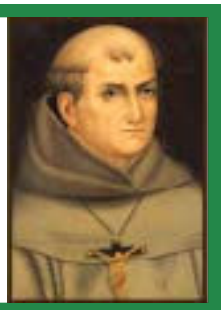
250TH Anniversary
CARMEL MISSION
BASILICA

Carmel Mission Basilica

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



Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday, September 13, 2026

Pastor's Weekly Letter

Dear Friend of Carmel Mission,

In the Gospel this week Peter has a follow-on question to Jesus's instructions on how to handle conflict in the Christian community; how many times are we to forgive our brothers and sisters? Peter suggests what he likely feels is a large number - seven times- but Jesus counters with seventy- seven times- a number that better reflects the limitless mercy of God. Jesus goes on to offer as an example the parable of the servant who is forgiven a huge debt. The generous king expects that in repayment for his generosity, the forgiven servant will be quicker to extend generosity to others. Sadly, human nature interferes and the forgiven servant deals harshly with his own debtors and ends up with his own forgiveness being taken away.

We know it is not the nature of our God to retract His forgiveness and mercy however we may fail to show this mercy to one another. Jesus is encouraging us to always pursue the path of reconciliation and forgiveness to benefit others, but also largely as a benefit for ourselves. He acknowledged in last week's passage that some offenses may require us to keep our distance from an offender, and a person may even need to be removed from the community, but it does not keep us from forgiving them.

The first reading from the Book of Sirach says that "wrath and anger are hateful things." (Sir (27:30) Indeed, they are a poison which is even more dangerous for the hater than the hated. This poison steals our peace and turns our hearts away from goodness, from hope, and from light. It can change our entire worldview in powerfully negative ways. When we forgive, even if this can be only a partial or distant repair to a relationship, it can be a complete repair to our relationship with God and with ourselves. In his book, *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*, the Dutch priest and author Henri Nouwen suggests we do not always treat others as God's beloved because we fail to recognize ourselves as being beloved. I invite you this week to join me in basking in God's boundless love for us. In doing so, may we begin to share that same love, and forgiveness, with others.

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

Fr. Paul

Liturgy

Today's Readings

Reading I: Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. (Sirach 27:30—28:7)

Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.
(Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12)

Reading II: For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. (Romans 14:7–9)

Gospel: I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18:21–35)

Readings for the Week

Monday, September 14
Numbers 21:4b–9
Psalm 78:1bc–2, 34–35, 36–37, 38
Philippians 2:6–11
John 3:13–17

Tuesday, September 15
1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 27–31a
Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 4, 5
John 19:25–27 (or Luke 2:33–35)

Wednesday, September 16
1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13
Psalm 33:2–3, 4–5, 12 and 22
Luke 7:31–35

Thursday, September 17
1 Corinthians 15:1–11
Psalm 118:1b–2, 16ab–17, 28
Luke 7:36–50

Friday, September 18
1 Corinthians 15:12–20
Psalm 17:1b, 6–7, 8b and 15
Luke 8:1–3

Saturday, September 19
1 Corinthians 15:35–37, 42–49
Psalm 56:10c–12, 13–14
Luke 8:4–15

