



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



**The Ascension of the Lord,  
Sunday, May 17, 2026**



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# PASTOR'S WEEKLY LETTER

Dear Friend of Carmel Mission,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, where Jesus returns to the Father in Heaven, having given His disciples the "great commission" to continue His work and spread the Good News of salvation to every corner of the earth. In the first centuries the Church did not treat it as a separate happening from the Resurrection. Rather, the Passion, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, Glorification, and giving of the Spirit were all various facets of one moment. Luke, in fact, tells the story of the Ascension twice: once at the end of his Gospel, as occurring on the day of the Resurrection, and again at the beginning of Acts, happening forty days later. We remain in the Easter Season until the celebration of Pentecost because whether separated in human terms by days or hours, it is all one grand saving act of God.

Today's Gospel are the final words of the Gospel of Matthew. These climatic verses bring the entire Gospel to a resounding conclusion on a strong, inspiring, even triumphal note. Yet in the midst of this, we have two words that might seem out of place, "they doubted." In the midst of this profoundly meaningful moment of encounter, and even worship, of the risen Christ, they doubted. As Jesus entrusted them with the sacred mission they would carry out for the rest of their lives (and which most of them would die carrying out), they doubted. As he assured them of His unending presence in their lives and the life of the Church forever, they doubted. Their doubt did not prevent them from acting on His instructions. Their doubt did not stop them from nurturing Jesus' Church and spreading the Good News. But it was significant enough to earn a mention in the last triumphal words of Matthew's Gospel. This shows us that as we read the Scriptures and try to believe, understand, and live out what we read in our daily lives, we do not need to be troubled by moments of doubt. It is simply one aspect of our relationship with Christ, maybe a big part on some days and completely overwhelmed by faith on others. Jesus can handle it and, through it all, He is with us always.

I wish you and your loved one blessing of good health and great hope. Please continue to pray for peace,

Fr. Paul



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# LITURGY

## Today's Readings

**Reading I:** You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. (Acts 1:1-11)

**Psalm:** God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9)

**Reading II:** May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened. (Ephesians 1:17-23)

**Gospel:** Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:16-20)

## Readings for the Week

### Monday, May 18

Acts 19:1-8

Psalm 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab

John 16:29-33

### Tuesday, May 19

Acts 20:17-27

Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21

John 17:1-11a

### Wednesday, May 20

Acts 20:28-38

Psalm 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab

John 17:11b-19

### Thursday, May 21

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

John 17:20-26

### Friday, May 22

Acts 25:13b-21

Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab

John 21:15-19

### Saturday, May 23

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7

John 21:20-25

## Scripture Reflection

In today's readings, we have images of Jesus "taken up" into the sky, having spent a lifetime of earth sharing and trusting in the word of God. The disciples want to know what He is going to restore the kingdom of Israel (Acts 1:6). They have hopes and expectations for the future fixed in past experiences of God's saving hand in their history. Jesus does not directly answer their question but points them to the power of the Holy Spirit, with which they will be soon be clothed. This power will guide them so they are able to fully trust the word that is entrusted to them, courageously witnessing to the Gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. What Jesus instructs the disciples to proclaim is that God holds out on all people the priceless raiment of divine forgiveness and asks in return only that they let themselves be clothed with power from on high to turn away from anything that stands between them and the divine. Disciples are not stand looking up at the sky, gazing after the One who has now been taken up. Their work is to teach others to trust in that same power of the word to uphold them and cloth them in power. Jesus has given them other things to be doing than looking up at the sky and waiting for Him to return: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This "Great Commission" gives the disciples a decisive direction after Jesus' disappearance, all with the promise of Jesus' continued presence with them. On the solemnity of the Ascension, "God mounts His throne to shouts of joy." In Luke's account, we are told the disciples rejoiced – not because Jesus was no longer with them physically, but because by ascending to the Father Jesus is even more present to them than He had been. That is cause for rejoicing! Psalm 47 invites us all to recognize Jesus as king, seated at the right hand of the Father for all eternity, nearer to us than we are to ourselves. There is urgency in Jesus' command. There is work to be done. There is good news to be shared. Fortunately, we do not do it alone, for as Jesus' promises, "I am with you always until the end of the age."



