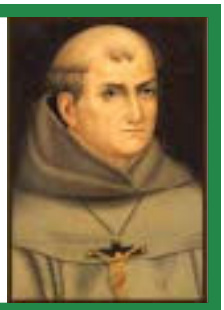
250TH Anniversary
CARMEL MISSION
BASILICA

Carmel Mission Basilica

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



Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday, October 4, 2026

Pastor's Weekly Letter

Dear Friend of Carmel Mission,

Vineyard imagery connects the first reading, the psalm, and the Gospel today, and together the readings tell the story of God's action over time. God had chosen Israel as His "vine" but by their actions they created "wild grapes," despite God's care and the warnings of the prophets. The kingdoms of Isreal were dispersed in exile, but God continued to care for God's chosen people. In the incarnation of Jesus, God sent His own Son to care for the vineyard. With the death and resurrection of Jesus, God has restored God's vineyard with Christ, the True Vine. There are many times in the history of salvation that any reasonable cultivator might give up on an unruly and unfruitful vineyard, as the vineyard owner in the first reading is inclined to do. But not so with God. God continues to tend God's vineyard with careful, loving attention and abundant mercy.

St. Paul's words in the second reading seem almost unrealistic: "Have no anxiety at all." Clearly St. Paul was not living in the twenty-first century, where we are bombarded by a barrage of information every time we check our phone. We are instantly aware of not only the needs of our friends and families, but also the very real suffering of people around the globe. Fortunately, St. Paul does not leave us hanging and offers "by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Thanksgiving may seem like an unlikely antidote to anxiety, but gratitude does truly change our hearts and minds. German theologian Meister Eckhart understood the important of generosity and gratitude, famously noting, "if the only prayer you ever say is "thank you," that is enough." Even if we cannot find the words needed to address all the worries of our hearts, we can always find something for which to be grateful.

We are certainly called to be grateful that even in moments of disloyalty, misunderstanding, and selfishness, God does not abandon us. God cares for us in times of adversity, loving us when we may feel unlovable, and supporting us when we feel we may not have the strength to go on. God tends us as a gardener who tenderly cultivates a plant: "The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel and the people of Judah are His chosen plant." (Isaiah 5:6) This is reason enough to practice gratitude.

I wish you and your loved ones blessing of good health and grateful hearts,

Fr. Paul

Liturgy

Today's Readings

Reading I: My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside; he spaded it, cleared it of stones, and planted the choicest vines. (Isaiah 5:1–7)

Psalm: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel. (Psalm 80:9, 12, 13–14, 15–16, 19–20)

Reading II: Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. (Philippians 4:6–9)

Gospel: The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit. (Matthew 21:33–43)

Readings for the Week

Monday, October 5
Galatians 1:6–12
Psalm 111:1b–2, 7–8, 9, 10c
Luke 10:25–37

Tuesday, October 6
Galatians 1:13–24
Psalm 139:1b–3, 13–14ab, 14c–15
Luke 10:38–42

Wednesday, October 7
Galatians 2:1–2, 7–14
Psalm 117:1bc, 2
Luke 11:1–4

Thursday, October 8
Galatians 3:1–5
Luke 1:69–70, 71–72, 73–75
Luke 11:5–13

Friday, October 9
Galatians 3:7–14
Psalm 111:1b–2, 3–4, 5–6
Luke 11:15–26

Saturday, October 10
Galatians 3:22–29
Psalm 105:2–3, 4–5, 6–7
Luke 11:27–28

Scripture Reflection

The situation described in today's Gospel can be read as a peasant uprising against an oppressive landowner. Weary of their landlessness and powerlessness, the tenants do away with all the landowner's envoys, and even his son, the heir apparent, hoping to gain control of the land themselves. Verse 40 then poses a critical question: What will the landowner do? The response is swift and brutal: violence breeds even more violence and the tenants will all be put to a miserable death. One way in which this parable can be read is as a commentary on the futility of violence to accomplish change. A more traditional reading of this parable is as an allegory, in which the vineyard represents Israel, the tenants are Israel's leaders, the landowner is God, the messengers are the prophets, and the son is Jesus. There is also a clear allusion to the parable we hear from the prophet Isaiah in the first reading. There is a decided difference in the ending of the two parables. In Isaiah, when the vineyard owner is disappointed in the lack of fruit, he destroys the vineyard. In Jesus' parable, the vineyard is not destroyed, but rather entrusted to new leaders. In both parables, a focal point is the necessity of bearing fruit and the inability of the current leadership to cultivate the desired fruit. The parables pose a question regarding leadership of any organization or institution. If the leaders are not cultivating the fruitfulness of all member, the leadership must be entrusted to others who will do so. Within the literary context of the Gospel, hope is held out that the current leaders could repent and become fruit-bearers and cultivators of fruitfulness in others. But the parable also notes that the vintage time is near – code language for the eschatological time – the moment when time to change runs out and the decisions made all along have a finality. The psalm is a lament in which the psalmist uses the imagery of Isreal as God's vine to ask for God's deliverance. While God had "transplanted" this vine from Egypt and cared for it, it has not fallen into ruin, plucked clean by passersby and trampled by animals. Despite the dire circumstances, the psalmist trusts that God can restore Israel and promises to remain faithful. In John's Gospel, Jesus declares Himself as the True Vine, brining this imagery to fulfillment. If we remain in Him, we will bear fruit.

