



250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
CARMEL MISSION  
BASILICA

# Carmel Mission Basilica

3080 Rio Road Carmel, CA 93923 • (831) 624-1271

[www.carmelmission.org](http://www.carmelmission.org)

Founded 1771 by St. Junípero Serra



**Third Sunday in Lent,  
Sunday, March 8, 2026**



Dear Friend of Carmel Mission,

Our world seems in a fragile and perilous state at this moment. War has further erupted across the Middle East, with the possibility of even more dire conflict in the near future. It can be difficult to maintain our efforts for peacemaking in the face of escalating violence and division. Seeking some solace, I recently read in its entirety Our Holy Father, Pope Leo's, message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 2026, entitled "Peace be with you all: towards an "unarmed and disarming" peace. Though written before the most recent outbreak of war, sadly, armed conflict is such a constant reality of our human world that it is very relevant, and also grounded in hope and the optimism that the peace desired for us by our loving God, is within our reach.

I recommend the entire message to you all, (<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/peace/documents/20251208-messaggio-pace.html>) , but wanted to share an excerpt here that struck me as particularly poignant in light of today's Gospel reading.

*Therefore, alongside action, it is more necessary than ever to cultivate prayer, spirituality, and ecumenical and interreligious dialogue as paths of peace and as languages of encounter within traditions and cultures. Throughout the world, it is to be hoped that "every community become a 'house of peace,' where one learns how to defuse hostility through dialogue, where justice is practiced and forgiveness is cherished. Now more than ever, we must show that peace is not a utopia by fostering attentive and life-giving pastoral creativity.*

It is this dialogue that Jesus and the Samaritan woman engage in at the well in today's Gospel. Across the boundaries of their cultural and ethnic identities, their gender, their righteousness or lack thereof, they speak to one another as human beings who genuinely wish to engage with one another. In both speaking to, and listening to, the Samaritan woman, Jesus shines the light of God's love into her heart and changes her life profoundly, so profoundly that she is immediately inspired to share this light with her community.

I invite you to join me this week in considering how we can continue to build a "house of peace" here at Carmel Mission, and how we can support and encourage each other in the ongoing work of praying, and acting, for peace in our world.

I wish you and your loved ones blessings of good health and Christ's true peace,

Fr. Paul



**Diocesan Decree for the  
Year of St. Francis of Assisi**

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special Jubilee Year from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, to commemorate the eight hundredth anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi.

The Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree granting the Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions which can also be applied in the form of suffrage for the souls in Purgatory.

Besides offering the indulgence to all the Franciscan Families and anyone who observes the Rule of St. Francis, all the faithful without distinction can receive the indulgence *“by visiting in the form of a pilgrimage any Franciscan conventual church, or place of worship anywhere in the world dedicated to St. Francis or connected to him for any reason, and there they will devoutly follow the Jubilee rites or spend at least a suitable period of time in pious meditation and will raise prayers to God so that, following the example of St. Francis, may sentiments of Christian charity towards one's neighbor and authentic wishes for harmony and peace among peoples spring up in hearts, concluding with the Our Father, the Creed and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Francis of Assisi, St Clare and all the saints of the Franciscan Family”* (Eighth Centenary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi, Apostolic Penitentiary Decree).

Therefore, I, the Most Rev. Ramon Bejarano, Bishop of the Diocese of Monterey, decree that the following churches/chapels are the pilgrimage destinations in this diocese for this special Jubilee.

1. **Old Mission San Juan Bautista and St. Francis Retreat Center, San Juan Bautista**, in the north of the Diocese.
2. **St. Paul the Apostle, Pismo Beach, CA** in the south of the Diocese.

The elderly, the sick and those who for serious reasons cannot leave home will also be able to obtain the plenary indulgence by spiritually joining the Jubilee celebrations and offering their prayers, pains, or sufferings to God.

**Conditions for receiving the Indulgence** *(for oneself or for the deceased)*

- Sacramental confession to be in God's grace *(within twenty days before or after)*.
- Participation in Mass and Eucharistic Communion.
- Visit in the form of a pilgrimage any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world or designated by the local bishop.
- Renews one's profession of faith, through the recitation of the Creed.
- Recite the Lord's Prayer.
- Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Given at the Diocese of Monterey on February 27, 2026