Scripture Reflection

Today's Gospel is a continuation of the last week's where Jesus outlines a process for initiating reconciliation when there are ruptures within the Christian community. He speaks about moving from one-on-one confrontation to mediation to involvement of the whole community. It is in response to this that Peter asks how often one must forgive. He rightly recognizes the difficulties and complications that accompany such processes. Jesus' response is that there is no limit to how many times one must try to forgive. There are endless hurts that require endless offers of forgiveness and endless acts of repentance. One must always be ready to do the hard work of repairing and reconciling. In the ensuing parable about the servant who is forgiven a large debt, Jesus shifts the emphasis away from the burden and the difficulty of the work of reconciliation, as He calls attention to the utter gratuity of the gift of forgiveness. The only way to respond adequately to such a gift is to pay it forward. The servant can never repay the king, but he can act in the same forgiving manner to others. But, as the second act of the parable unfolds, we find him doing the exact opposite. Then, in a disturbing turn of events, the king retracts his forgiveness. The point is not that God is fickle about forgiveness, taking it back if we do not do likewise, not that God is vindictive if we fail to follow the divine lead. Rather, the parable is a stark warning of the consequences of letting our hearts become solidified in unforgiveness. The first reading from Sirach urges us to remember God's commandments and let go of anger and wrath. In the second reading, St. Paul stresses that Jesus died for us, forgiving our sins, and so we should live for one another. The third stanza of the psalm uses two images to describe the incredulity of God's love for us. God's kindness is as different from ours as heaven is from earth. Likewise, God separates us from our sins as far as the east is from the west. If we have experienced the forgiveness and kindness of someone who loves us, how much greater is the kindness that God desires to show us? The immensity of God's love can be difficult to us to fathom. This is why Jesus minsters to us in the Sacraments, tangible expressions of God's limitless love for us.

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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 memory of Marianne Hoffman by Paul and Tiffany Hoffman

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.

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STEWARDSHIP

Carmel Mission Legacy

Report for the week ending on 08/30/2026:

Electronic Donation:	**$ 3,255.83**
Mailed Donation:	**$ 2,357.50**
Weekend Masses:	**$ 7,573.00**
TOTAL	**$13,186.33**

A SAFE PATH OF TRAVEL

Thank you for your continued support. We have passed our goal of $300,000!

Our campaign is active until the end of the year, can we beat our last year's record of $328,000?

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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.

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.

FAITH FORMATION
REGISTRATION

GROW IN FAITH • BUILD COMMUNITY • WALK TOGETHER

We are excited to announce faith formation registration for the 2026–2027 year!

FAMILY FIRST COMMUNION

• Family classes for children and their parents

TEEN CONFIRMATION

• Classes for teens (grades 9–12)

CLASSES START OCTOBER 4

IN THE MAC MAHON CENTER

MEET & GREET WITH OUR CATECHISTS

Sunday, September 20
after the 11:00 AM Mass in the Basilica Courtyard
Registration forms will be available.

If you'd like to register by email, please reach out to:
faithformation@carmelmission.org

Together, we can help our children and teens grow closer to Jesus!

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

We are happy to report that the inaugural Knights of Columbus Women's Auxiliary meeting on Thursday was a big success. Going forward, monthly meetings for the Women's Auxiliary will be held on the **3rd Tuesday of every month in Crespi Hall at 2 pm**.

For more information please email your inquiries to: auxillary@kofc4593

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.

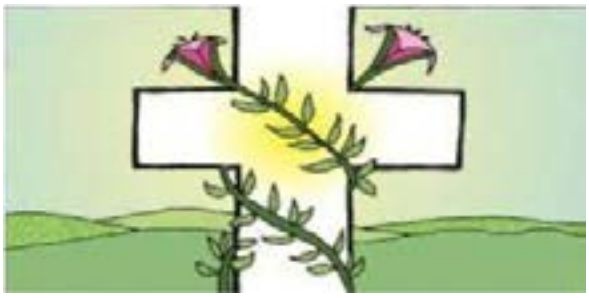
If you would like to join with us or learn more about our Ministry, please contact Laura Schwingle, liturgy@carmelmission.org.

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.