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 Thanksgiving for the abundant blessings, good health and love received by the Coronel - Valdez families

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,
LCDR Ben SchmidtC
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:

Dr. Robert Maurice Adams,
Sharry Lauter,
Erin Hagan,
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 09/20/2026:

Electronic Donation:	**$ 7,458.94**
Mailed Donation:	**$10,493.00**
Weekend Masses:	**$ 6,578.00**
Second Collection — Maintenance:	**$ 2,640.00**
TOTAL	**$27,169.94**

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

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! — Come and See

I am happy to announce that OCIA will be returning to the Mission this month. As many of you are aware, OCIA, formerly RCIA, is the process by which adults receive the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

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.

Next Sunday, October 11, immediately after the 11:00 AM Mass we will have a "Come and See" event in MacMahon Center and anyone who would like to learn more about becoming Catholic and feels called to the Sacraments of Initiation are most welcome to come and learn more about the process of OCIA at Carmel Mission.

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, Octover 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 QR code
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 BookClub@carmelmission.org

Coffee and Donuts

Join us for Coffee and Donuts after each Mass (9 AM and 11 AM) every Sunday.

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.

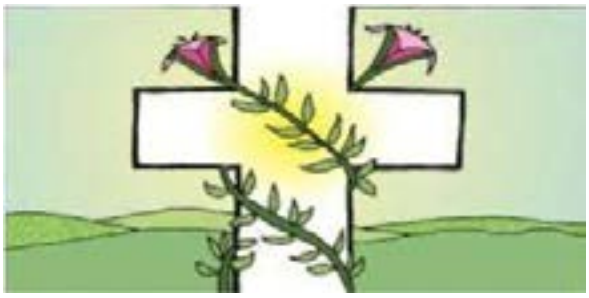
If you would like to join with us or learn more about our Ministry, please contact Laura Schwingle, liturgy@carmelmission.org.

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.

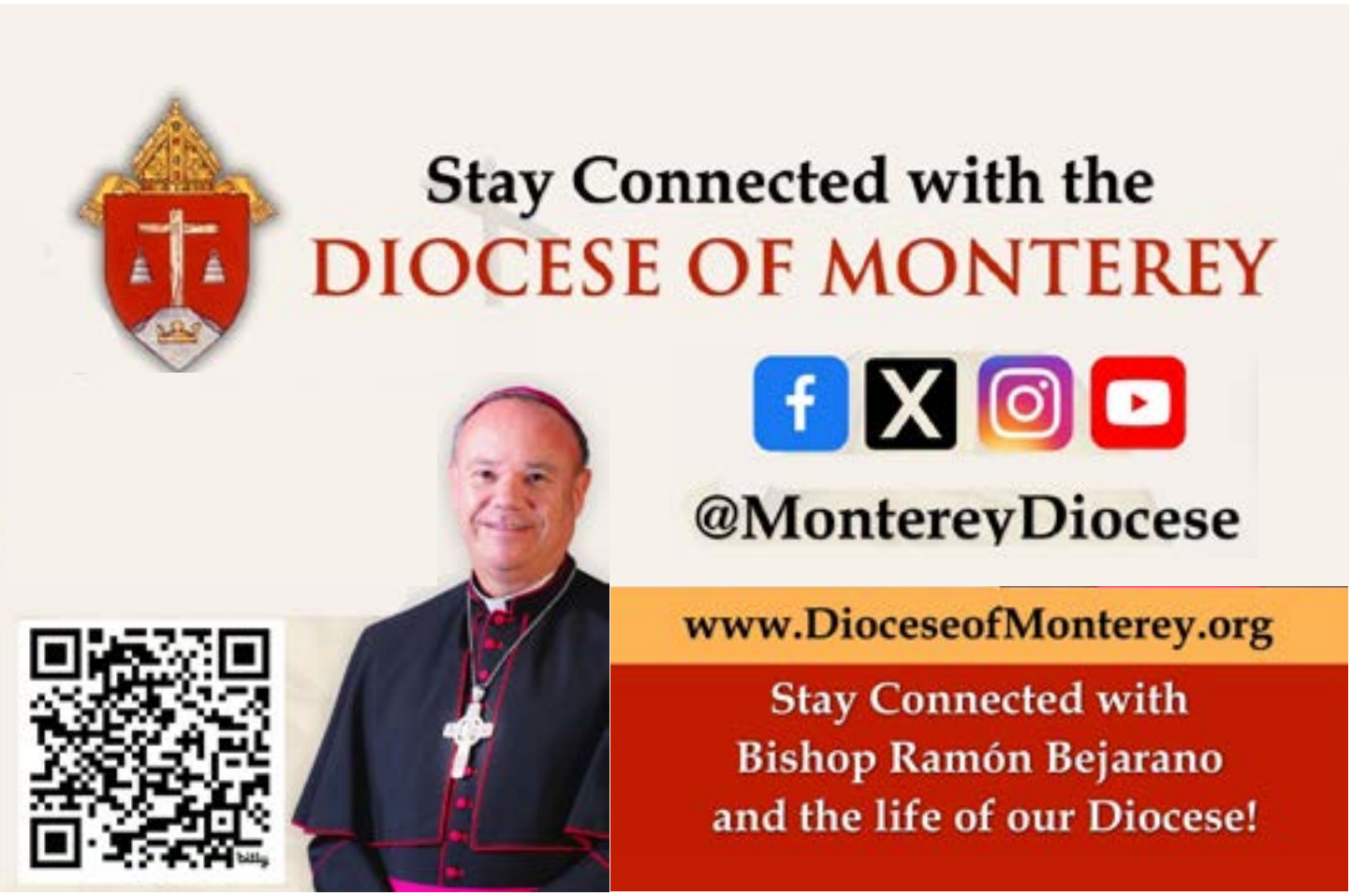
Homebound Ministry



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



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.