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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

### **The Altar Flower are given today in memory of Kathleen Holt Gomez by David Gomez**



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 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 extension 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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# 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:



Frank Mayo Ryan,  
Katrina Losee Ivey,  
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,  
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:



Lorraine Nicora,  
Daniel Sahagun,  
Nancy D'Angelo,  
Aurelia Narvaez,  
Raymond Narvaez,  
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

... 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

## AMA 2026 - A Safe Path of Travel

**We have exceeded our contribution to the diocesan ministries.**

**We are currently at**

**\$80,456**

## Carmel Mission Legacy



Visit our Website

FAQ

## Reports for the week ending on 05/03/2026:

Electronic Donation: \$ 4,947.67

Mailed Donation: \$ 2,717.00

Weekend Masses: \$ 7,432.00

**TOTAL \$15,096.67**



# A SAFE PATH OF TRAVEL

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

**A key project of this year's AMA is the construction of a safer, more accessible ramp at the back of Crespi Hall. Crespi Hall is a vital center of Parish life, hosting ministries, events, and gatherings throughout the year.**



**The 2026 AMA Campaign focuses on improving safe paths of travel, accessibility, and wayfinding across the Mission property. These efforts ensure improvements are made responsibly and with long-term sustainability in mind.**





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# RESTORATION: AT THE HEART OF OUR IDENTITY

**Please Watch this Video Message from Fr. Paul:  
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](http://www.carmelmissionrestoration.org)



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# KEEPING CARMEL MISSION SAFE

## A Message on Safety & Security at Carmel Mission

Carmel Mission is a vibrant parish and beloved historic site, and maintaining a safe environment for worship and all who visit is always our highest priority.

We ask all parishioners to remain aware of their surroundings and to promptly report any unusual occurrences, concerning behavior, or missing property to a Carmel Mission staff member or Fr. Paul. Your safety always comes first — in any urgent situation or health emergency, call 911 immediately.

### **Lost & Found:**

If you have found an item or are missing something, please contact us at [lostandfound@carmelmission.org](mailto:lostandfound@carmelmission.org). This inbox is monitored by multiple staff members and has been a very effective way to reunite people with their belongings.

We are grateful for our parishioners' vigilance and care for this community. Together, we help keep Carmel Mission a welcoming and sacred space for all.





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# FIRST LIBRARY OF CALIFORNIA VI

It's high time for another update on California's first library. Cataloging continues, now filling in Library of Congress (LC) call numbers and subject categories. As you can imagine, this involves a lot of work online, finding our books in other catalogs, primarily in WorldCat, the world's largest union catalog, and then comparing this information with various other libraries for LC information.

I also gave a presentation a few weeks ago on our library at the annual conference of the California Missions Foundation at Mission Dolores, San Francisco. I think it was well received, and now many others know about the great collection of books we are fortunate enough to have right here in Carmel. My topic for today is a different one, however, namely the care and preservation of old and rare books. As this topic is rather broad, this will be the first of two parts.

Many of our books are two or three hundred years old. Imagine where they have been and what they have seen. About three quarters of the books in our library were printed in Spain. From their original place of publication, whether it was Madrid, Barcelona, or elsewhere, they made their way to a convent or colegio or church. Then they were gathered together and sent across the Atlantic to New Spain and Mexico City. There, in the Colegio de San Fernando, the Franciscans built a great library of some 20,000 volumes. These were distributed out to the missions in Mexico and Baja California, and eventually Alta California. So even before our books arrived in Monterey, they had some serious mileage behind them.

Imagine the trip from Baja or Mexico City to upper California, either by ship or mule train. Saint Junipero most certainly brought some books with him from Baja in 1769, when he set out to found San Diego and Monterey. We know from one of his inscriptions that he also brought a book from Guadalajara back with him on his return from Mexico City in 1773.



"Given as alms in Guadalajara [by] Thomas de Basauri to this Mission of San Carlos of Monterey in the year 1773"



When the missions were secularized and abandoned in the 1830s, the books were usually scattered to the wind. We were lucky, in that most of the books at Mission San Carlos Borromeo were saved and taken to the parish church in Monterey, now San Carlos Cathedral or the Royal Presidio Chapel. The books found a new home there, most likely in the rectory, and there they stayed for over a hundred years until 1949, when the bishop gave permission to return them to Carmel Mission.

Various components make up the object we call a book. First, let's talk about the binding, or the outer cover that protects the interior text and illustrations. Many volumes from the 17th and 18th



centuries are bound in what is called "limp vellum," which is basically just a leather wrapping, or "pergamino" in Spanish. This type of covering was cheaper, but vellum bindings often suffer from the separation of the spine from the book block at the hinges. This leaves a gap and can lead to the binding becoming loose and eventually falling off.





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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**



Join our the Mission Bible Study on their weekly study of the Gospel of Matthew. We meet at Crespi Hall each Wednesday morning at 10:30 AM for about ah hour. You are invited to join us in exploring this Gospel which is so foundational to our Catholic Faith

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 Friday, May 22nd, Book Club will begin reading **Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Maturity** by Fr. Ronald Rolheiser. This book challenges us to grow a more mature Christian spirituality as we move through the seasons of our lives.

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.

May 17

May 24

05/17/2026





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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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Thank You For Your Support!



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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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