



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



Christmas at the Mission

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER
CARMEL MISSION BASILICA
CARMEL, CA



LAURA SCHWINGEL

SPECIAL GUESTS



VICTORIA MCDOWELL



**Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 7, 2025**



Dear Friend of Carmel Mission,

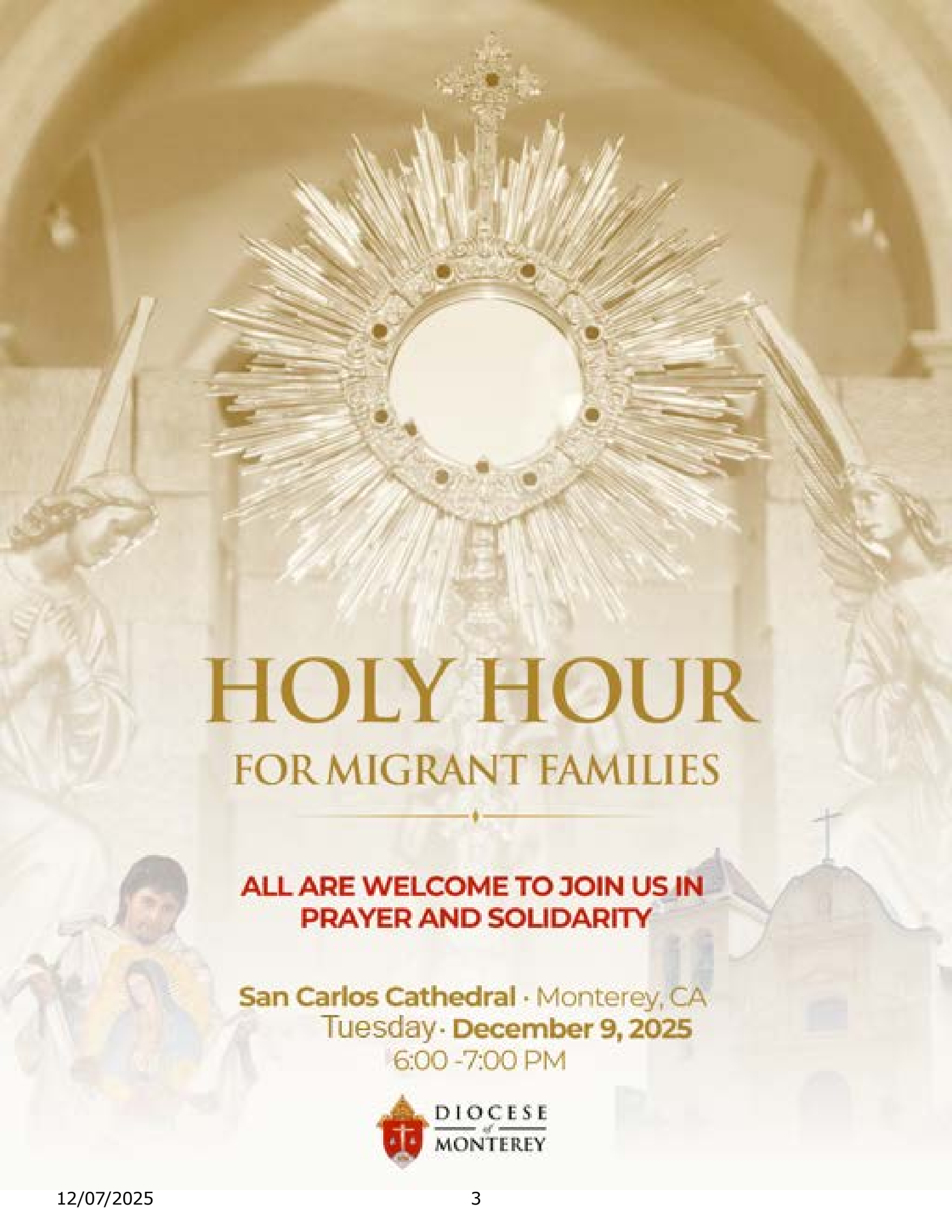
Today in our first reading, the prophet Isaiah paints a beautiful picture of right relationship: wolves laying down with lambs, calves and lions resting in harmony, and the baby playing near the snake without fear. In this vision of God's perfect kingdom, there is no longer predator and prey. All creation lives in non-violent cooperation, and rests together in peace. It is fantastical - but it serves to highlight the unimaginable goodness that God's plan for all creation holds. Given the broken and war-torn state of our world today, it can be difficult to trust that the peaceable Kingdom of God will ever come to fruition. Violence and conflict seem to prevail around the world - in our nations, our neighborhoods, and even in our own families. But we, hope, pray, and believe, that the Messiah promised by God and heralded in the Gospel by John the Baptist will bring this peace.

At the root of the harmony expressed in Isaiah's vision is authentic justice. Justice can be a challenging concept, often associated in modern times with the legal and criminal justice systems. But God's justice is about much more than crime and punishment. Isaiah notes, "Justice shall be the band around his waist and faithfulness a belt around his hips." (Isaiah 11:5) Justice is the anchoring force by which God's radical peace is possible. I am reminded of Pope Paul VI's memorable address at the 1972 World Day of Peace, "If you want peace, work for justice."