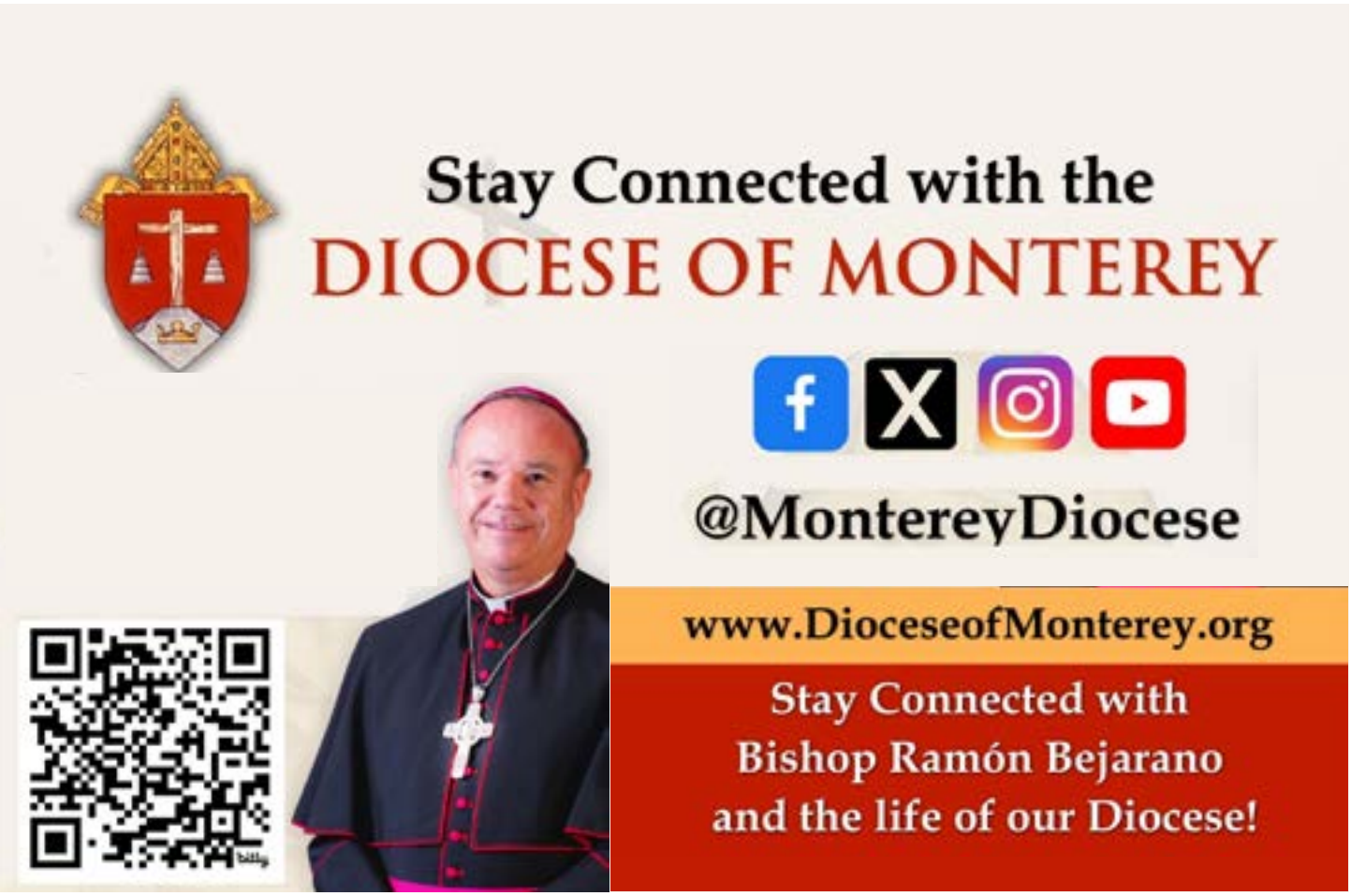
Homebound Ministry



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!

St. Angela Merici Parish

Returners and Learners

St. Angela Merici parish will present a seven-week fall program for "Returners and Learners" – both practicing Catholics and persons who have been away from the Church – anyone who seeks to know more about being a Catholic in today's world.

Come and Explore

Mondays, September 28 - November 9

6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in St. Angela's Parish Hall

9th Street and Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove

For more information,
please call the St. Angela Merici

Parish Office at (831) 655-4160.

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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.