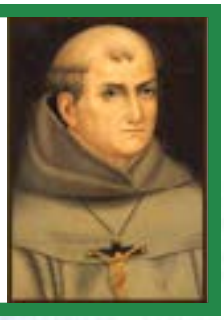
250TH Anniversary
CARMEL MISSION
BASILICA

Carmel Mission Basilica

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



Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday, September 20, 2026

Pastor's Weekly Letter

Dear Friend of Carmel Mission,

On display in today's Gospel is God's limitless generosity, even, or perhaps especially, when it defies our human understanding of justice. On the face of it, when we consider how work and worth is often quantified in our society, the workers' frustration may seem justified. Those who had worked a full day received the same amount as those who waited for work for the most of the day, and then only worked for an hour. However, as the landowner points out, the first workers do receive what was agreed upon. Why should it offend them if he chooses to be generous with others who did not have the same opportunity? But, of course, we know why – the seemingly endless human capacity for comparison and envy.

The prophet Isaiah writes in the first reading "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways, says the Lord." (Isaiah 55:8) This is very clear in the Gospel, and even clearer when the story of the parable is applied, as Jesus says, to the kingdom of Heaven. The landowner (God) keeps going out to seek workers. Anyone He finds who is seeking work is offered a job, regardless of the time of day. At the end of the day, everyone receives the same "payment" – eternal life in Heaven. Some workers have been working in the vineyard (been in relationship with God) all day (their whole lives.) Some workers have only worked for one hour. All of them are invited to the same reward. This is not a human way of understanding work and reward, but God's generosity cannot be earned and does not depend how much, or how hard, one can work.

So, why work in the vineyard all day if you are going to get the same "usual daily wage" as people who worked for an hour? The workers who are hired first may be working, but that is what they came to do. They know all day that they will be paid fairly and be able to provide for themselves and their families. When we apply the parable to the kingdom of Heaven, the work – relationship with God – is its own reward. The question is not of God's generosity, but of our own ability to receive God's gifts with the same open heart with which they are given.

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

Fr. Paul

Liturgy

Today's Readings

Reading I: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. (Isaiah 55:6–9)

Psalm: The Lord is near to all who call upon him. (Psalm 145:2–3, 8–9, 17–18)

Reading II: For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. (Philippians 1:20c–24, 27a)

Gospel: Are you envious because I am generous? (Matthew 20:1–16a)

Readings for the Week

Monday, September 21
Ephesians 4:1–7, 11–13
Psalm 19:2–3, 4–5
Matthew 9:9–13

Tuesday, September 22
Proverbs 21:1–6, 10–13
Psalm 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44
Luke 8:19–21

Wednesday, September 23
Proverbs 30:5–9
Psalm 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163
Luke 9:1–6

Thursday, September 24
Ecclesiastes 1:2–11
Psalm 90:3–4, 5–6, 12–13, 14, 17bc
Luke 9:7–9

Friday, September 25
Ecclesiastes 3:1–11
Psalm 144:1b and 2abc, 3–4
Luke 9:18–22

Saturday, September 26
Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:8
Psalm 90:3–4, 5–6, 12–13, 14, 17
Luke 9:43b–45

