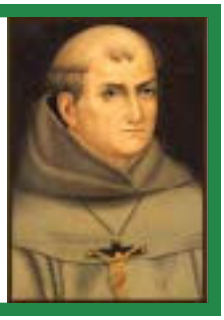
250TH Anniversary
CARMEL MISSION
BASILICA

Carmel Mission Basilica

3080 Rio Road Carmel, CA 93923 • (831) 624-1271
www.carmelmission.org
Founded 1771 by St. Junípero Serra



Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday, September 6, 2026

Pastor's Weekly Letter

Dear Friend of Carmel Mission,

In the Gospel today Jesus is preparing His disciples for the realities of living in community. Foremost in His mind is surely the newly forming Christian community that will eventually grow to the global Church we have today. He assures them that He will be with them "where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them" (Matt 18:20) and that His heavenly Father will be attentive to their prayers for the common good. Knowing our human nature as He does, Jesus also prepares them for how to address and resolve conflict in the community. Direct communication between the parties involved, hopefully with open hearts and willing spirits on both sides, is the ideal. This is, however, easier said than done and unrealistic in some cases, and Jesus allows that the situation may need to escalate to involve others, and even that full resolution and reconciliation may be impossible. In this case He says that the offenders should be treated as "you would a Gentile or a tax collector." Even in these extreme cases it is important to remember how Jesus treated Gentiles and tax collectors. He befriended them, spoke with them, listened to them, and ate with them. ((Matt 8:5-13, 9:9-13, 11:19, 15:21-28). He always left the door open to knowing them better, and for them to come to know Him. He certainly never stops loving them.

The second reading today serves as a bridge between the observance of Mosaic Law and the ideals of Christian love. St. Paul insists that love does not undermine or devalue the laws of the Hebrew Scriptures. Rather, Mosaic Law can be summarized into love of God and love of others. St. Paul clearly states, "love is the fulfillment of the law." (Romans 13:10) Jesus makes clear that love must be the guiding force for all Christian action. Confronting others is never about shame or defamation of character. Instead, love asks us to treat others with dignity and respect, kindly yet forcefully working together to reconcile difference and resolve problems.

I wish you and your loved ones blessings of good health and true peace. Please pray for those around the world, and around our country who are suffering the effects of natural disasters, especially our own community of Big Sur. May God comfort and protect all those in need,

Fr. Paul

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Liturgy

Today's Readings

Reading I: I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel. (Ezekiel 33:7–9)

Psalm: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9)

Reading II: Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another. (Romans 13:8–10)

Gospel: For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matthew 18:15–20)

Readings for the Week

Monday, September 7
1 Corinthians 5:1–8
Psalm 5:5–6, 7, 12
Luke 6:6–11

Tuesday, September 8
Micah 5:1–4a
Psalm 13:6ab, 6c
Matthew 1:1–16, 18–23 (or Matthew 1:18–23)

Wednesday, September 9
1 Corinthians 7:25–31
Psalm 45:11–12, 14–15, 16–17
Luke 6:20–26

Thursday, September 10
1 Corinthians 8:1b–7, 11–13
Psalm 139:1b–3, 13–14ab, 23–24
Luke 6:27–38

Friday, September 11
1 Corinthians 9:16–19, 22b–27
Psalm 84:3, 4, 5–6, 12
Luke 6:39–42

Saturday, September 12
1 Corinthians 10:14–22
Psalm 116:12–13, 17–18
Luke 6:43–49

Scripture Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus provides advice to His disciples on how to move step by step toward reconciling grievances within the Christian community. This is not a recipe that can be applied in all situations but if gives more specific advice on how to resolve differences when one is hurt by another member of the community. The first step, says Jesus, is for the one who suffered the hurt to confront the person who has inflicted it. This is often not as easy as it may sound. But there will never be peace as long as one harmed allows the hurt to fester and grow by holding onto it and recounting it to others. If, however, the hurt one musters the courage to speak to the other, and if the other has the courage to listen honestly and openly, reconciliation becomes a possibility. If one on one confrontation does not work, Jesus says to take one or two others with you. This is not to gang up on the one who hurt you; rather an impartial mediator can help establish the truth and help bring the parties to an agreement. Jesus anticipates that the disciples will press Him further. But what if that does not work either? Then, Jesus says, involve the whole community since any rupture in relationships within the Christian community affects all the members. If this strategy fails as well, Jesus says to then treat the offender as "a Gentile or a tax collector." At first that seems to mean the person should be excluded from the community, but how did Jesus treat Gentiles and tax collectors? He befriended and ate with them (Matt 8:5-13, 9:9-13, 11:19, 15:21-28). It may be that Jesus is asking us to be willing to sit and break bread together, even when we have irreconcilable differences. Finally, Jesus urges the community to pray together for reconciliation. According to St. Paul, loving our brothers and sisters in Christ is an obligation, and that may include helping to resolve conflict peacefully and justly. In the first reading from Ezekiel, we hear that if we do not try to dissuade "the wicked" we too will be held responsible for their actions. This psalm is an invitation to praise God together in community. Doing so reminds us of two truths: we are God's chosen people, and living as that chosen people comes with responsibilities.

