

Melissa Fasano

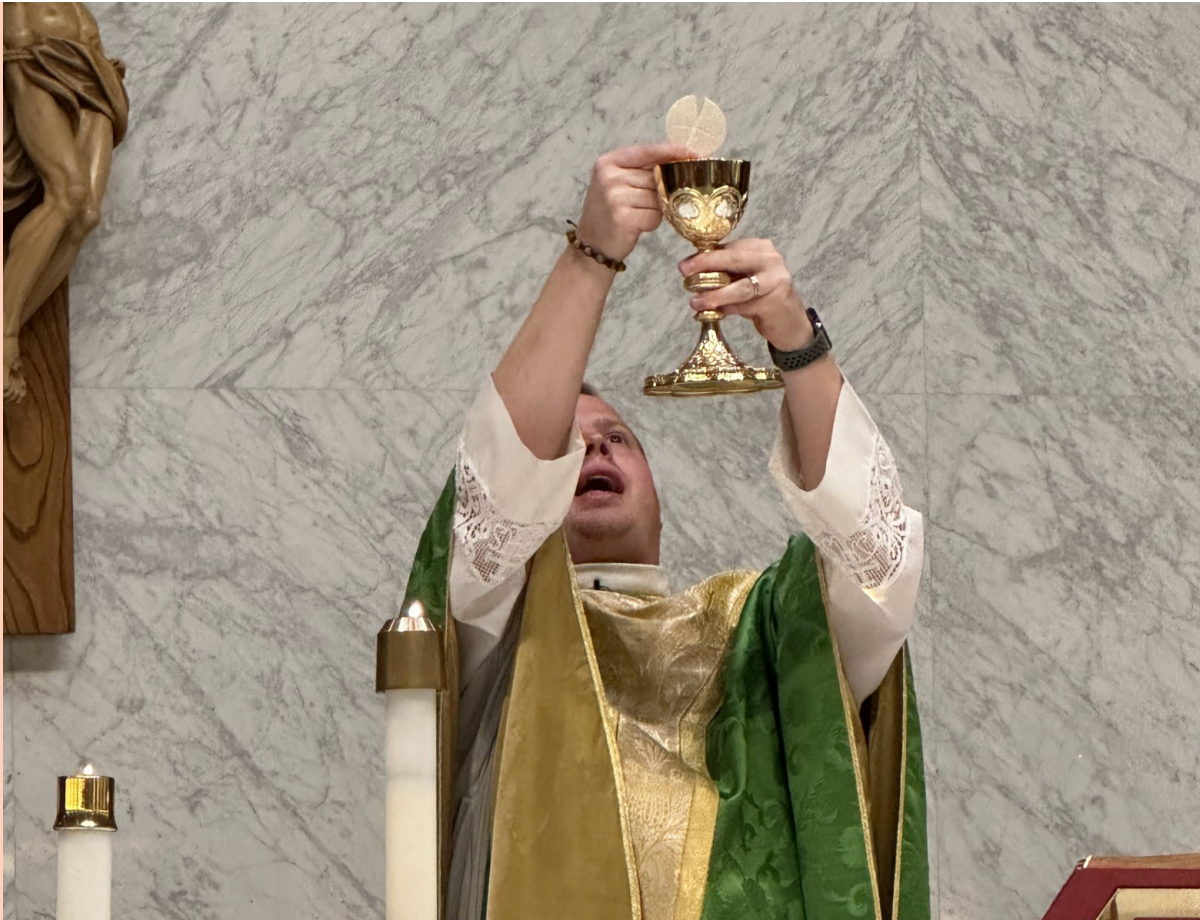
From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church
<mail@flocknote.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 2:01 PM
To: Melissa Fasano
Subject: Parish Update: October 24, 2023



Beautiful Eucharist

"I used to think my imagination was for seeing things that aren't real. In truth, it is for seeing things that are the most real -- because the most important parts of life are invisible. You need imagination to account for all the real things that can't be seen, like thoughts. Or heavy things that can't be weighed, like values. Movements of the most powerful creatures, like angels. Sacrifices that can't be measured, like love. Actions that are most important, like prayer. Forces that hold this universe together, like grace. Miracles hidden beneath the ordinary, like the Eucharist."

Matt Warner in Matthew Kelly's Beautiful Eucharist



Ministry No One Else Sees

One of our parishioners invited her friend to the October **Healing Prayer** session, as she (the friend) was facing surgery the following week. Our Healing Prayer ministers prayed over her, and a couple of days later, she was also given a quilt from our **Quilting Ministry** as a source of comfort following her surgery. She sent the following note:



"I want to express my gratitude for the beautiful prayer quilt I received. I'm so thankful to have found your church; it was so wonderful to be with the Prayer Circle on Sunday and be prayed over. I really knew the Holy Spirit was there with us. I will be going into surgery soon and feel covered and blessed in so many ways, largely due to your wonderful

parish and how you have opened up to me in this time of need."

We are so grateful for the faith, hope, and love behind the quiet and often unseen service of so many hearts in our community. Your gifts are transforming hearts -- their impact is truly unmeasurable!