At its core, justice involves looking beyond ourselves to better understand the reality of others, a task that is not always easy or welcome. Fortunately, we are not the sole authors of justice. As St. Paul says in the second reading, "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus." (Romans 15:5) It is my hope as we continue this Advent season that we would make this prayer our own. Like John the Baptist, may we be prophetic voices for God's justice in the world, as we build up the peaceable Kingdom of heaven.

I wish you and your loved ones Advent blessings of good health and new hope. Please continue to pray for God's peace and justice,

Fr. Paul



HOLY HOUR

FOR MIGRANT FAMILIES

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US IN
PRAYER AND SOLIDARITY**

San Carlos Cathedral • Monterey, CA
Tuesday • **December 9, 2025**
6:00 - 7:00 PM





November 2025,

Dear Friend of Carmel Mission,

As we celebrate the wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, I'm availing of this timely opportunity to express my most sincere thanks to you. I thank you for sharing your time, your talents, and your treasure with our parish family. Your precious assistance has enabled us to achieve so much in the last year.

I constantly draw strength and energy from the example of our beloved founder, Saint Junípero. I find his optimistic and hopeful approach to life both inspiring and instructive. He set out from his home on Majorca with a passionate desire to bring Good News to the 'New World' of California. We embrace and continue his mission in our day.

There is a sense in which we are all facing a 'New World'. The pace of change has rapidly accelerated. Social media and Artificial Intelligence are having a profound influence on our culture and lifestyle. But here at Carmel Mission, we move, in the words of Saint Junípero, 'Siempre Adelante', 'Always Forward', seeking new ways to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We face the future with confidence in Christ, and with great hope in our hearts.

We have begun to use Artificial Intelligence here at Carmel Mission in order to assist us in presenting Saint Junípero and his mission to those who have not yet heard his story. We have here so many treasures to share with one another and with our many pilgrims and visitors. We have wonderful faith-filled stories to tell, beautiful works of art, and many priceless sacred artifacts that add color and context to our holy history.

We have recently embarked upon an exciting journey of renewal in company with ARG, a reputable firm of architects, as we implement a Strategic Master Property Plan. This plan will enable us to assess the current condition of our many buildings, their need for restoration and preservation, and how they can best serve the current and future needs of our Mission community.

We have already implemented many improvements to our facilities here at our Mission, and we will continue to make this sacred space more safe and secure and more welcoming to all who enter our doorways. We do not rush into things, but take time to study and plan all future developments.

You have supported and applauded our efforts. You have helped us greatly improve our financial situation. We have come through a challenging pandemic with our faith strengthened and our finances fortified.

There is indeed a 'New World' facing us. It is crying out for a message of meaning. We offer the ultimate message of meaning in the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are children of a loving and merciful God who deeply desires our happiness and well-being.

Once again, I thank you for being a member of our faith-filled parish family.

In the great love of Jesus Christ,

Fr. Paul

FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT

The Finance Council serves as a consultative body to Fr. Paul, helping ensure responsible stewardship of parish resources and supporting the Church's mission. Its core responsibilities include:

- **Advising Fr. Paul**
Offering guidance on financial decisions, planning, and administration in accordance with Church and diocesan policies.
- **Budgeting and Oversight**
Assisting in the preparation, review, and monitoring of the parish budget to ensure fiscal responsibility.
- **Stewardship and Fundraising**
Promoting a culture of generosity and helping plan fundraising efforts to support parish ministries and operations.
- **Financial Reporting**
Reviewing financial statements and ensuring transparency and accountability to the parish community.
- **Asset and Property Management**
Supporting the maintenance and development of parish facilities and long-term capital planning.
- **Compliance and Best Practices**
Ensuring adherence to legal, ethical, and diocesan financial guidelines.



This year marked a significant milestone in the development of the Mission's Master Property Plan, made possible through the new partnership with the Architectural Resources Group (ARG). ARG has already played a vital role in the design and engineering of the improved accessibility project currently under construction at the entrance to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. In collaboration with Mission staff, ARG is also evaluating additional areas for accessibility improvements, including the ramp entrance to Crespi Hall.

In last year's report, I highlighted our investment in MaintainX, a state-of-the-art maintenance management system. I am pleased to share that the initial data entry, covering the many details of our facilities, is now complete. MaintainX is actively supporting our staff in managing the daily upkeep of our expansive 22-acre campus.

While we moved forward with several budgeted projects this past year, we were constantly reminded of the "unplanned"—often costly and frequently complex—maintenance issues that arise daily. We are deeply grateful to our Mission staff for their prompt and effective response to these ongoing challenges.

As noted elsewhere in this Annual Report, Carmel Mission remains in a strong financial position, thanks to the continued generosity of our parishioners. Although we were fortunate to have achieved a budget surplus again this past year, ongoing contributions remain essential to support the extensive restoration, enhancement, and preservation needs of Carmel Mission.

