



250th Anniversary
CARMEL MISSION
BASILICA

Carmel Mission Basilica

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

www.carmelmission.org

Founded 1771 by St. Junípero Serra



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 18th.

**Fourth Sunday in Lent,
Sunday, March 15, 2026**



Dear Friend of Carmel Mission,

Today's Gospel story of the man born blind addresses a reality we often encounter in our world. When confronted with a man who had suffered blindness since birth, the disciples question what type of sin on the part of the man or, even more likely, his parents, could cause God to inflict the punishment of blindness. When we encounter difficulties today – disabilities, illness, loss – it can be common to think “what did I/we do to deserve this?” Jesus' response to His disciples disabuses them of the idea that our loving God inflicts any misfortune on His children as a form of punishment. Of the man born blind, Jesus says that his life was ordered as it was so that the works of God might be made visible through him.

It is one of the most difficult things to reconcile in our faith that our loving God, who cares for us beyond measure and has the power of life and death, has also given us free will, which allows tragedies and atrocities to occur in our world. The frailty of our human bodies means that we will likely experience suffering in one form or another, and the reality of our mortality means that we will experience the loss of those we love. None of this is from God, but in the Gospel Jesus tells us that it can be an opportunity for God to made more known, to ourselves and to the world around us. God chooses us for a purpose, just as God chose David in the first reading for the kingship of Israel and the man born blind in the Gospel to bring the kingdom of God to those around him who were ready to see it.

Our world today is suffering the darkness of war. How can we shine Christ's light into that darkness? How can we better live as “children of light” as St. Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians? How can we better seek goodness and truth, the products of this light, in all we do? I invite you to join me this week in asking Christ to illumine our hearts and minds to honestly assess when we have been beacons of light, and how we might more fully live out this calling.

I wish you and your loved ones blessings of good health and Christ's joyful light. Please continue to pray for 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: The LORD said to Samuel: Not as man sees does God see. (1 Samuel 16:7)

Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Psalm 23:1)

Reading II: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. (Ephesians 5:8)

Gospel: I was blind and now I see. (John 9:25)

Readings for the Week

Monday, March 16

Isaiah 65:17-21

Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b

John 4:43-54

Tuesday, March 17

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12

Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

John 5:1-16

Wednesday, March 18

Isaiah 49:8-15

Psalm 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18

John 5:17-30

Thursday, March 19

2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16

Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29

Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22

Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Friday, March 20

Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22

Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23

John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, March 21

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12

John 7:40-53

Scripture Reflection

In today's first reading, we hear of an unlikely choice of a leader. It goes against traditional thinking to look to the youngest to lead into the future. The prophet Samuel was sure that Eliab was the one to anoint, but God instructed him to not judge by appearance and invited him to see as God does, by looking into the heart. Today's Gospel is also about seeing with the heart and about the unlikely leadership of a man born blind. By allowing the works of God to be made visible through him, he becomes able to lead others to faith, even if not all accept his testimony. The same thing can be said of Jesus – an unconventional leader in the eyes of other leaders, whose objections and denials end with their refusal to see the works of God being made visible through him. The man who was blind is open to the simple instructions of Jesus. He allows Jesus to put mud on his eyes, an ancient technique thought to have curative properties, and he obediently goes to the pool of Siloam, washes and comes back able to see. In the lengthy exchanges that follow, first with his neighbors and then with the Pharisees, the man becomes more and more able to see with his heart, understanding more and more clearly who Jesus is. In the end, he worships Jesus as Lord. (v.38) The other characters in the narrative throw up one obstacle after another, tenaciously refusing to see. The neighbors first debate about the identity of the man, insisting they do not see what they see. When the healed man resolves this issue, they question the manner of the healing. Resisting the explanation of the healed man, they turn to their leaders, who pick up the debate of how the man was healed. The Pharisees latch onto another obstacle: Jesus must be a sinner because He performed the healing on the Sabbath. They shore up their certitude of what they know and what they see, claiming their faithfulness to Moses, and finally end up dismissing the healed man as a sinner, too. What Jesus does is unheard of. The person He calls to lead others to faith is unconventional. The logical arguments about why it cannot be so are endless. Only those who allow themselves to quell their objections and to see with the heart can lead the way into a transformed future.