Staff Meetings

This month, our staff resumed the regularly "structured" staff meetings and welcomed at these monthly gatherings Deacon Eric Kispert, his wife, Debby, and our new Bookkeeper, Karen Fajardo.



Following lunch and casual conversation, some shared recent **highs and lows**, which may be from a personal or ministry perspective. Diane then led the group in **Prayer** with a beautiful meditation. For **Development Content**, Father Alex shared a video on the Eucharist, followed by small group discussion.



Following **announcements and ministry updates**, it was time for the **Fun Activity**, with a game of *"Imagine if..."* As always, the team is guaranteed a time of laughter and poking some healthy fun at one another. 😊



Our Staff Meetings nourish our souls, strengthen us in leadership and ministry, and bring us closer to each other so that we may do our best in serving our Lord, our parish community, and the Church.

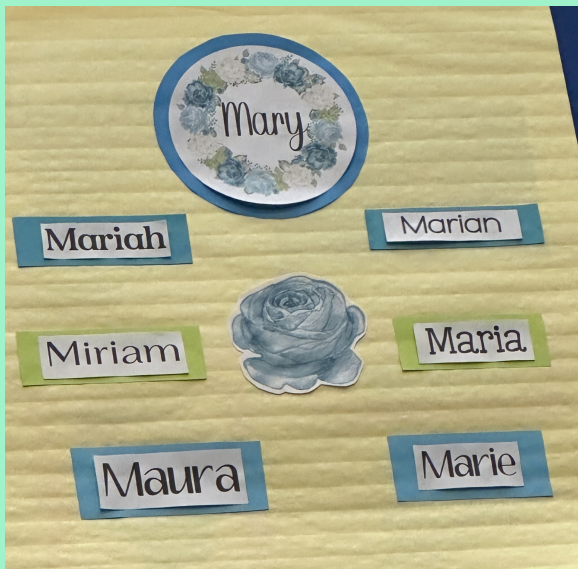
Elementary Family Faith: *Mary: Here, There and Everywhere!*

By Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator

Did you know many people, places, and things are named after Mary? On Sunday, Faith Leader **Paola Hall** explained how our devotion to Mary is intertwined in many parts of our lives.



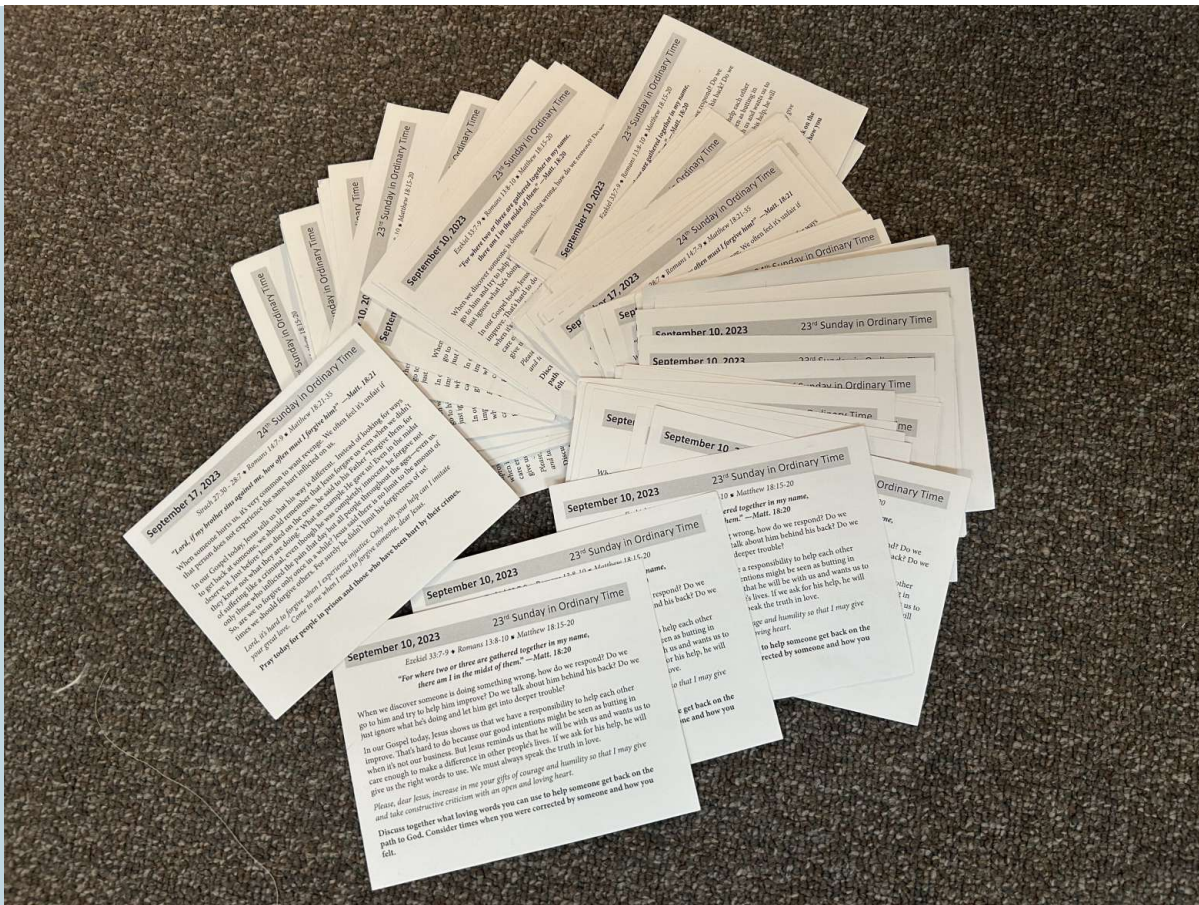
As Paula shared, girls are named Mary, Maria, Mariam, or some other form of the name. Many churches are named after Mary, like our Notre Dame of Mount Carmel. Even ladybugs are named after Mary, and the spots on the back of ladybugs symbolize the seven joys and seven sorrows of Mary.