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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 Flowers are given today in honor of Frank Fritsch on the occasion of his birthday by Mary Fritsch

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 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

Basilica

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.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Noon Masses

Wednesday - Friday, 12:00 pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 9:00 am - 10:00 am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

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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Parish Prayers

Sick in the Parish

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

At this time time we pray especially for:

Ron Coulter,
Margaret Luke,
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:

Admiral Richard Brophy,
Robert Maher,
Capt. Meghan Brophy,
Capt. Alex Weiman,
LT Tommy Brophy,
LTJG Claire Brophy,
LTJG Kurt Brophy,
ENS Hunter Brophy

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

Parish Prayers

Recently Deceased in our Parish

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

Diane Kremer,
Joan Hutton,
Rose Healy,
Katrina Losee Ivey,
Abigail M. Janko,
Frank Mayo Ryan,
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

… 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.

STEWARDSHIP

Colombia Earthquake Relief

**Thanks to your great generousity,
the Carmel Mission community has gathered**

$4,349.95

Carmel Mission Legacy

Report for the week ending on 08/23/2026:

Electronic Donation:	$ 7,406.04
Mailed Donation:	$ 2,008.00
Weekend Masses:	$ 7,972.05
Second Collection — Colombia Relief:	$ 3,949.95
TOTAL	$21,336.04

A SAFE PATH OF TRAVEL

Thank you for your amazing response, we are now at $296,887!

We are over 97% towards our goal of $300,000 and would like to meet it in the coming days

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2024 PROJECT — BSC UPDATE

We are reopening our Blessed Sacrament Chapel for services starting Wednesday, May 27. Reconciliation resumed on Saturday, May 30.

Phase 2 of the project to create an accessible path from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel patio to the driveway is currently pending permit approval.

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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. 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 Lirbrary 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 collegio or church. Then they were gathered together and sent across the Atlantic to New Spain and Mexico City. There, in the Collegio 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.

Carmel Mission Bible Study

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.

Carmel Mission Book Club

Book Club meets on Friday afternoons at 1:30 in Crespi Hall

On September 11th, Book Club will begin reading a new book **Insane for the Light** by Fr. Ron Rolheiser. This is the third and final book in his trilogy on developing a mature Christian spirituality as we move through the seasons of our lives.

Books are available at the meetings.
For information email christina.renna@gmail.com.

Coffee and Donuts is on break until October 4th

Knights of Columbus

Meet on the first Tuesday of each month in Crespi Hall at 7:00 PM.

For more information please email koc@carmelmission.org.

Knights of Columbus Women's Auxiliary

Carmel Mission women are invited to join the newly forming Knights of Columbus Women's Auxiliary, dedicated to fellowship, faith, and service alongside the Knights. Members will support parish charitable events and grow together in Christian friendship — all women are welcome, no experience needed.

Join us for our first meeting on **Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 6 PM in Crespi Hall**.
For more information email auxillary@kofc4593.org

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every First Friday of the month 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

The Carmel Mission invites you to attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Mission every first Friday in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel following the Noon Mass and ending at 5 PM. You can pay a visit to the Lord at anytime during those hours or volunteer to take a specific hour to be in His presence.

If you would like to volunteer for an hour, please call Sandie Herbert, 831-320-4436 or Kathleen Anderson, 707-373-2355.

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.

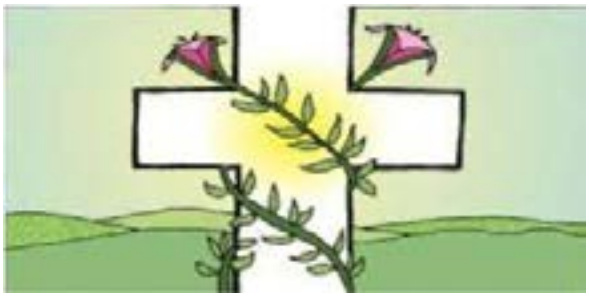
If you would like to join with us or learn more about our Ministry, please contact Laura Schwingle, liturgy@carmelmission.org.