On behalf of Fr. Paul, I extend heartfelt thanks to the members of our Finance Council for their dedicated service and unwavering support throughout the year.

Tim Lewis

Finance Council Chair

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

We are happy to report a healthy fiscal year that ended with a significant surplus over our budget due in large part to a number of generous contributions.

Savings & Debt

Our current debt totals \$835,770 which is an 8.55% reduction from last year. Without question, the greatest impact on our debt reduction has been due to the overwhelming generosity of our parishioners.

Income

On the revenue side, our plate collections equaled 100.60% of the prior year.



Expenses

Fr. Paul kept expenses under the budgeted amounts. Total expenses were 86% to budget.

Restoration Work

Several key restoration projects were continued from 2023-24 and several new projects were initiated.



Generous Gifts

Carmel Mission is very fortunate to receive generous and unique gifts, and 2025 was no exception. Significant restricted gifts will continue to assist us with our expected repairs and maintenance in 2025-2026. Kindly contact Fr. Paul if you have any gifts you would consider donating to the Carmel Mission.

Impactful Conditions

We saw a 2% increase in visitors to Carmel Mission this past year, and we hope this upward trend continues along with local area tourism. We also welcomed 126 new parishioners this past fiscal year.



2024 & 2025 AMA CAMPAIGN UPDATES - BSC & MORA CHAPEL

We are very happy to report the success of our 2025 AMA Campaign - The Mora Chapel – A Place of Living History. Our AMA total to date is \$325,390 (including our \$75,900.00 donation to the Diocesan ministries). Though we promote our annual fundraising campaign in the early to late spring, we continue receiving donations until the end of the year.

AMA Updates

- We continue to work diligently on developing the 2025 Mora Chapel restoration and conservation projects and will share details in upcoming bulletins and on our AMA webpage.
- In the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the pews have been restored and upholstery has been added. The ramp construction is in progress and the floor will be refinished.

CARMEL MISSION LEGACY SOCIETY

Purpose and Mission

- **Preserves our parish's future:** Launched in 2023, our Legacy Society will help ensure long-term financial stability by encouraging bequests, charitable trusts, and other planned gifts that go beyond weekly offertory collections.
- **Supports ministries and outreach:** These gifts fund faith formation, hospitality, outreach, and administrative programs that annual budgets might otherwise limit.
- **Affirms Catholic values:** Leaving a legacy gift is a profound expression of faith, gratitude, and stewardship—an act of giving forward to the Church that nurtured one's spiritual life.

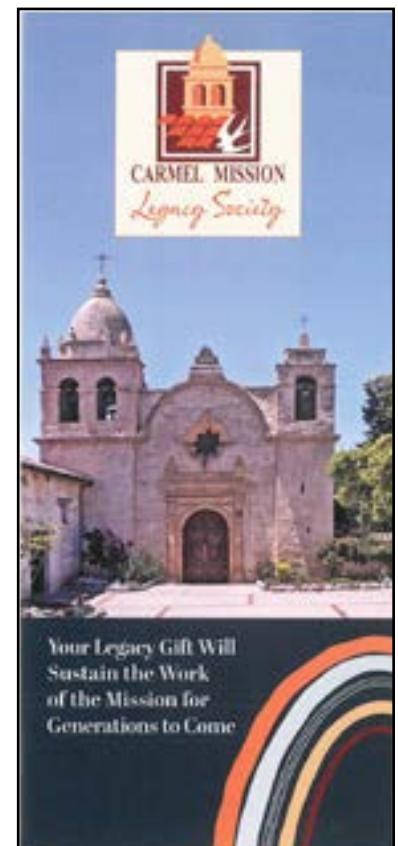
Parish and Community Impact

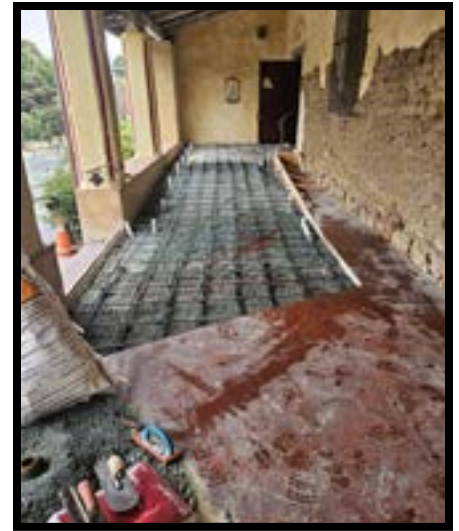
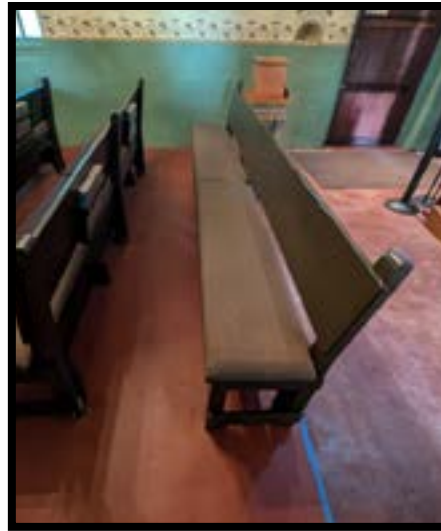
- **Strengthens parish identity:** When parishioners contribute to the Mission's own Legacy Society, it reinforces their personal connection to the community where they received sacraments, raised families, and worshipped regularly.
- **Builds intergenerational continuity:** Legacy gifts allow future generations to benefit from the same spiritual and communal resources, preserving traditions and Carmel Mission's facilities for decades to come.

