



# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

## CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

300 Fulton Street, Redwood City, CA 94062

Phone: (650) 366-3802 Fax: (650) 366-1421

PARISH CENTER HOURS - Monday-Friday **now from 8:30AM-4:00PM**, break from 12PM-1PM

Dec. 14, 2025



### Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

Parish GOAL: \$72,983

Collected donations: \$54,200  
*(As of 12/02/25)*

Balance due (until December):  
**\$18,783**

Donation envelopes are in the vestibule.  
If you wish to make donations online,  
please use this website:

<https://sfarchdiocese.org/aaa/#aaa-donate-form>

## 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." - Mt 11:11

"Entre los nacidos de mujer no ha surgido uno mayor que Juan el Bautista; sin embargo, el más pequeño en el Reino de los Cielos es mayor que él." - Mt 11,11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
Leccionario II © 1987 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano ©LPI

### Third Advent Candle: Joy – “Gaudete Sunday”

*“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’” (Luke 2:10-12)*

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On this third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls “Gaudete Sunday,” meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, the third candle of Advent is called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy.

*(hallow app)*

We are now accepting Poinsettias for our Christmas Season decorations.

You may leave them at the vestibule. Thank you very much.



## PARISH MASSES & LITURGIES

<b>DAILY MASS:</b>	Monday - Saturday, 8:15 AM
<b>SATURDAY VIGIL MASS:</b>	5:00 PM - English
<b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b>	8:00 AM, 10:00 AM - English; 12:00 PM - Español
<b>1<sup>st</sup> FRIDAY Devotion:</b>	Eucharistic Adoration follows the 8:15 AM Mass
<b>CONFESSIONS:</b>	Saturdays, 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK, FUNERAL SERVICES or HOUSE BLESSING:</b>	Please call the Parish Center to set an appointment.
<b>BAPTISM - Monthly:</b>	Second Saturday: 10:00 AM - English El cuarto sábado: 10:00 AM - Español <b>Please call at least 2 months prior to the approved date of baptism.</b>
<b>QUINCEAÑERA MASS:</b>	Saturdays at 12 noon. Subject to availability. <b>Please call at least 5 months prior to the approved date of the Mass.</b> Suggested donation is \$500. Stipend for a musician is a separate fee and it depends on availability. Initial deposit required to reserve the date. Our Hall is not available for receptions.
<b>MARRIAGE:</b>	Saturdays at 12 noon. Subject to availability. <b>Please call at least 6 months prior to the approved date of the wedding.</b> Suggested donation is \$700. Stipend for a musician is a separate fee and it depends on availability. Initial deposit required to reserve the date. Our Hall is not available for receptions.

## CLERGY

<b>Pastor:</b> <i>Rev. Msgr. Romulo Vergara</i>	rvergara@mountcarmel.org
<b>Administrator:</b> <i>Rev. Fr. Andy De Guzman</i>	adeguzman@mountcarmel.org
<b>Hospital Chaplain:</b> <i>Rev. Fr. Ernie Jandonero</i>	frerniej@sfhealingandprayer.com
<b>Deacon:</b> <i>Rev. Mr. Raymond Smith</i>	rsmith@mountcarmel.org
<b>Deacon:</b> <i>Rev. Mr. Ricardo Escobar</i>	rescobar@mountcarmel.org

## LAY STAFF

<b>Parish Secretary:</b> <i>Luke Mulhall</i>	lmulhall@mountcarmel.org	(650) 366-3802
<b>Director, Liturgy:</b> <i>Maria Cornell</i>	mcornell@mountcarmel.org	(650) 446-5802
<b>Director, Religious Ed:</b> <i>Magdalena Hernandez</i>	mhernandez@mountcarmel.org	(650) 368-8237
<b>OCIA:</b> <i>Rev. Mr. Raymond Smith</i>	rsmith@mountcarmel.org	(650) 366-3802
<b>Confirmation:</b> <i>Johanna Rasmussen</i>	jrasmussen@mountcarmel.org	(650) 366-3802
<b>Music Cantors:</b> <i>Kristen Lapinig &amp; Leodan Guerra</i>		
<b>School Principal:</b> <i>Jennifer Bruzzone</i>	jbruzzone@mountcarmel.org	(650) 366-6127



Pray for our departed parishioners  
**May they rest in peace**  
**AMEN.**



**Adoration Chapel**  
*Open Sundays through Saturdays*  
*from 9am to 9pm*

Community prayer for all the sick including our pastor, Msgr. Loi Vergara  
at the Church every **2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of the month** at 7pm.