Scripture Reflection

God does not think and act as we do. Sometimes, God's actions and God's love, is difficult to understand. The first reading from Isaiah asserts that God's ways are not ours – in fact, as vastly different as God is from how we are. In the Gospel, Jesus illustrates that the generosity of God is so great it goes beyond human standards of justice. In his letter to the Philippians St. Paul says that "life is Christ, and death is gain." That certainly does not follow human logic! The frustration of the workers in the Gospel parable seems not unfounded. People who worked all day in the hot sun get paid the same as those who worked for only an hour. This seems patently unfair, and yet, every worker needs to support themselves and their families. Every worker needs food and shelter and resources to survive. Human logic would have that portioned out based on how long and how hard one is able to work. All the workers went to the marketplace to be hired and have a full day's work. The ones who remained unemployed at five o' clock had waited all day for the chance to earn their survival; the opportunity had not been afforded to them. Our conventional way of thinking would say that they deserve less wages, but their needs are not changed. In the Kingdom of God, everyone is able to eat at the end of the day, no matter your capacity to work. Eternal life with God is not something we can earn, no matter how good we are and how much good we do. It is always a free, unmerited gift from a God who loves us infinitely. From another angle, God cannot divide God's self and give someone half of heaven. If heaven is the gift of God's self, God does not hold back that gift, instead giving Himself totally. The question then is not of God's generosity, but of our own ability to receive God's gift. While the other readings challenge us with the distance between God's ways and ours, the psalm reassures of God's nearness to us. Even in God's "unsearchable" greatness, God desires to show us kindness and mercy. Even further, the God of all creation desires to make a home within our hearts, whenever we invite Him in.

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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 Patrick Kane by Melissa Fowler

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:

Myrna Moore,
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 09/06/2026:

Electronic Donation:	**$ 4,920.72**
Mailed Donation:	**$ 1,624.00**
Weekend Masses:	**$10,228.00**
TOTAL	**$16,772.72**

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?

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!

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OCIA Returns to the Mission

We are happy to announce that Carmel Mission's OCIA program will begin in October of this year with a "Come and See" event after the 11am Mass on Sunday, October 11 and classes beginning Monday, October 26.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, formerly RCIA) is the process whereby adults become full, active, participatory members of the Catholic Church. To that end, we will be integrating Church teaching and tradition with our lived, evolving relationship with God. Specifically, we will explore such topics as spirituality, ways of praying, Church history, morality and the seven sacraments.

Classes will be on Monday evenings from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM in Crespi Hall. If you would like more information about the program and/or the process of OCIA or if you wish to receive the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, please contact ocia@carmelmission.org, or call (831) 624-1271 ext. 307.

Knights of Columbus

Pastapalooza

Sat, October 17th 2026

Crespi Hall
6:30 P.M.

Enjoy a great 3-course Italian meal with friends and family while listening to live music.
A silent and live auction will take place.

Scan or Click QR code to Purchase Tickets

Admission: $40

Attire : orange & black

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

Book Club is currently reading **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 are at

2:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of every month in Crespi Hall beginning on October 20th.

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.

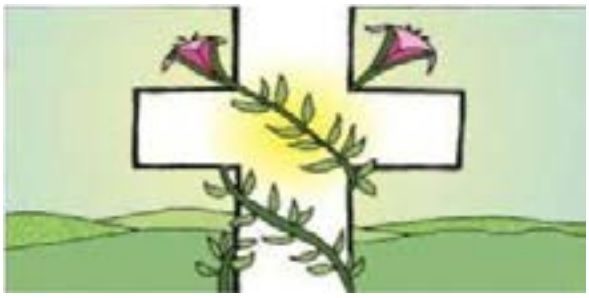
If you would like to join with us or learn more about our Ministry, please contact Laura Schwingle, liturgy@carmelmission.org.

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

Diocese of Monterey Community Survey

The Diocese of Monterey is entering Phase II of its strategic discernment process regarding future educational opportunities connected with the former Notre Dame High School campus. The Community Survey is an important part of this mission-centered process of research, surveys, and listening sessions. As Bishop Ramón Bejarano shared in his July communication, no particular educational model or future use of the campus has been predetermined.

Parents and guardians, parishioners, educators, alumni, and community members are invited to complete the Community Survey and share their perspectives about the educational needs and priorities of children, youth, and families in the Salinas community and the wider region. Broad participation will help the Diocese listen carefully and responsibly consider a range of possibilities.

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please participate and share the survey with others in the community through September 30, 2026.