Most Reverend Ramón Bejarano  
Bishop of Monterey



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# LITURGY

## Today's Readings

**Reading I:** *I AM who I AM.* (Exodus 3:14)

**Psalms:** *The Lord is kind and merciful.*  
(Psalm 103:8)

**Reading II:** *These things happened as examples for us.* (1 Corinthians 10:6)

**Gospel:** *If you do not repent, you will all perish as they did.* (Luke 13:3)

## Readings for the Week

### Monday, March 9

2 Kings 5:1–15ab  
Psalm 42:2, 3; 43:3–4  
Luke 4:24–30

### Tuesday, March 10

Daniel 3:25, 34–43  
Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8–9  
Matthew 18:21–35

### Wednesday, March 11

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5–9  
Psalm 147:12–13, 15–16, 19–20  
Matthew 5:17–19

### Thursday, March 12

Jeremiah 7:23–28  
Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9  
Luke 11:14–23

### Friday, March 13

Hosea 14:2–10  
Psalm 81:6c–8a, 8bc–9, 10–11ab, 14 and 17  
Mark 12:28–34

### Saturday, March 14

Hosea 6:1–6  
Psalm 51:3–4, 18–19, 20–21ab  
Luke 18:9–14

## Scripture Reflection

Today's Gospel account opens with a tired and thirsty Jesus asking a woman of Samaria for water. Like millions of women, who even today spend hours of their day collecting water, the Samaritan woman, perhaps for the second time that day, comes to the well to draw water. As often happens in John's Gospel, the two are cast as representative characters for the whole of their people. They begin speaking of their thirsts, their shared human need, and this enables a conversation by which they can begin to break down the enmity between their two peoples. Step by step, Jesus and the woman begin to reveal themselves to one another. They speak of their deepest thirsts: for worship, salvation, and the search for truth. They listen intently and allow their perceptions of the other to shift. The focus of the dialogue is not the Samaritan woman's marital history nor that she is said to be a sinner. Jesus does not tell her to go and sin no more as he does to the man at the pool at Bethesda (John 5:14) or the woman caught in adultery (John 8:11). The woman's understanding of Jesus progresses from the simple observation that He is a Jew to pondering whether he is greater than Jacob. Another step is her recognition of Him as a prophet when He uses the marital metaphor favored by Hosea to speak of the people's relationship with God. Finally, she arrives at the conclusion that Jesus is the Messiah, which she shares with her townspeople in question form, so that they too can enter into the process of discovery that will culminate in faith. The theme of "living water" runs through the readings today. St. Paul identifies the content of this water in his letter to the Romans: "the love of God...poured out into our hearts." The first reading and the Gospel offer examples of different responses to God's offer. The Israelites reject the offer, grumbling about God's rescue from Egypt. However, the Samaritan woman recognizes Jesus for who He is, and accepts the love He desires for her, even inviting others to receive this same love. Psalm 95 makes reference to the first reading from Exodus, asking the assembly in that time to avoid the errors of their ancestors who quarreled with Moses and with God. The psalmist encourages us to "open our hearts" to what God has in store and to trust in His care for us., which allows us to care for others.



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# ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in  
the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

## Altar Flowers Opportunity



Here at Carmel Mission we are very fortunate to be surrounded by natural beauty in our wonderful gardens, and we receive feedback from parishioners and visitors alike on how much they enjoy the flowers, plants and trees on our property. The beauty of nature is a concrete reminder of the beauty of God, in whose image we are made. When we enjoy beautiful flowers, plants and trees we are celebrating God's gift of the natural world.

We are so happy to continue the beauty of altar flowers at our Masses each week. We invite you to consider sponsoring a bouquet for \$90 in memory or honor of a loved one, to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or in thanksgiving to God.

The altar flowers will be a part of our weekend Masses and your dedication will be included in our weekly e-bulletin.

Please contact Laura at [liturgy@carmelmission.org](mailto:liturgy@carmelmission.org) for more information and to schedule your gift. Thank you so much for your generosity and for helping to ensure that these symbols of beauty and life are part of our weekly celebrations.



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# MASS AT THE MISSION

## Mass Schedule

### Saturday Mass

5:30 pm - Mass in the Basilica.

### Sunday Masses

9:00 am - Mass in the Basilica.

11:00 am - Mass in the Basilica with Choir.

## Moved to the Basilica during construction

### Noon Masses

Wednesday - Friday, 12:00 pm — Mass in the Basilica

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 9:00 am - 10:00 am — Confessions at the Basilica

## Mass Entrance

Gates open 30 minutes before Mass. Those attending our weekend Masses will be entering through the Visitor's Gate into the Basilica Forecourt or through the Parish Gate into the Central Courtyard. We will have an attendant at each entrance.

Please note that the Basilica Forecourt is an extensions of our Mass. We ask that everyone be aware and respectful of the prayerful environment of this setting.