Practical Benefits

- **Diversifies funding sources:** Legacy gifts supplement regular offertory income, helping Carmel Mission weather economic fluctuations and fund capital improvements.
- **Promotes estate planning with faith in mind:** Our Legacy Society offers support to help our parishioners align their estate plans with their spiritual values.

Parishioners are encouraged to consider leaving 1% (or more) of their estate to the Mission, with the remaining 99% going to other beneficiaries. For details, visit carmelmission.org, select the Support the Mission tab, then choose Planned Giving or Legacy Society FAQs. You can also contact the Parish Office at 831-624-1271





ELECTRONIC GIVING

More and more of our parishioners are learning and taking advantage of the benefits of electronic giving. Sign up for scheduled contributions with just a few clicks on our parish website. The amounts can be changed or stopped at any time. You will also have an annual record of your contributions, including donations to our second collections for our ministries and other special appeals.

If you have not checked out the options on our website, do so today. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this resource, please click "DONATE" on our website.

 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.			
			
			

CARMEL MISSION STORE

Our store contributes directly to the ongoing needs of our parish. Many visitors keep our Carmel Mission close to their hearts as they return home with a memory of Carmel Mission from our store.

Please visit our store for special gifts for your family and friends. A gift purchased from there for your children or grandchildren may have a lasting impact on them as they see how important the Mission has been to you.

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN ADVERTISING

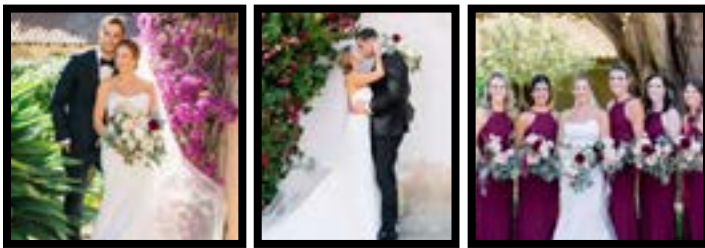
We are most grateful for our advertisers in our bulletin. Please carefully consider advertising your business or service in our electronic bulletin. And, please support those who advertise.

SACRAMENTS

Our Sacraments showed an increase over the prior year. This year, our parish celebrated 59 weddings, 19 funerals, and 33 baptisms.

WEDDINGS

Carmel Mission is proud to welcome many couples to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage. The historical significance as well as the great beauty of our Mission Church attracts couples not only from our local area, but from all over the country and even internationally. Each wedding is unique, and our team works hard with each couple to ensure the best possible experience of this very special moment in their lives. It is a blessing to be a part of the promise of love that couples make before God, and those dearest to them. We are happy to again win the Golden Pinecone for the Best Place To Be Married on the Monterey Peninsula.



FAITH FORMATION

As we head into another faith-filled Advent, we are happy to share with you the good news of a thriving Faith Formation program. Here at Carmel Mission Basilica, we are blessed to have 34 high school students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, and 22 elementary-aged students preparing for their First Holy Communion. We are also happy to announce our newly formed Teen Girl High School Prayer Group. Your prayers in our community of faith are always appreciated as the youth of our parish nurture their relationship with God.

MINISTRIES

We are fortunate to have many vibrant ministries at Carmel Mission. Our ministries support the spiritual and sacramental life of our parish family. They help us welcome and educate the many pilgrims and visitors who visit the Mission each year. They allow us to reach beyond our walls to share the good news of God's love, as well as offering much-needed practical assistance and support, to those in need. We are grateful to the many volunteers who contribute their time, talent, and treasure to support our ministries and allow them to thrive and grow.

FLOWER MINISTRY

We are most appreciative of the parishioners who have helped expand the availability and use of the beautiful flowers adorning our altars. These arrangements are a beautiful honor to those we celebrate at our masses. They greatly enhance the sacred environment for our community. Thank you for your continuing support.



STREAMING MASS

We have many parishioners who have not been able to attend our masses in person. Your contributions have allowed us to obtain the equipment necessary to livestream our 9 a.m. mass every Sunday. It is also available at other times for you to view online at your convenience. We encourage all who cannot physically attend Mass to join us via this platform. Many parishioners have expressed their thanks for this opportunity to attend Mass in this manner. Many thanks to all who contributed to our AMA campaigns, which made this gift to our community possible. (Sign up for our YouTube channel)

WEBSITE, WEEKLY EMAIL, AND PARISHIONER RESOURCE PAGE

We have continued to improve our website, weekly bulletin email, and online parish resource page, designed to provide you with direct access to the most commonly requested parish information and services — regardless of staff availability.

