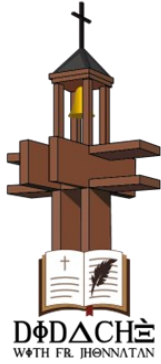
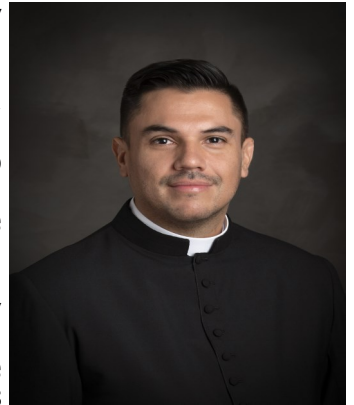


MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024 DIDACHE



Dear Parishioners, Benefactors, and Friends of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish:

On Ash Wednesday, as the Collect Prayer for Mass says, we have begun *'The Campaign of Christian Service'*. Also, in the Gospel that same day, Jesus invited us to do three of the spiritual practices: almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. And doing so in secret in order for the Father to give us his reward.



We focus on these spiritual practices more eagerly during the Lenten season. We give our parishioners, benefactors, and friends the opportunity to help the Diocesan Church by supporting their many ministries and the help that they provide to our parish community. After our parish makes its Diocese directed financial goal of \$11,000 in AMA 2024 the offerings beyond that will come directly to our parish which we can surely use in many ways, some of which I will mention now. Therefore our goal for the AMA 2024 will be \$ 45,000.

One of our first priorities is to update the space where the piano is now located to become our Baptismal Chapel. We have already received a wonderful donation of a new baptismal font, ambry set and base for the easter candle. But we want to update the floor there and relocate an existing stained window that is by the tabernacle chapel (that nobody can see) to the baptismal chapel.

Also, I would like to update the sign that is by the entrance of our property. It needs the correct, updated contact information, Mass times, etc. I want to put a sign above the main entrance of our church building with the name of our parish and do the same with the parish hall. It is very hard to find the office if you are new to our parish, so some directional signs are also required.

Finally, I would like to update the front pews with kneelers as well as some of the pews at the rear that are missing kneelers.

Approximately 50% of the funds from the AMA 2024 need to go to our regular operating account. It difficult for us to sustain the regular budget with our plate collection. I hope and pray that you can help us with these projects to make our church more welcoming, and adequate for our worship space.

Prayer is one of the practices we want to increase during the Lenten Season so we are going to be praying Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 5:30PM. And this year our neighboring St. Joseph's Parish in Spreckels is offering a Lenten Mission over 3 nights. Fr. Albert Haase, OFM, will lead us in a Lenten talk entitled: **SIGNED AND SEALED WITH THE CROSS**. We will explore the identity of our God proclaimed in the ancient gesture of being signed with a cross. March 11, 12, and 13th at 7:00pm, followed by refreshments and fellowship in the Hall. St. Joseph's is located at 15 Railroad Avenue in Spreckels, 9362. Fr. Albert Haase preached the retreat for the priests this past October. He is a wonderful preacher and is highly recommended.

The last spiritual practice is fasting. It is something that we do not so well here, because of the delicious Lenten Dinners that are scheduled for Fridays February 23rd, Friday March 8th, Friday March 22nd all at 6:00 PM. Well at least we do not have them all the Fridays during Lent, but fasting is a healing remedy and a way for us to help those who are in need.

I look forward to the celebration of Easter! We going to receive one catechumen in the church, with the three sacraments of initiation and three adults are going to be confirmed and will profess the faith of the church. As I already mentioned we going to bless the new baptismal font, ambry closet and base for the easter candle on the Easter Vigil. Prayers for you on this time of opportunity.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Jhonntan F. Carmona
Parish Priest.