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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



If you would like to support
the Easter Flowers with a
minimum donation of \$90
please contact Laura at
liturgy@carmelmission.org
to arrange your donation
and your intention.

Your intentions will be
included in the bulletin for
the Easter season.

Thank you for your generosity.



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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



Visit our
Website

FAQ

Reports for the week ending on 03/01/2026:

Electronic Donation: \$ 3,510.74
Mailed Donation: \$ 7,059.00
Weekend Masses: \$11,742.00

TOTAL \$22,311.74



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RESTORATION: AT THE HEART OF OUR IDENTITY

An Update on Our AMA Projects & the Story They Tell

From the earliest days of Carmel Mission's history, restoration has never been simply a practical necessity — it has been an act of faith. Since its foundation, generations of parishioners, benefactors, clergy, and staff have poured their hearts into caring for and preserving this sacred place. Today, we are proud to share that we are living through one of the most significant periods of restoration in Carmel Mission's modern history.

Thanks to your generous support of our Annual Ministry Appeal (AMA), more conservation, preservation, and restoration work has been completed than in any other period of the Mission's history. The last 12–15 years mark the beginning of what we believe will be remembered as Carmel Mission's Modern Restoration Era, a time during which we all witnessed the canonization of St. Junipero.

Every dollar you have given to our AMA designated projects has gone — and will continue to go — directly toward this work.

A LIVING LEGACY OF STEWARDSHIP

Did you know that virtually every building at Carmel Mission, outside of the Basilica itself, has changed its purpose over the centuries? Crespi Hall once stood in the middle of our central courtyard. Each of these historic spaces has a story — one of adaptation, resilience, and the faithful care of those who came before us.

Under the leadership of Fr. Paul, our Mission has entered a new chapter of this story. His stewardship, combined with your support, has made it possible not only to restore what exists but also to develop a comprehensive vision for the future — one grounded in structural integrity, faithful preservation, and thoughtful planning.

EXPLORE OUR RESTORATION STORY ONLINE

We have created a dedicated Restoration website — the living home for Carmel Mission's preservation history. There you'll find architectural timelines, notable benefactors, the stories of our pastors and parishioners, and updates as our work continues to grow. This is your history, too.

Visit: www.carmelmissionrestoration.org

AMA PROJECT UPDATES

Our AMA projects are not isolated efforts — they are interconnected chapters of a single, long-term restoration plan. Work on each project also enables us to evaluate building conditions, complete structural reports, and plan future campaigns with accuracy and confidence. Here is where each project stands today:



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RESTORATION: AT THE HEART OF OUR IDENTITY

2024 PROJECT — BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL (BSC) — In Progress

Phase 1 - The ramp, handrails, and door hardware work has been completed.

Additional work on the inside of the BSC revealed termite damage, significant plaster damage, exposed electrical wiring, damaged woodwork, and much needed painting. This work is being performed now, and we will reopen the BSC when complete.

Phase 2 - We plan to expand the pedestrian plaza from the visitor entrance to the BSC north entrance patio to provide an accessible entrance without stairs.

A seismic retrofit analysis and building condition evaluation have been completed, which informs future planning for a full building restoration.

2025 PROJECT — MORA CHAPEL PRESERVATION — Active Planning

The Mora Chapel project is one of our most ambitious undertakings — a coordinated effort to protect, catalog, and temporarily relocate sacred artifacts while the chapel undergoes restoration. Key elements include:

- Complete inventory and condition reporting of all artifacts in the Mora Chapel
- Careful removal and secure temporary storage of liturgical items
- Creation of a dedicated artifact conservation and storage workspace
- Structural and seismic evaluation of the chapel building
- Community updates and media documentation throughout the process

This project will also establish long-term infrastructure for artifact stewardship at Carmel Mission — a resource that will serve us for generations.

2026 PROJECT — A SAFE PATH OF TRAVEL — Project Launch March 21 & 22

This year's AMA campaign focuses on accessibility and safety across our campus, including:

- Crespi Hall accessible ramp
- Window and carpentry repairs
- Seismic structural evaluation of Crespi Hall
- Campus-wide parking lot improvements
- Unified path of travel connecting all buildings
- Exploration of a more accessible route to the Murphy parking lot

Because of the planning work completed during prior AMA campaigns, we enter 2026 with a clear scope, known costs, and a well-developed vision — something that would not have been possible without the groundwork laid together.