### Accessibility

There are 9 designated accessible parking spots near the Visitor entrance and 6 more spots by the Parish Office entrance. If you require any assistance, please let the attendant know. We recommend arriving early so we may better accommodate accessibility needs.





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# LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER

**Masses will be celebrated as usual unless stated otherwise.**

## Ash Wednesday

### **Mass and Distribution of Ashes**

February 18 at 12:00 PM in the Basilica

## Stations of the Cross

### **Every Friday following Noon Mass**

February 20 - March 27 in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

## Taizé Prayer

### **Every Wednesday at 7:00 PM**

February 25 - March 25 in the Basilica

## Reconciliation Service

### **Monday, March 23**

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM In the Basilica

## Palm Sunday

### **Weekend Masses**

Saturday, March 28: Vigil Mass at 5:30 PM

Sunday, March 29: Masses at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

## Holy Thursday, April 2

### **Mass and Adoration**

5:30 PM - In the Basilica

After Mass - Adoration until 11 PM in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

## Good Friday, April 3

### **The Lord's Passion**

1:00 PM In the Basilica

### **Tenebrae**

7:30 PM In the Basilica



## Easter

### **Easter Vigil Mass**

Saturday, April 4  
8:00 PM In the Basilica

### **Easter Sunday Masses**

Sunday, April 5  
9:00, 11:00 AM, & 1:00 PM In the Basilica



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# PARISH PRAYERS

## Sick in the Parish

All the sick are prayed for during a general intercession at every Mass.

At this time we pray especially for:



Margaret Luke,  
Rose Healy,  
Paul Borromeo,  
Jana Schmidt,  
Matthew Escovar,  
Anne Emmerich,  
Joan Kenny,  
Tobi Lunt,  
Sean Kenny,  
Nancy Buchanan,  
Larry Fry,  
Richard Cruickshank,

Charles Cardoza,  
Frank Machalla,  
Brandon Paulikas,  
Julieta Evangelista,  
Nancy D'Angelo,  
Missy Student



## Please pray for our Military

Keep in your prayer our brave parishioners, relatives and friends of our parish family who are in service to their country in the Armed Forces abroad:

Major Trevor C. Kuchman, USMC,  
Richard Brophy,  
Robert Maher

We ask the Lord to keep them safe from harm and pray for their families while they are far from home.

## Prayer Requests and Special Intentions

Our prayer request email is a great way to let us know about your prayer requests, or any special intentions you may have. Also, if you know of anyone in our parish family who is ill we ask that you share that with us so we may pray for them, and reach out to them or their family.

**Send Your  
Prayer Request**



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# PARISH PRAYERS

## Recently Deceased in our Parish

Please pray for our brothers and sisters who have died, especially:



Jim Brady,  
Laura Pura,  
Susan Betz McCance,  
Gerry Chiappe,  
Robert Moore,  
Marie Zenorini-Canepa,  
Meridee Doud,  
Charleen Sciambi  
David Perez  
Margaret "Peggy" Ryan

Pearla Tarsitano  
John Jennings,  
Samantha Jennings,  
Cristina Biegel,  
William Griffon,  
Jeff Brady,  
Nelly Ortega,  
Douglas Forzani,  
Joe Diaz, Jr,  
Theron Bergeron,  
Trudy Bohland,  
Theodor Albert,  
Wilma Jauregui,  
Jose Ponce Gutierrez,  
Teresita Chan,  
Walter DeFaria,  
Lucille Eggerman,  
Dianne Lee (Taylor) Mueller R.N.,  
Rebecca Simms,  
Debora Frances Embody,  
James M. Fremgen,  
Patricia Maaske,  
Tom Coble,

... that they may rejoice with the Risen Lord. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon them; and may the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Amen.



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# STEWARDSHIP

## Carmel Mission Legacy

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Visit our  
Website

FAQ

## Reports for the week ending on 02/22/2026:

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Electronic Donation: \$ 7,708.49  
Mailed Donation: \$ 1,200.00  
Weekend Masses: \$ 8,221.00  
Ash Wednesday - (2/18): \$ 1,816.00

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**TOTAL      \$18,945.49**



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# 2024 AMA UPDATE - BSC

The ramp, handrails, and door hardware installations have been completed and are currently pending inspection.



Unforeseen damage in the chapel was discovered, requiring plaster repair, painting, woodwork restoration, electrical wiring repairs, and termite remediation.

