Las Inscrpciones empezaron el 4 de Junio, 2017: Las inscripciones se cierran cuando se completan las clases. Para más calidad de enseñanza, tenemos cupo limitado.

Dos años consecutivos de preparacion se necesitan para que alguien haga el sacramento de la primera comunion y dos años consecutivos para que hagan el sacramento de la confirmación. El costo de la inscripcion es de $ 150 por un estudiante y $ 50 por un hermano/a. Una familia con tres o más hijos paga solamente un total de $ 225.

La edad mas temprana para inscribir a sus hijos para hacer el sacramento de la primera comunión es cuando el estudiante tiene 7 años de edad y va a la escuela al segundo grado; Iscripciones para el sacramento de la cofirmación empiezan cuando los estudiantes van al sexto año de la escuela.

Todavía tenemos disponibilidad para los dos días: sabados y domingos. Pero, inscriba a sus hijos tan pronto le sea posible para que tenga oportunidad de escoger el dia que quiere. Para más información llame a la oficina de la parroquia al 708-344-4140

Bendiciones,
Atentamente, el Equipo de Educación Religiosa

Fr. Feccia's Reflection

Quattordicesima domenica del T. O.— La predicazione di Gesù ha conosciuto l'insuccesso nelle città della Galilea. Nonostante i miracoli compiuti in esse, Gesù non è stato accolto. I sapienti e gli intelligenti si sono chiusi al Vangelo. Forse Gesù si è allontanato dalle folle per riprendere in mano il gruppetto dei discepoli scoraggiati. In ogni caso, è nella preghiera che scopre ancora una volta il disegno del Padre, si sente invadere dalla gioia di fronte alla sua bontà e ripete, in un vibrante*Magnificat*, la beatitudine dei poveri. Attingendo ai tesori della Scrittura, col tono di un profeta ispirato Gesù canta un inno di lode al Padre suo. Con lo sguardo rinnovato dalla preghiera, contempla il paradosso di una salvezza nascosta agli scribi e ai farisei, ma rivelata agli umili che lo seguono. Se Gesù ha un ruolo tutto particolare in quella rivelazione, è perché vive, nel profondo del proprio essere, da cui sgorga la lode, un rapporto privilegiato con Dio, è il Figlio eterno del Padre. Soltanto lui può sapere fino a che punto Dio è Padre, e soltanto lui può far entrare i suoi discepoli in questo mistero d'amore. Il riposo che Gesù concede loro dopo l'invio in missione è un segno della pace ancora più profonda che troveranno accogliendo il suo insegnamento: egli è il messia«mite ed umile di cuore» che porta unicamente la parola di Dio al di là di ogni interpretazione umana, e che impone soltanto ciò di cui egli stesso si è fatto carico per tutti gli uomini.

Definita dal concilio di Nicea (325), l'identità della natura del Figlio e del Padre, trova nella preghiera di Gesù un'espressione in qualche modo tangibile, a cui ogni cristiano è chiamato a partecipare. Pregare con Gesù significa lasciar cantare in noi il suo Spirito, aprirsi al Nome divino che ci rende figli pronti a compiere la volontà del Padre, esultare col Figlio per le merqaviglie che continuano a realizzarsi per azione della sua grazia.

Il Seminatore della parabola — Secondo le abitudini agricole dell'antico oriente, si seminava prima di arare la terra, salvo ripulire il campo dalle pietre e dai rovi. Gesù semina nei luoghi più impensati. Alcuni ripuliscono il campo, altri mieteranno, ma più tardi. Una cosa è certa. Ciò che sarà raccolto deriverà dalla forza della semente, la cui natura stessa è di moltiplicarsi. Il dinamismo della parola di Dio porta la promessa del regno, così come la semente porta quella della messe. Come i saggi dell'antichità, Gesù pone un enigma: chi fa produrre il cento per uno? chi è colui che ha un principio modesto e un avvenire promettente? chi rende fertile il terreno? Vi è una sola risposta: Gesù stesso che è ad un tempo seminatore e seme.

La legge del regno

In realtà, lo sappiamo, Dio si rivela a tutti, ma i sapienti rendono spesso inefficace e vana la rivelazione di Dio. Gli intelligenti e i sapienti sono, qui, i maestri religiosi del tempo: gli scribi, i farisei, conoscitori della Legge e abili manipolatori delle tradizioni. Possedendo la conoscenza della Legge essi diventano oppressori e caricano le spalle dei poveri e degli ignoranti «di pesi insopportabili, e quei pesi voi non li toccate nemmeno con un dito!».

(Lc 11,46). Gesù, invece, chiama a sé coloro che sono stanchi e oppressi, e il giogo che egli impone è dolce e leggero. Il suo giogo, però, non è leggero perché egli sia meno esigente, quasi che la sua fosse una moralità della permissività e della licenza, ma perché è lui a renderne leggero il peso con la sua solidarietà e concreta partecipazione. Lui è il primo dei poveri, dei semplici, dei miti. Lui si carica per primo la croce sulle spalle: è la sua vicinanza che rende sopportabile e leggera la croce di chi lo segue.