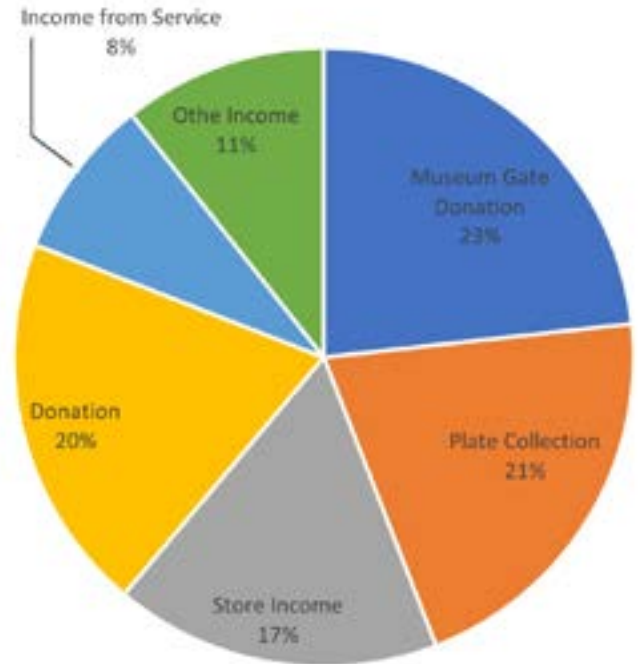
Each section will provide information and an opportunity to connect with staff through email or voicemail.

We welcome your feedback, which has contributed to these improvements.

REVENUE SOURCES

Museum Gate Donation	\$ 706,117	23%
Plate Collection	\$ 631,896	21%
Store Income	\$ 517,109	17%
Donation	\$ 600,594	20%
Income from Services	\$ 255,773	8%
Other Income	\$ 323,013	11%

TOTAL **\$ 3,034,502**



EXPENSES SOURCES

Salaries and Wages	\$ 542,396	23%
Store Expenses	\$ 377,884	16%
Operational Expenses	\$ 551,713	23%
Utility/Service Expenses	\$ 458,577	20%
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 209,834	9%
Ministries	\$ 89,517	4%
Other Expenses	\$ 112,363	5%

TOTAL **\$ 2,342,285**





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LITURGY

Today's Readings

Reading I On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, (Isaiah 11:1-10)

Psalm Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.
(Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17)

Reading II Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name.
(Romans 15:4-9)

Gospel Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
(Matthew 3:1-12)

Readings for the Week

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

GENESIS 3:9-15, 20
PSALM 98:1, 2-3AB, 3CD-4
EPHESIANS 1:3-6, 11-12
LUKE 1:26-38

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

ISAIAH 40:1-11
PSALM 96:1-2, 3 AND 10AC, 11-12, 13
MATTHEW 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

ISAIAH 40:25-31
PSALM 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 AND 10
MATTHEW 11:28-30

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

ISAIAH 41:13-20
PSALM 145:1 AND 9, 10-11, 12-13AB
MATTHEW 11:11-15

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

ZECHARIAH 2:14-17
JUDITH 13:18BCDE, 19
LUKE 1:26-38

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

SIRACH 48:1-4, 9-11
PSALM 80:2AC AND 3B, 15-16, 18-19
MATTHEW 17:9A, 10-13

Scripture Reflection

This week's Gospel introduces John the Baptist, often called the last of the Old Testament prophets. John is a brilliant example of the Gospel proclamation, particularly in his way of living. He is depicted as a wilderness man, living in the desert, eating locusts and wild honey – this cannot help but provoke our curiosity. In his time, John's unique ascetic way of living gives credibility to his preaching, not the other way around. He also takes a uniquely harsh approach. He is confrontational and uncompromising. He demands repentance – urgently! And people flocked to him, attracted to him and to his message. One attractive characteristic of John was his whole hearted commitment to God's reign and the Coming One who would usher it in. When a person lives so authentically what he or she proclaims, that witness is very compelling. Others are drawn not just to admire such a person, but to examine their own lives and follow suit in whatever way possible. Although John's message at first seems off-putting, its effectiveness rested on the fact that it was not anger that fueled him, but a profound love of God, and a passion to help everyone be ready for the imminent arrival of the One who is to come. John had no patience, however, for those who were not sincere in their quest. It is startling that at the very first appearance in the Gospel of the Pharisees and scribes, John slings insults at them, calling them a brood of viper. As the Gospel progresses, we find that the Pharisees and scribes are cast by Matthew as hypocrites who lie in wait to trap Jesus, like snakes coiled to spring at any false move. John exposes their poisonous intent. If they were authentic seekers, that would be visible in their "good fruit." What "good fruit" looks like is described by Isaiah in today's first reading. All creatures and the whole of creation exist in peaceful harmony. There is justice for all, especially the most afflicted. Vulnerable little ones have no fear. There are serious and immediate consequences if the call to repentance is not heeded. John declares that any tree that does not produce fruit is cut down at the root and thrown in the fire. Such strong language is meant to get our attention – the fiery prophet speaks in shocking ways to startle us into action.