## Gospel Message

The Gospel of this third Sunday of Advent speaks to us about John the Baptist who, while in prison, sends his disciples to ask Jesus: “Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?” (*Mt 11:4*). Indeed, John, hearing of Jesus’ works, is seized with doubt as to whether He is really the Messiah or not. In fact, he imagined a stern Messiah who would come and do justice with power by chastising sinners. Now, on the contrary, Jesus has words and gestures of compassion towards all; at the center of His action is the mercy that forgives, whereby “the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them” (v. 6). It does us good, however, to look more closely at this crisis of John the Baptist, as it can tell us something important too. The text emphasizes that John is in prison, and this, as well as being a physical place, makes us think of the inner situation he is experiencing: in prison there is darkness, there is no possibility of seeing clearly and seeing beyond it. In effect, the Baptist is no longer able to recognize Jesus as the awaited Messiah. He is assailed by doubt, and he sends the disciples to check: “Go and see if he is the Messiah or not”. It surprises us that this should happen to John, the one who had baptized Jesus in the Jordan and had indicated him to his disciples as the Lamb of God (cf. *Jn 1:29*). But this means that even the greatest believer goes through the tunnel of doubt. And this is not a bad thing; on the contrary, sometimes it is essential for spiritual growth: it helps us understand that God is always greater than we imagine Him to be. His works are surprising compared to our calculations; His actions are different, always, they exceed our needs and expectations; and therefore, we must never stop seeking Him and converting to His true face.

This is what the Baptist does: in doubt, he still seeks Him, questions Him, “argues” with Him and finally rediscovers Him. John, defined by Jesus as the greatest among those born of women (cf. *Mt 11:11*), teaches us, in short, not to close God within our own mindsets.

### Pope Francis

*(Excerpt from Angelus Address 2022)*

El Evangelio de este tercer domingo de Adviento nos habla de Juan Bautista que, mientras está en la cárcel, manda a sus discípulos a preguntar a Jesús: «¿Eres tú el que ha de venir, o debemos esperar a otro?» (*Mt 11,3*). Al oír hablar de las obras de Jesús, a Juan le asalta la duda de si realmente es el Mesías o no. De hecho, él pensaba en un Mesías severo que, al llegar, haría justicia con fuerza castigando a los pecadores. Jesús, en cambio, tiene palabras y gestos de compasión hacia todos, en el centro de su acción está la misericordia que perdona, por lo que «los ciegos ven y los cojos andan, los leprosos quedan limpios y los sordos oyen, los muertos resucitan y se anuncia a los pobres la Buena Nueva» (v. 5). Nos hace bien detenernos en esta crisis de Juan el Bautista, porque nos puede decir algo importante también a nosotros.

El texto subraya que Juan se encuentra en la cárcel, y esto, además de en el lugar físico, hace pensar en la situación interior que está viviendo: en la cárcel hay oscuridad, falta la posibilidad de ver claro y ver más allá. De hecho, el Bautista ya no logra reconocer Jesús como Mesías esperado. Está asaltado por la duda y envía a los discípulos a verificar: “Id a ver si es el Mesías o no”. Nos maravilla que esto le suceda precisamente a Juan, el cual había bautizado a Jesús en el Jordán y lo había indicado a sus discípulos como el Cordero de Dios (cfr. *Jn 1,29*). Pero esto significa que también el creyente más grande atraviesa el túnel de la duda. Y esto no es un mal, es más, a veces es esencial para el crecimiento espiritual: nos ayuda a entender que Dios es siempre más grande de cómo lo imaginamos; las obras que realiza son sorprendentes respecto a nuestros cálculos; su acción es diferente, siempre, supera nuestras necesidades y nuestras expectativas; y por eso no debemos dejar nunca de buscarlo y de convertirnos a su verdadero rostro.

Así hace el Bautista: ante la duda, lo busca una vez más, lo interroga, “discute” con Él y finalmente lo descubre. Juan, definido por Jesús el mayor entre los nacidos de mujer (cfr. *Mt 11,11*), nos enseña a no cerrar a Dios en nuestros esquemas. Este es siempre el peligro, la tentación: hacernos un Dios a nuestra medida, un Dios para usarlo. Y Dios es otra cosa.

