



# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT –“C” MARCH 27TH 2025

***THIS SON OF MINE WAS DEAD, AND HAS COME TO LIFE AGAIN;  
HE WAS LOST, AND HAS BEEN FOUND.'***

The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's

First we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honor the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honors him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father.

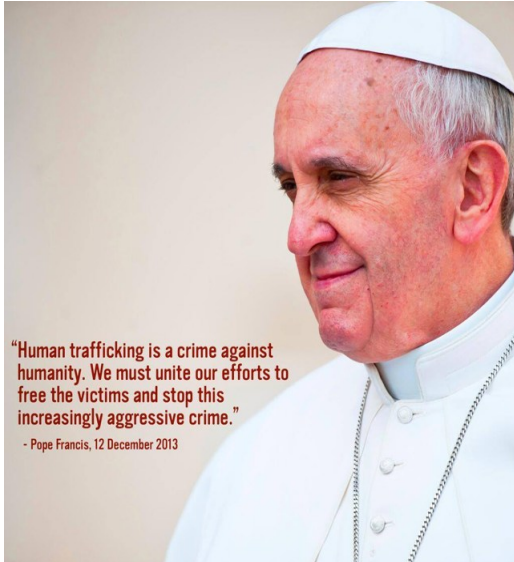
We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

Loyola Press.



# THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING MINISTRY AT OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel has many ministries which are focused on enriching the spiritual experience for our parishioners and also providing valuable services to our local area and community. From time to time, we will be featuring these ministries in the bulletin in order to raise awareness and, hopefully, motivate others to get involved in this valuable aspect of our Parish life.



The Human Trafficking Ministry is led by Brendan Cook who is a local businessperson also teaching at Carmel Middle School. Brendan and his family live in Carmel Valley. While working in the UK, Brendan saw the impact of human trafficking in his job firsthand and learnt how easy it was for criminal gangs to exploit the most vulnerable in society *“That made me realize I had to do something about it, so when we came to Carmel Valley, I was so pleased to be involve with this ministry”*.

The mission of the Human Trafficking Ministry is to raise awareness about those impacted by human trafficking and raise funds for those not-for-profits who support them. As Pope Francis wrote recently to mark the International Day of Prayer & Awareness against Human Trafficking *“Jesus teaches us first of all to listen, with closeness and compassion, to the people who have experienced trafficking, to help them get back on their feet and together with them to identify the best ways to free others and to do prevention”*.

The Ministry holds an annual fundraising event over one weekend when they have guest speakers attending all masses to raise awareness about the issue and seek donations for their work. In addition, they will provide an update from law enforcement and other institutions, who support those being trafficked, so our parish can understand more about its presence in our community and how we can help.

Brendan will be looking for volunteers to help at the Ministry’s annual fundraiser and also to join the update meetings. Dates for these events will be announced shortly. Please contact Brendan directly through the Parish Office if you want more information on how to support this important effort.

## IV DOMINGO DE CUARESMA ´ ESTE HIJO MÍO ESTABA MUERTO Y HA VUELTO A LA VIDA, ESTABA PERDIDO Y LO HEMOS ENCONTRADO´

La parábola que Jesús narra en el Evangelio de hoy es exclusiva del Evangelio de Lucas. Jesús ha estado enseñando a la multitud durante su viaje a Jerusalén. Mientras enseña, los fariseos y escribas se quejan y lo desafían porque acoge a pecadores en su mesa. Hoy escuchamos la tercera de las tres parábolas que Jesús narra en respuesta a sus críticos. Estas tres parábolas conocidas —la oveja perdida, la moneda perdida y la parábola del hijo pródigo— nos invitan a considerar la profundidad de la voluntad de Dios.

Primero debemos imaginar nuestra primera reacción ante la audacia de un hijo que pide su herencia antes de que su padre muera. La indignación sería, sin duda, una respuesta justificable ante tal petición. Sin embargo, el padre de esta parábola accede a honrar la petición del hijo y divide sus bienes entre sus dos hijos. ¿Cómo podríamos describir a un padre así? Nos viene a la mente la idea de un padre necio, pero también la de un padre confiado. Sin bienes propios, el padre debe confiar en sus hijos para su bienestar.

El hijo menor recibe su herencia y se va de casa. El hijo mayor se queda, manteniendo al padre y a la familia. Tras ser deshonrado por el hijo menor, el padre pasa un tiempo esperando el regreso del hijo perdido. Cuando finalmente ve regresar a su hijo descarriado, no solo lo recibe, sino que corre a saludarlo y lo honra con una fiesta. Decimos que este padre es amoroso y misericordioso. Sin embargo, estos adjetivos solo describen la profundidad del amor y la misericordia que lo caracterizan.