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 with a prayer for peace by Vickie Peach



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 be 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

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 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.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

Weeks of Advent

All weekend Masses will follow our regular schedule unless stated otherwise.

Saturday Mass at 5:30 PM
Sunday Masses at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 30th

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7th

Immaculate Conception

Mass - Monday, December 8 – 12:00 pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mass - Friday, December 12 - 9:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21th

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 21 - 5:00 pm

Christmas

Christmas Eve — December 24

Family Mass
Wednesday, December 24 – 4:00 pm

Carols

Wednesday, December 24 – 8:30 pm

Evening Mass

Wednesday, December 24 - 9:00 PM

Christmas Day — December 25

Masses

Thursday, December 25 – 9:00 am and 11:00 am





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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:



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,
Nancy D'Angelo,
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:



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,
James M. Fremgen,
Patricia Maaske,
Tom Coble,
Arvid (Dink) Allen,
Loretta Williams,
Dr. Béla Janko,
Leon Hittner,
Dr Patrick Feehan,
Don Ryan,
John Garthner,
Carl Noto,
Rebecca Louise Dolan,
Maeve Burke Shugrue,
Robert Rigney,

... 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



Reports for the week ending on 11/16/2025:

Electronic Donation: \$ 3,846.75
Mailed Donation: \$11,403.00
Weekend Masses: \$ 6,715.90
Second Collection — Maintenance: \$ 1,853.00

TOTAL: \$23,818.65



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2024 AMA UPDATE



BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL

ALL OUR PEWS HAVE BEEN RENEWED THANKS
TO YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR 2024 AMA CAMPAIGN.

WORK ON THE ENTRANCE RAMP IS IN PROGRESS.
WEDNESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY NOON MASSES WILL TAKE PLACE
IN THE BASILICA UNTIL THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE.



CARMEL MISSION BEGINS MASTER PROPERTY PLAN WITH ARCHITECTURAL EXPERTS

Dear Parishioners,

We are excited to share that Carmel Mission Basilica has begun work on a Master Strategic/Property Plan in collaboration with Architectural Resources Group (ARG), a highly respected preservation firm from San Francisco. This plan will guide us in the responsible stewardship of our beautiful and historic property—ensuring the Mission remains a sacred, welcoming, and safe place for worship, learning, and community life.

Working with ARG, we will assess all areas of our 22-acre site, from the Basilica and museums to gardens and infrastructure, with a focus on preservation, accessibility, safety, and long-term sustainability.

We invite your prayers, input, and participation as this important planning process unfolds. Together, we will honor our past and plan for a vibrant future.

—Fr. Paul P. Murphy, Pastor

[CLICK HERE FOR UPDATES](#)

THE MORA CHAPEL

A PLACE OF LIVING HISTORY



We are delighted to report that our 2025 AMA Campaign, The Mora Chapel: A Place of Living History, contribution total now stands at \$325,390.



PROJECT UPDATES



- We continue to work diligently on developing the 2025 Mora Chapel restoration and conservation projects and will share details in upcoming bulletins and on our AMA webpage
- The Blessed Sacrament Chapel pews have been restored and returned.
- Construction of the ramp is in progress
- Additional work will include resetting the front door, upgrades to the heating and ventilation and additional necessary security improvements.



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ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES GROUP

THIS ARTICLE RAN IN THE MONTEREY HERALD ON AUGUST 2



THE HISTORIC CARMEL MISSION BASILICA HAS
ANNOUNCED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE
MASTER PROPERTY PLAN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES GROUP.
(JAMES HERRERA/MONTEREY HERALD)

The Carmel Mission Basilica is launching a strategic master plan initiative with a goal of creating a guide to preserve, restore, and utilize this iconic landmark that has attracted the faithful and visitors to Carmel since it was built more than 250 years ago.

The development of the comprehensive Master Property Plan will be in partnership with Architectural Resources Group, a nationally recognized preservation and planning firm out of San Francisco.

Architectural Resources Group was founded 45 years ago and specializes in architecture, historic preservation, adaptive reuse, and planning with projects across California and the Western United States. Locally, its portfolio includes the Cooper-Molera Adobe Historic site in Monterey and the Sunset Center in Carmel.

The architectural firm says that since its beginning, it has had the privilege of working with great clients and consultants on projects that preserve, protect, and adapt historic buildings, sites, and objects for a new generation.

"We're honored to continue our work with Carmel Mission. This is a pivotal project for the Mission and for the wider community", said David Wessel, principal at Architectural Resources Group, in a press release. "Our goal is to create a plan that respects Carmel Mission's rich past and supports its thriving future."

Carmel Mission Basilica says this initiative marks a milestone in the mission's commitment to stewarding its historic buildings, sacred spaces, and cultural resources for future generations.