## LAY ORGANIZATIONS

- Mental Health Ministry
- Good Grief Ministry
- Legion of Mary (Eng & Sp)
- Rosary Group
- The Prayer Warriors
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Pro Life 40 days for Life Group
- Sto. Niño Group
- El Grupo Guadalupano
- Lazos de Amor Mariano
- El Grupo Aliento de Oracion
- OCIA – Catechists
- Bible Study Group
- Men’s Club
- Women’s Club

### Liturgical ministries:

- Altar servers
- Lectors & Holy Communion ministers
- Hospitality: Ushers and Greeters
- Music Ministry
- Liturgical Environment

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

*Sat., Dec. 14*

5:00 PM † Charles Raubacher

*Sun., Dec. 15*

8:00 AM † Don Ferrando

10:00 AM † Mario Rosillo

12:00 PM † Juventina Lopez

† Aurelio Lopez-Ortiz

Weekdays @ 8:15 AM

*Mon., Dec. 16* † Filomena & Luigi Liberati

*Tues., Dec. 17* † Kevin O’Leary

*Wed., Dec. 18* † Gregory Alan Holloway

*Thurs., Dec. 19* † Kevin O’Leary

*Fri., Dec. 20* † Eucharia Mulhall

*Sat., Dec. 21* † Robert Clement

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection:** Dec. 7 - Facility Repair & Improvements    Dec. 14 - **Religious Education**  
Dec. 21 - Liturgy Fund    Dec. 25 – Christmas Offering    Dec. 28 – AAA

**Registration:** If you are new in our community, welcome! **Register at:** [mountcarmelrc.org/registration](http://mountcarmelrc.org/registration)  
Registered parishioners may also update their information on the website.

**FORMED:** Sign up to our free **FORMED** subscription for thousands of books, audio talks, movies, documentaries and studies to help you and your family nurture your faith in the Catholic tradition. Go to [formed.org](http://formed.org) then enter **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Redwood City** or our zip code: **94062**

**GO PAPERLESS!** Our weekly bulletin is also available online @  
<https://parishesonline.com/organization/our-lady-of-mount-carmel-church-94062>  
<https://www.mountcarmelrc.org/>

The 2nd collection this Sunday is for **Religious Education**

*Thank you very much for your generosity.*

### Mental Health Ministry

Call: Maria Koenigsberg @  
(650) 366-3802  
Or email us at:  
[olmmentalhealthministry@gmail.com](mailto:olmmentalhealthministry@gmail.com)



### Good Grief Ministry

Call: Maryann Gonzales @  
(650) 366-3802  
The ministry meets **every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs**  
**of the month 6pm** at the Parish Center.

## Journey to Christmas



## A saint for the children and youth



*Oh God, Our Father, thank you for giving us **St. Carlo Acutis**, a life example for the young and a message of love for everyone. You made him become enamored with*

*Your Son Jesus, Making of the Eucharist his "Highway to Heaven". You gave him Mary, as a most loving Mother, and, with the Rosary, you made him a poet of her tenderness. Receive his prayer for us. Above all, gaze upon the poor, whom he loved and helped.*

*Grant for me too, by his intercession, the grace that I need ...*

*I ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen*

<https://www.carloacutis.com/en/association/preghiera-ufficiale>

## Prayers to the Holy Couple

**Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,** that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

**Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,**

Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed **Joseph**, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

## *Catechism of the Catholic Church* **THE FALL**

**413** "God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. . . It was through the devil's envy that death entered the world" (Wis 1:13; 2:24).

**416** By his sin Adam, as the first man, lost the original holiness and justice he had received from God, not only for himself but for all human beings.

**417** Adam and Eve transmitted to their descendants human nature wounded by their own first sin and hence deprived of original holiness and justice; this deprivation is called "original sin".

**418** As a result of original sin, human nature is weakened in its powers, subject to ignorance, suffering and the domination of death, and inclined to sin (this inclination is called "concupiscence").

**420** The victory that Christ won over sin has given us greater blessings than those which sin had taken from us: "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (Rom 5:20).

**421** Christians believe that "the world has been established and kept in being by the Creator's love; has fallen into slavery to sin but has been set free by Christ, crucified and risen to break the power of the evil one. . ."

## SIMBÁNG GABÍ

### *December*

*15<sup>th</sup> Monday 7 pm*

*Mt. Carmel Redwood City*

*16<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 5 pm*

*St. Charles San Carlos*

*17<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7 pm*

*St. Matthias Redwood City*

*18<sup>th</sup> Thursday 7 pm*

*St. Denis Menlo Park*

*19<sup>th</sup> Friday 7 pm*

*St. Raymond Menlo Park*

*20<sup>th</sup> Saturday 5 pm*

*St. Pius Redwood City*

*21<sup>st</sup> Sunday 5 pm*

*St. Raymond Menlo Park*

*22<sup>nd</sup> Monday 7 pm*

*Nativity Menlo Park*

*23<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 7 pm*

*Mt. Carmel Redwood City*

**Simbáng Gabí** (Night Mass) is a long treasured Filipino spiritual tradition. In the Philippines, it was celebrated as a series of nine dawn Masses right before Christmas, each Mass followed by a reception and fellowship. For pastoral reasons, these daily novena Masses are now also celebrated in the evening.