This repair work is currently underway, and the BSC will reopen once all repairs have been completed.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase to create a ramp entrance from the patio to the parking lot is in process with PG&E, as the work requires moving a gas line.

We have received the preliminary findings for the seismic retrofit of the entire chapel.





Knights of  
Columbus

**TICKETS ARE SOLD OUT!!**

— SAINT —  
**PATRICK'S**  
*Dinner*

**MARCH 14**

**STARTS AFTER 5:30 PM SATURDAY MASS  
@ CRESPI HALL**

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**FOOD ♦ DRINKS ♦ MUSIC**  
**\$50 FOR ADULTS**

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DIOCESE  
of  
MONTEREY

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

# *Music of the Church*

for LENT, HOLY WEEK, and EASTER

Diocese of Monterey | School of Ministry

You are warmly invited to immerse yourself in the sacred music of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter at the beautiful Carmel Mission Basilica on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Led by Laura Schwingel*

*Journey Toward the Cross through music and reflection*

## Schedule:

- Wednesday, March 18, 2026
- 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
  - Music of the Church for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter  
McMahon Center
- 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
  - Taizé Prayer Around the Cross in the Carmel Mission Basilica

All are welcome.

**Register:** *Music of the Church for Lent, Holy Week and Easter – Fill out form*



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# CARMEL MISSION COMMUNITY

## Carmel Mission Bible Study

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**Bible Study meets in Crespi Hall every Wednesday at 10:30 am - 11:30 am**



Our Carmel Mission Bible is now studying of the Parables found in the Gospels. In these texts, Jesus sets forth for us details of how His Kingdom works in our Catholic lives. There is more in each of them than first appears. Here is a means to open our hearts to what He plans, hopes for each of us.

Questions; Dick Gorman 595-6363.

## Centering Prayer

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**Centering Prayer meets in Crespi Hall every Friday, 12:50 AM - 1:30 PM**

All are welcome to join CENTERING PRAYER each Friday at 12:55 in Crespi Hall. We meet for 20 minutes in prayer, with the option to stay for Book Club at 1:30.

For more information about Centering Prayer, please email Sally Greig [saljogreig@aol.com](mailto:saljogreig@aol.com)

## Carmel Mission Book Club

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**Book Club meets in Crespi Hall every Friday, 1:30 PM**

On March 6th, Book Club will begin reading **The Practice of the Presence of God** by Brother Lawrence.

Brother Lawrence was a humble Carmelite friar who served as the cook in his Paris monastery during the 1600s. Pope Leo states that this small book is one of the texts that has most shaped his own personal spiritual life. Please join us!

Everyone is welcome to attend and books are available at the meetings.

For information email [christina.renna@gmail.com](mailto:christina.renna@gmail.com)

## Coffee and Donuts

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Coffee and Donuts each Sunday following 9 AM & 11 AM Masses.

March 1            March 22

March 8

03/01/2026





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# CARMEL MISSION COMMUNITY

## Carmel Mission Bereavement Ministry

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The Carmel Mission Bereavement Ministry, founded in 2003, is a group of volunteers who provide consolation and support to families who are grieving the death of a loved one. The Ministry, under the direction of the Pastor, offers assistance with planning and staffing the Funeral Mass and assists with receptions held in Crespi Hall. The Ministry has a three-fold purpose of Service to the Parish and Spiritual Development and time for Social gathering for our Members.

If you would like to join with us or learn more about our Ministry, please contact Laura Schwingle, [liturgy@carmelmission.org](mailto:liturgy@carmelmission.org).

## Knights of Columbus

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**Meet on the first Tuesday of each month in Crespi Hall at 6:30 PM.**

For more information please email [koc@carmelmission.org](mailto:koc@carmelmission.org).



## Our Coordinator for the I-HELP Ministry has retired.

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***Carmel Mission's I-HELP ministry needs YOUR help!***

We need YOU to help us continue providing this emergency housing program one evening a month for homeless women on the Peninsula.

Please contact Father Paul at [fr.paul@carmelmission.org](mailto:fr.paul@carmelmission.org) for more information.

## Homebound Ministry

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Dear Parishioners of Carmel Mission,

If you or someone you know cannot get to mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact our Homebound Ministry Coordinator, Joan Brophy Thomas at (831) 624 3074.

Please stay safe and sound, Blessings,  
Fr. Paul



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# BULLETIN ADVERTISEMENT

Advertise your business in your parish community through Carmel Mission's weekly electronic bulletin.

For more information on how to advertise your business on our bulletin, contact [Bulletin@carmelmission.org](mailto:Bulletin@carmelmission.org).

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