This lesson was a good reminder that the Blessed Mother is always around us, even in the everyday aspects of our lives!

Family Faith: Mass Transit Conversations

(Comments reflect previous Sundays' celebrations)



Was there something special you noticed at Mass today?

"Daddy talked!"

"The priest didn't talk about a homily, but Dave did."

"The priest was happy that I was there because no children come to that church." [Family attended Mass elsewhere]

"Vince asked what the big red and gold book is - the Gospel. Also noticed Fr Paddy - we usually see Father Alex."

"Deacon Joe and Fr. Alex are growing a beard; Fr. Patty spoke and didn't call the kids up."

"Someone new is in the choir."

"How everybody was kind."

"The priest speaks so loudly that everyone woke up. Iza was very good, too!" [Family attended Mass elsewhere]

What was one new insight the homily gave you?

"Our church is a place we belong to."

"Let everyone join even if there isn't enough room."

"God gives us what we need."

"When you feel defeated, you can ask God to comfort you."

"Be a part of a team. Don't be selfish."

"We need to choose entertainment wisely that brings us closer to God."

"Grapes make grape juice and wine!"

"It is important to support the church community any way we can."

"Stereotypes aren't always true."

"That the church makes its own wine through love and hope."

Middle School Family Faith & Confirmation Prep Off to a Great Start!

By Laura Balogh, Director of Family Faith Formation

On October 15 and October 22, the faith year got off to a rousing start for the families in our Middle School, Confirmation Level 1 and Confirmation Level 2 children!



The 23 families in our Confirmation Level 2 program are using *Pflaum's Gospel Weeklies Visions* resources as they are formed to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next spring. Faith Formation begins with Mass each Sunday at 6 p.m., followed by a session exploring the day's Gospel message. Our first meeting on 10/15 was a "Getting to Know You" session with games and icebreakers. The teens will also be able to hear from various guest speakers in ministry throughout the year and will be assigned home activities to experience with their parents.



The 39 families in the Middle School and Confirmation Level 1 program are utilizing the home-based ***Pathways Mercy***, focusing on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, a vital part of formation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Families will hold sessions at home and will also gather for a few sessions as a large group here at the church.



During this past Sunday's session, the families worked on a service project, making Blessings Bags filled with items they donated to benefit recipients in need through the *Hope One* organization. They also created inspirational and encouraging notes, which were included in the bags.



Before working on this project, the families viewed a video of Beth Vecchio, the parish's Food Rescue Ministry Leader, providing her own witness of how she was inspired to her life of service. Beth's inspiring message provided encouragement to the families, saying that service "doesn't have to be big": it simply involves seeing a need and filling it when the opportunity arises. Even sitting with a lonely child in the cafeteria is a valuable service.



Please keep these families in your prayers as they continue their journey this year!

Operation Chillout: Supporting Our Veterans

Deacon Ray Chimileski, from St Luke's Parish in Long Valley, recently approached our parish seeking support for **Operation Chillout**, an outreach

initiative supporting homeless veterans. For those wishing to help, backpacks will be available in our Gathering Space through Thanksgiving and will be collected back with purchased items in our Gathering Space through Sunday, November 26th.

OPERATION CHILLOUT
HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH

WINTER BACKPACK DRIVE



Help us provide new warm clothing to a homeless veteran, man or woman.

Please take a backpack and return it to our Gathering Space with the following new items in the noted size/gender specification:
ski gloves, boot socks, a beanie hat, a warm hoodie, and long thermal underwear.

**RETURN BY THANKSGIVING WEEKEND,
Nov. 25 & 26, 2023**

Questions? Please contact Beth Vecchio at singerdramagirl@hotmail.com



Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus for helping organize and label the backpacks!

**This week's Mass
& Lamp Intentions**

**Parishioner
Announcements**

Memories that share our story...

Daughters of Grace



Food Rescue in Action





Family Mass





Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications



Direct replies to this email can only be seen by admins. Click the blue Reply button above to leave a public comment.
Email me when people reply to this note

To ensure that these emails land in your inbox and do not go into spam, please add mail@flocknote.com to your email address book or safe senders list.



[my info](#) • [unsubscribe](#)

75 Ridgedale Avenue, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927 • [ndcarmel.com](#)