Set within Advent, Simbang Gabi invites participants to heighten their preparation for the birth of Jesus, as well as honor **the Blessed Virgin Mary**.

## Baptism & Confirmation

The parents are the first and primary ministers of faith because of their central position during the formative years of the child's life. Through their daily contact with the child, they will share their faith and help the child discover the Father's loving presence in all creation. For this environment to exist the parents must live lives rooted in faith.

### WHO MAY BE GODPARENTS?

#### Baptism:

1184.1 He/she is a baptized, confirmed, and active Catholic who is able to receive the sacraments.

1184.2 He/she is in frequent contact with the parents and is capable of encouraging them and their child to live the faith.

1184.3 A baptized, confirmed, and active member of the Orthodox Church may be a Godparent. In such a case an Orthodox Priest must be consulted because of ecumenical considerations. Members of other Christian Churches may be Christian witnesses to the Baptism.

#### Confirmation:

1243.1 Sponsors: The ordinary practice is that there be individual sponsors for each candidate being confirmed. It is desirable that the Godparent at Baptism be the sponsor at Confirmation to better express the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. Parents may present their children for Confirmation and in this way be sponsor. The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female.

1243.2 Pastors will see that the sponsor, chosen by the candidate, is spiritually qualified for the office. The sponsor should be sufficiently mature for this role, belong to the Catholic Church and have been initiated in the three Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. The sponsor should also be a person of faith, actively participating in the life of the Church, especially by receiving the Eucharist regularly.

1243.3 The sponsor should be of an age and living proximity that will enable the sponsor to be present to the candidate as he/she grows in the life of faith. The custom of having proxy sponsors for someone who is and who will continue to be separated by long distances from the candidate is discouraged.

(from Archdiocese of San Francisco website)

<https://sfparishconnect.com/docs/sacraments/>

## SPECIAL LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

**Dec. 19 (Fri)**

Healing Mass

**6pm** – English Mass

**Dec. 24 (Wed.)**

**8:15am** – English Mass of the Day

**4pm** – English Mass (Christmas Vigil)

**9pm** – Bilingual Mass (Christmas Night Mass)

**Dec. 25 (Thu.)**

Christmas Day

**10am** – English Mass

**12nn** – Spanish Mass

**Jan. 1 (Thu.)**

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God


*A holy day of obligation*


**10am** – English Mass

**12nn** – Spanish Mass



### ENROLL NOW

 (650) 366-6127

 [info@mountcarmel.org](mailto:info@mountcarmel.org)

 [www.school.mountcarmel.org](http://www.school.mountcarmel.org)

 @olmcpadres

 @mountcarmelschool

Offering Preschool, TK, and K-8 Programs.

Visit the QR Code for more information and tour dates

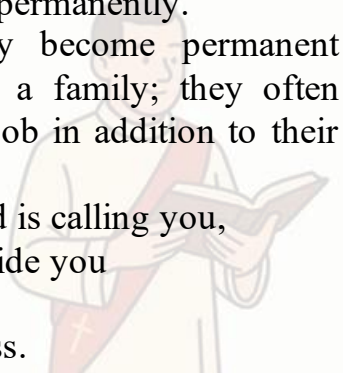


## PERMANENT DEACONS

A permanent deacon is a man who is not being formed for the priesthood but to be ordained a deacon permanently.

Married men may become permanent deacons and have a family; they often work in a secular job in addition to their diaconal role.

If you feel the Lord is calling you, see Fr. Andy to guide you through the discernment process.



### The Good Grief Ministry

invites those who have lost a loved one to the annual "Holiday Helps" candle lighting in memory of our deceased on **December 18th at 6:00pm** in the Old Chapel of the Parish Ctr. All are welcome to attend. A reception will follow.

### 2026 Collection Envelopes

Your Offering collection envelopes for 2026 are now available for pick-up in the vestibule.

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPE CHURCH OFFERING	
NAME _____	AMOUNT _____
DATE _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Tithes <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Church School	
Other _____	
<small>Every man according as he purpooeth in his heart, so let him give: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7) R.V.</small>	

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul

### Holiday Toys and Food Donations

We continue receiving food for families and toys for children who are struggling in our community during the Christmas season.