No nos sorprende la ira del hijo mayor. Sin embargo, el padre parece triste e incluso confundido por la indignación del hijo mayor. Responde que deberían celebrar porque el hijo perdido ha regresado. El padre está lleno de gratitud y amor por la fidelidad del hijo mayor. Este amor no se ve disminuido en absoluto por el regocijo del padre por el regreso del hijo menor. Sin embargo, los celos del hijo mayor revelan su limitada comprensión de la profundidad del amor de su padre.



# MASS INTENTIONS

March 29<sup>th</sup> — April 6<sup>th</sup> 2025

Sat. Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> Vigil 4:30: For the Health of **Laurie Pike and Teresa del Pietro**

Sun. Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00: + **Rev John Mc Sweeney**  
(15th Anni.)

11:00: + **Joann McIntyre**

Wed. April 2<sup>nd</sup> 12:00: + **Fausta Rubio**

Thurs. April 3<sup>rd</sup> 12:00: + **John Jordon**

Fri. April 4<sup>th</sup> 12:00: + **Joyce Petriella**

Sat. April 5<sup>th</sup> 4:30: + **Joe & Patricia Reinkenmeyer**

Sun. April. 6<sup>th</sup> 9:00: + **Phillip Pare**

11:00: - **Health of Tula Selis**

MAY THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL  
DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD,  
REST IN PEACE. AMEN

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup> \$2,712.26

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO OUR  
PARISH COMMUNITY

## FROM THE PARISH PRIEST'S DESK...



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



The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This weekend Parable of the Prodigal Son describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.

I ask you kindly to read the article on Human Trafficking Ministry at Our Parish. Also please mark your calendars for our Lenten Reconciliation Service on Wed. April 9th at 6:30pm.

Shalom! Fr. Jhonnatan.

**SPAIN PILGRIMAGE**  
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**For More Information, Please Contact:**  
Fr. Jhonnatan Carmona  
Tel: (831) 659-2224  
Email: frjcarmona@ourladycarmelvalley.org



**DON'T MISS OUT! SIGN UP TODAY!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**2025 AMA:** 25 donors and **\$12,490**. We're at 25% of both parish and donor goals.

Fri. April 4<sup>th</sup> **FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.** Adoration 12:30—5:15pm.

### LENTEN SEASON 2025

**Stations of the Cross Fridays:** 5:30pm.

**Lenten Reconciliation Service.** Wed. April 9th at 6:30pm. 4 guest priests hearing confessions.

### 2025 LENTEN DINNERS

Tickets for sale this weekend. \$ 35  
Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

## HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER 2025

### PALM SUNDAY

Sat. April 12<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm: Vigil Mass

Sun. April 13<sup>th</sup>: 9 & 11am Masses.  
1pm Misa en Espanol.

*Blessing of Palms (Covid Memorial Garden)*

*"Weather permitting"*

### CHRISM MASS

Tue. of Holy Week April 15<sup>th</sup>  
11am At Madonna del Sasso in Salinas.

### WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

April 16<sup>th</sup> 12pm Betrayal Mass

### HOLY THURSDAY

April 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm: Bilingual Mass of the Lord's Supper -Adoration Until 10pm  
Parish Hall

### GOOD FRIDAY

April 18<sup>th</sup>: 3:00 pm Stations of Cross  
3:45 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion  
6:00 pm Santo Via Crucis & 7 Dolores de la Virgen (*Cachagua Community Park*)

### HOLY SATURDAY

April 19<sup>th</sup> 8:00 pm: Bilingual Easter Vigil  
*Blessing of Fire (Covid Memorial Garden)*

*"Weather permitting"*

### EASTER SUNDAY

April 20<sup>th</sup>: 9 & 11am Easter English Masses.



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## SCHEDULE

### Weekday Mass

Wednesday — Friday, 12 noon

### Weekend Mass

Saturday Vigil at 4:30 PM

Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 AM in English,

Spanish Mass: 2nd Sunday of the Month

1:00 pm in the Church.

4th Saturday of the month at 7:00pm in Cachagua.

### Reconciliation

Saturday at 3:30 PM and by appointment

### Office Hours

Wednesday — Friday:

1:00 pm—3:00 pm.

Sundays: 10:00 am—11:00 am.

*“At the heart of silence is prayer. At the heart of prayer is faith. At the heart of faith is life. At the heart of life is service.” St. Teresa of Avila*

## PARISH MINISTRIES

Pastoral Council

Finance Council

Faith Formation

Bereavement Ministry

Manna Ministry

Human Trafficking

Music Ministry

Parish Hall & Kitchen Rental

Social Media

Website

Eucharistic Ministers

Coffee Hospitality

Sacristans

Lectors

Ushers

## PARISH STAFF

**Fr. Jhonnatan Flórez Carmona**

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