Carmel Mission, or Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Río Carmelo, was founded in 1771 by Father Junipero Serra, who was canonized in 2015 and is now known as Saint Junipero Serra. He is buried under the sanctuary floor. The mission was the second mission founded by Serra, and where he established his headquarters. It is designated a National Historic Landmark, is one of California's most visited historic sites, and continues to serve a vibrant parish community within the Diocese of Monterey.

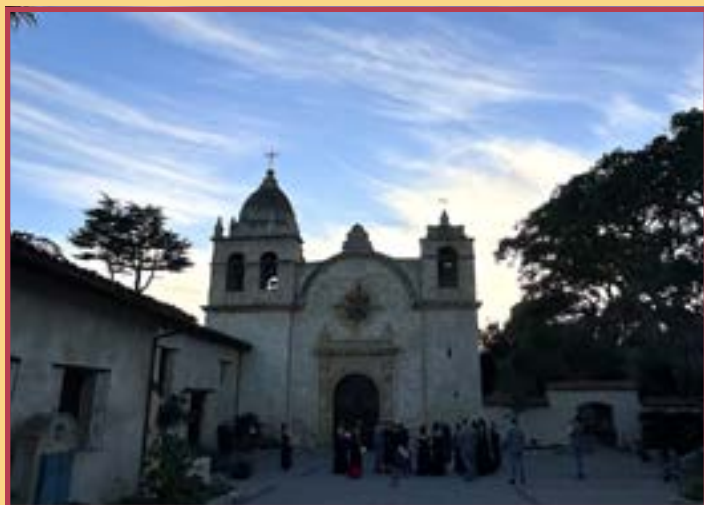


250TH Anniversary
CARMEL MISSION
BASILICA

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES GROUP

The new Master Property Plan will guide the preservation, restoration, and use of the 22-acre site, which includes the Basilica Church, museums, courtyards, cemetery, and other historic structures, according to Carmel Mission. Architectural Resources Group brings decades of expertise in working with culturally significant sites, including previous work with missions, churches, and historic campuses across the West.

"This is a moment of renewal," said Father Paul P. Murphy, pastor of the Carmel Mission Basilica, in the release. "We are embracing our responsibility to protect the sacred and historical integrity of this site, while also ensuring it can meet the evolving needs of our parish and the wider community."



THE HISTORIC CARMEL MISSION BASILICA IS
ONE OF THE MOST ICONIC AND SPIRITUALLY SIGNIFICANT
LANDMARKS ON CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL COAST.
(JAMES HERRERA/MONTEREY HERALD)

The planning process will include input from parishioners, community members, preservationists, and expert restorative professionals, according to Carmel Mission. Priorities include seismic safety, accessibility improvements, landscape conservation, infrastructure modernization, and enhanced interpretive and visitor experiences.

Development of the Master Property Plan is expected to continue through 2026.

The Carmel Mission has undergone other restoration projects in the recent past, namely the Downie Museum and Basilica Forecourt project in 2021, the Central Courtyard project in 2016, and the Carmel Mission Basilica's structural restoration in 2013.

But the Carmel Mission has a long history of restoration beginning in 1877, when Fr. Angelo Casanova stepped in to save a church reduced to ruins, according to Carmel Mission Basilica. With the roof collapsed and walls crumbling, he paid \$44 to re-roof the sacristy. What started as a humble act became an enduring commitment to restore Carmel Mission's historic fabric for generations to come.

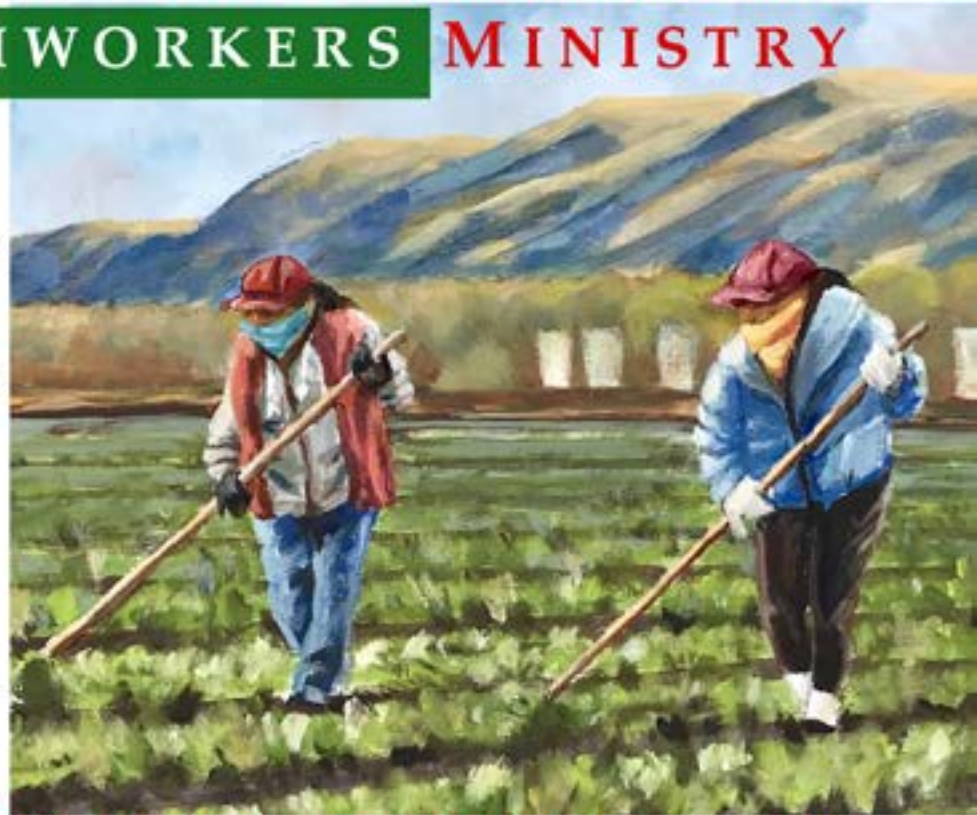
In the early 1900s, Monsignor Ramon Mestres founded the Carmel Mission Restoration League, spearheading major restorations and earning the title "Padre of the Restoration." Then in 1933, master restorer Harry Downie began five decades of meticulous rebuilding, working under the direction of multiple pastors throughout his tenure to transform the Mission into what we see today.