Thank You



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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 18th.

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

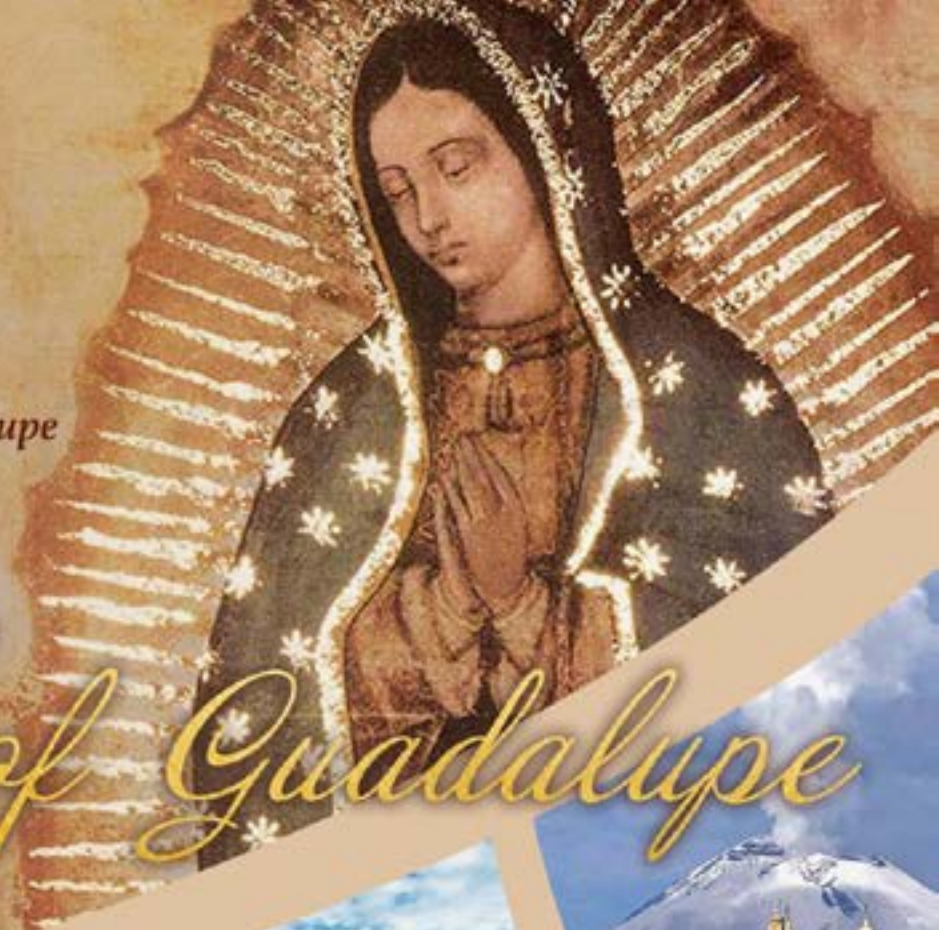
For the first-time ever,
the Diocese of Monterey and the
Diocese of San Diego join together
for a unique experience in
preparation for the

*500th anniversary of
Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Under the Mantle of Our

Lady of Guadalupe

July 27 - August 3
2026



Mexico City



Tlaxcala



Teotihuacán



Puebla

Join Bishop Ramón Bejarano, Bishop Michael Pham, and Bishop Felipe Pulido as they unite again.



Most Reverend
Ramón Bejarano
Monterey



Most Reverend
Michael Pham
San Diego



Most Reverend
Felipe Pulido
San Diego

Cost per person
\$2,450

All Inclusive package (including breakfast/dinner)
departing from San Francisco, CA

Scan the QR code
to register



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Carmel Mission Bible Study

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

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

Carmel Mission Book Club



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

Coffee and Donuts

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

March 22





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CARMEL MISSION COMMUNITY

Carmel Mission Bereavement Ministry

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.

Knights of Columbus

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

For more information please email koc@carmelmission.org.



Our Coordinator for the I-HELP Ministry has retired.

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 for more information.

Homebound Ministry



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.



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