La legge del regno di Dio è la legge *del più piccolo, del più povero.* Dio sceglie gli umili, i semplici, gli ignoranti. E la legge del granello di senapa, degli inizi umili e nascosti... Lo fa notare Paolo ai Corinzi, malati di megalomania, desiderosi di doni e carismi vistosi, grandi estimatori della sapienza del mondo:

«Considerate infatti la vostra chiamata, fratelli: non ci sono tra voi molti sapienti secondo la carne, non molti potenti, non molti nobili. Ma Dio ha scelto ciò che nel mondo è stolto per confondere i sapienti, Dio ha scelto ciò che nel mondo è debole per confondere i forti, Dio ha scelto ciò che nel mondo è ignobile e disprezzato e ciò che è nulla per ridurre a nulla le cose che sono, perché nessun uomo possa gloriarsi davanti a Dio» *(1 Cor* 1,26-29).

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, JULY 8 — **WEEKDAY**
7:30 am †
5:30 pm †
7:30 pm NOVENA OLMC

SUNDAY, JULY 9 — **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
7:45 am †
9:00 am †
10:30 am † Michele Atteo by Wife, Children, and Grandchildren
† Carmine and Antonina De Biasio by Son Angelo & Family
12:00 pm † Eda Falco by Carolyn & Meghan Boni
† Carmine and Ida Napolitano by Children & Grandchildren
1:30 pm †
5:00 pm †

MONDAY, JULY 10 — **WEEKDAY**
7:30 am †
7:30 pm NOVENA OLMC

TUESDAY, JULY 11 — **ST. BENEDICT**
7:30 am †
6:30 pm †
7:30 pm NOVENA OLMC

WEDNESDAY. JULY 12 — **WEEKDAY**
7:30 am †
7:30 pm NOVENA OLMC

THURSDAY, JULY 13 — **WEEKDAY**
7:30 am † Don Carlini by Family
6:30 pm †
7:30 pm NOVENA OLMC

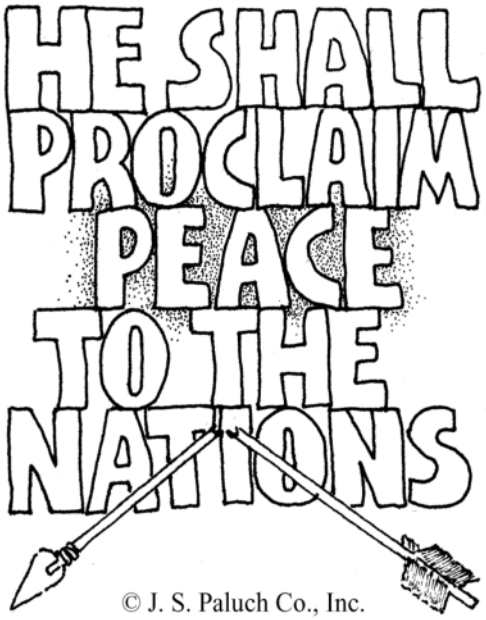
FRIDAY, JULY 14 — **ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA**
7:30 am † Rose & Nick Ciffone by Daughter
For the Birthday Remembrance of Eda Falco by Kids & Family
7:30 pm NOVENA OLMC

SATURDAY, JULY 15 — **ST. BONAVENTURA**
7:30 am † John C. Babowice by Loving Family
12:00 pm Misa en Honor a Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo
5:30 pm †
7:30 pm NOVENA OLMC

SUNDAY, JULY 16 — **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
7:00 am †
9:00 am † Lino Rauzi by Wife & Family
For Michael & Lucia De Vito by Doyle Grandchildren
12:00 pm †

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO ARE ILL OR INFIRMED :

Linda Bandy	Ken Douglas
Mary Donato	Michael Turso
Judith Escamilla	Anna Baffa
Jacob Duda	Jan Clark
Kristie Goldi	Sara Zonca
Linna Goldi	Nancy Oshea
Susan Humpf	Madeline Vittori
Vandy Liala	Victor Mejia Jr.
Ethan Maidl	Nico Felice
Joseph Pulido	Emilio Scalzitti
Lauren Rendi	Nell Baker
Bobby J. Villa	Fabiola Pintor
Luke Westrick	Isabel Pintor
Ann Yench	Marie Torchia
Alexandra Vitali	Kelly Ann Haymaker



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The premier poet of the English language, Geoffrey Chaucer, introduced one of his most beloved characters, the "Wife of Bath," by this telling remark: "Husbands at church door she had five." Four times widowed, she was setting off on a pilgrimage, notably without number five. The church door is a curious detail, pointing to the fourteenth-century wedding custom of marrying on the porch of the parish church. The goal was to give maximum publicity to the consent of the groom and bride, and so consent was moved from the bride's home to a public venue. The priest would stand in the doorway and begin by sprinkling the couple with holy water. He needed to make sure they weren't too closely related and give them some instruction. He would direct the groom to pay the bride's family a dowry, and then announce the monetary amounts to the interested passersby. Only then would the guests enter the church for the wedding Mass, during which the bride and groom would hold lighted candles. The gradual move from home to church and the shift from the bride's father to the priest's authority helped to protect the freedom of brides who weren't quite as confident as the Wife of Bath.

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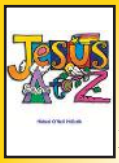

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