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.

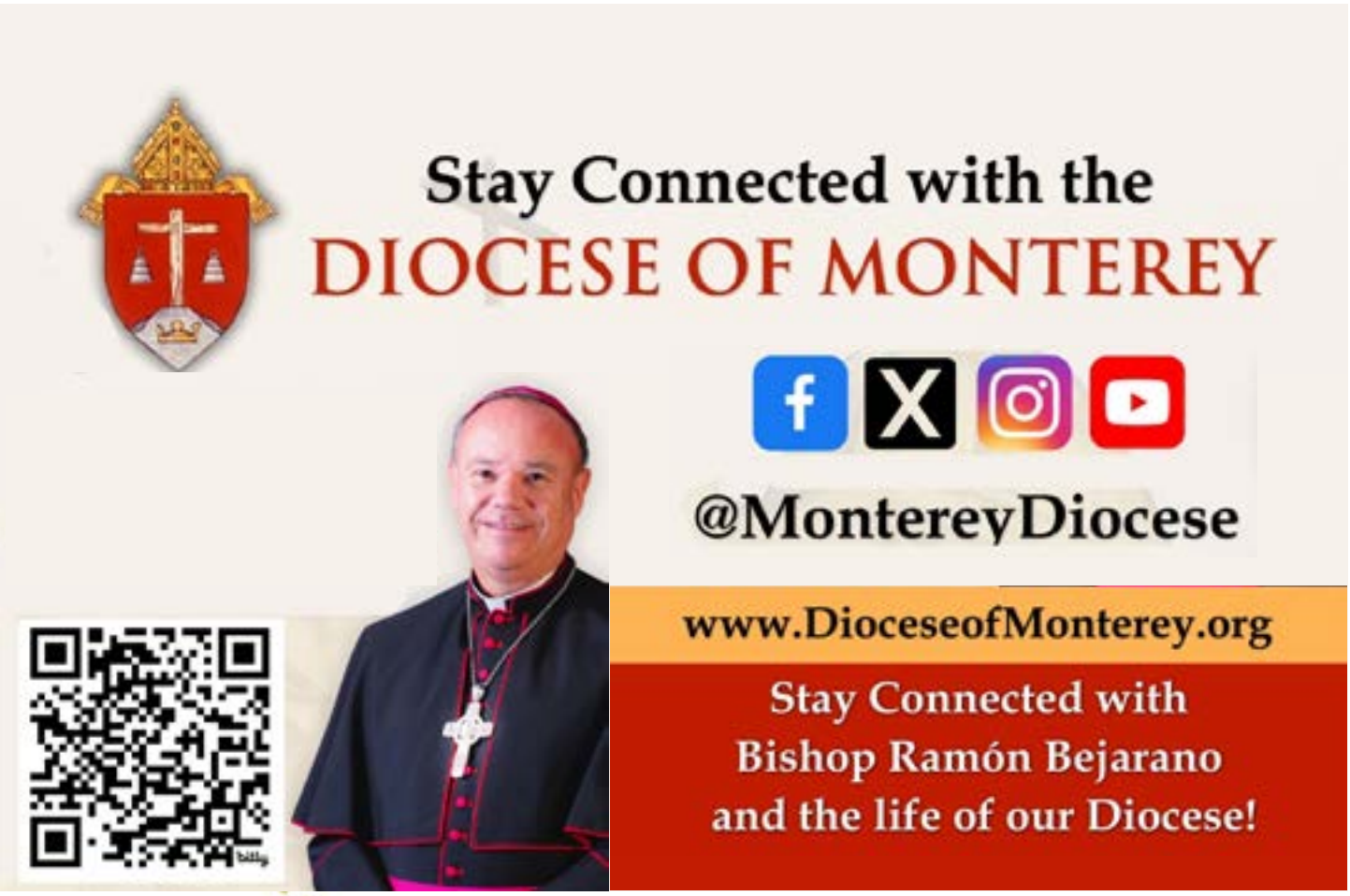
Homebound Ministry



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



Branches
Proceeds Benefit San Carlos School
Resale Shoppe

GOT STUFF YOU DON'T NEED??
Give it new life - Support students at San Carlos Catholic School in Monterey and our peninsula community.

All gently-used household items, furniture and clothing accepted Tue-Sat, 10am-4pm at 480 Webster St. Monterey (one block from San Carlos Cathedral)

OR

Call us at (831) 375-4780.

Thank You For Your Support!

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Bulletin Advertisment

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.