FALGE FARMWORKERS MINISTRY

Christmas is when the Carmel Mission **Falge Farmworkers Ministry** provides special seasonal items to help every child and adult in the camps which we donate to every month, celebrate the joy of this holy season. We provide large grocery bags filled with staple pantry items for each family, and a gift card for every individual.

We invite you to visit our display tables in the Courtyard before or after Mass to find out more about the ministry or help us with your financial support.



You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God, for the administration of this public service is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11-12



SUPPLY the NEEDS DONATE

- Credit card:** Scan the QR code which will direct you to the online payment page.
carmelmission.org/ministries/falge-farmworker-ministry/falge-christmas
- Check:** Please make your check payable to Carmel Mission
and note Falge Farmworker Ministry on the memo line.
 Drop it in the offering basket during Mass
 Hand to one of our volunteers at our Mission Courtyard table.
 Mail it to Carmel Mission, 3080 Rio Road, Carmel CA 93923
- Cash:** Please give it to one of our volunteers at our Mission Courtyard table.



GENEROSITY GIVE GIFTS

Christmas Giving Tree Located at the Basilica Entry
Take an Ornament: Each ornament has the name of a child or family supported by our Ministry.
 See QR code on back for online donations directions.
Checks and cash donations are welcome at our Mission Courtyard table before and after Mass.
 Please keep the ornament as a reminder to pray for our farmworkers.

ENRICHED through SERVICE VOLUNTEER

The Falge Farmworker Ministry is a year-round program delivering food and essentials to the camps **monthly**. If interested contact falge@carmelmission.org
 More information at carmelmission.org/ministries/falge-farmworker-ministry

original artwork by Debra Nichols



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LEAD ME LORD

An Advent Study Series with Deacon Warren

This Advent, Deacon Warren will once again offer a weekly study series to help us prepare for Jesus's coming. This year's series, LEAD ME LORD, will look at some of God's most important revelations and what they mean for us today. We'll focus on the Commandments from the Old Testament, then the Beatitudes from Christ's teachings, and finally consider how they can guide us in modern life.

**Meetings in Crespi Hall at 5PM on
Wednesday evenings:
December 3, 10, and 17.**

**No pre-registration necessary.
Please join us for a lively discussion!**

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CARMEL, CA

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Carmel Mission Bible Study

Bible Study meets in Crespi Hall every Wednesday at 10:30 am - 11:30 am



Our Carmel Mission Bible is now studying of the Parables found in the Gospels. In these texts, Jesus sets forth for us details of how His Kingdom works in our Catholic lives. There is more in each of them than first appears. Here is a means to open our hearts to what He plans, hopes for each of us.

Questions; Dick Gorman 595-6363.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer meets on Fridays at 12:55 PM in Crespi Hall.

All are welcome to join in Centering Prayer, with the option to stay for Book Club at 1:30 PM.

For more information about Centering Prayer, please email Sally Greig at saljogreig@aol.com

Carmel Mission Book Club



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

Book Club is now reading **Confessions** by Saint Augustine of Hippo. Written at the end of the 4th century, Augustine's Confessions outlines his deep struggle with a sinful youth and his ultimate conversion to Christianity. Books are available at the meetings and everyone is welcome to attend.

For information email christina.renna@gmail.com

Coffee and Donuts

There will be no Coffee and Donuts through-out the holiday season.

C&D will return in January.





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CARMEL MISSION COMMUNITY

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.

Knights of Columbus

Meet on the first Tuesday of each month in Crespi Hall at 6:30 PM.

For more information please email koc@carmelmission.org.



Our Coordinator for the I-HELP Ministry has retired.

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



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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.



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