Survey links:

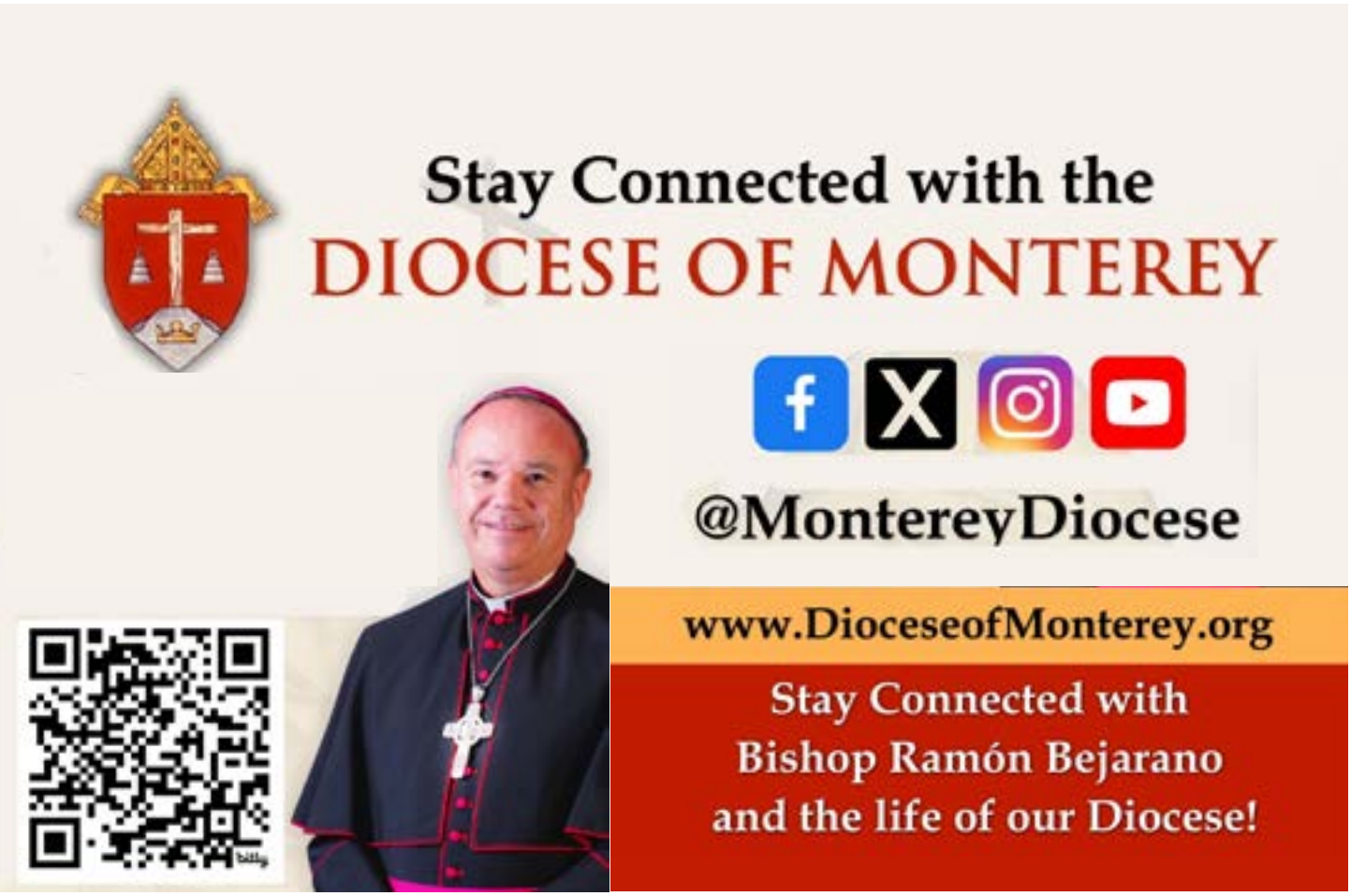
English: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/dioceseofmontereycommunitysurvey

Spanish: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/encuestaalacomunidaddeladiocesisdemonterey

English Survey

Spanish Survey

Questions may be directed to Superintendent Dan Anderson. | 831-373-1608 | danderson@dioceseofmonterey.org



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.