Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

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Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time – June 21, 2026

"The Lord is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph" Jer. 20:11

We read today's Gospel in the context of last week's Gospel in which Jesus sent the twelve disciples to proclaim the kingdom of heaven. In between last week's reading and today's reading, Jesus has predicted that the disciples will face difficulties in their mission. Many people will not receive them well, even within the land of Israel. Even family members will turn away from the disciples because of the disciples' commitment to Jesus and the kingdom. Today's Gospel offers the disciples consolation against this difficult truth.

This section of Matthew's Gospel should be read in the context of Matthew's intended audience, a Jewish-Christian community. The Gospel alludes to the dangers and persecutions that this community has most likely already faced and will continue to face. To reassure this community, Matthew recalls for them the encouraging words of Jesus that we read today.

In this Gospel passage, Jesus might be understood as putting suffering in perspective. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to keep their focus on God. Those who can harm the body do not have ultimate power; God does. Still persecution and suffering can not be avoided or prevented. But Jesus reassures his disciples that God knows and cares about what happens to his children.

We might not face the same type of persecution, but we do experience difficulties as we endeavor to live a Christian life. Sometimes we let the opinions of others prevent us from doing what we know to be right. We need the reminder that what God thinks about us is more important. We are reassured by the promise that God cares for us and protects us.

XII Domingo Ordinario– Junio 21, 2026

"El Señor, guerrero poderoso, está a mi lado; por eso mis perseguidores caerán por tierra" Jer. 20:11

El Evangelio de hoy, leído en continuidad con el pasaje de la semana pasada, nos recuerda que los discípulos enviados a anunciar el Reino también enfrentarán rechazo, incomprensión e incluso sufrimiento, a veces incluso de parte de sus seres más cercanos. En este contexto, Jesús ofrece palabras de consuelo y aliento.

San Mateo escribe a una comunidad judeocristiana que probablemente conoció la persecución de primera mano, y recuerda las enseñanzas de Jesús para fortalecer su fe y perseverancia. El mensaje es claro: aunque las dificultades son reales y no siempre pueden evitarse, no tienen la última palabra.

Jesús invita a sus discípulos a confiar en Dios, quien posee el poder absoluto y conoce y cuida a sus hijos. Incluso cuando surgen las dificultades, la presencia amorosa de Dios permanece fiel y constante.

En nuestra propia vida, aunque quizá no enfrentemos persecución, sí vivimos momentos de dificultad y presión. Este Evangelio nos recuerda que no debemos dejarnos guiar por el miedo o por la opinión de los demás, sino por la fidelidad a Dios, quien nos sostiene en su cuidado y nos da la fuerza para permanecer fieles al Evangelio.

The Importance of Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers in Parish Life

In the Catholic Church, the ministries of Lector and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (commonly called Eucharistic Ministers) play crucial roles in the celebration of the Mass and the spiritual life of the faithful. While these roles are not ordained ministries, they are essential lay ministries that support the Church's mission of worship, evangelization, and pastoral care. Through their service, lectors and Eucharistic ministers help facilitate a deeper encounter with the Word of God and the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Lectors are entrusted with proclaiming the Word of God during the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. This ministry is not simply a matter of reading aloud—it is a sacred responsibility that demands reverence, preparation, and a deep understanding of Scripture. When a lector proclaims the readings with clarity, conviction, and appropriate expression, they bring the living Word to life for the assembly. In this way, the lector becomes a channel through which God speaks to His people. This ministry reminds the faithful that Scripture is not just a historical text, but the voice of the living God still speaking today.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, on the other hand, serve by distributing the Body and Blood of Christ during Mass, and often also take Communion to the sick, elderly, or homebound. Their ministry highlights the communal and sacramental dimensions of the Church. The Eucharist is the "source and summit" of the Christian life, and Eucharistic ministers help ensure that the faithful can receive this spiritual nourishment. In doing so, they not only aid the priest but also visibly take part in the Church's mission of care and unity.

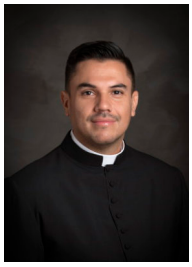
The presence of lectors and Eucharistic ministers affirms the Church's teaching from the Second Vatican Council on the active participation of the laity. These ministries provide laypeople with the opportunity to serve visibly and meaningfully in the liturgy, reinforcing the idea that all baptized Christians share in the priesthood of Christ and are called to serve the Church in various roles.Lectors and Eucharistic ministers serve as vital members of the liturgical community. They help to communicate the Word of God and share the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, enriching the spiritual life of the Church. Their ministries, grounded in service and faith, deepen the communal worship experience and reflect the Church's call for all the faithful to take part actively in the life and mission of Christ. Our Lady of Mount Carmel has a crucial need for more Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. As noted above, these roles are important and offer a unique way to take part in the Parish Community. All are welcome, and training is available for both roles. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested.

A Prayer For Fathers

Heavenly Father,
you entrusted your Son Jesus,
the child of Mary,
to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.

Bless all fathers
as they care for their families.
Give them strength and wisdom,
tenderness and patience;
support them in the work they have to do,
protecting those who look to them,
as we look to you for love and salvation,
through Jesus Christ

From the Parish Priest's Desk...



On this Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Lord reminds us not to be afraid, for nothing is hidden from God's loving care. In moments of uncertainty and struggle, we are called to trust that we are known, valued, and held in His hands. May we find courage in Christ's presence and peace in His promise to remain always with us.

I will be back this week in Carmel Valley Village. I am deeply grateful to the Lord for the gift of this time with my family, and I am also very thankful to my uncle, Fr. Henry, for covering for me these past weekends.

Shalom! Father Jhonnatan

Trash Bins Moving

Many of you have noted a small construction project in the parking lot and asked about it, and here is the explanation: For some time our trash and recycling bins have been the unsightly first things you see as you drive into our otherwise beautiful church. Parishioners Tom and Patricia Albanese have generously sponsored the construction of a new, fenced enclosure that should keep these necessary bins out of site and away from inappropriate dumping by the local community. We hope to complete this project by early July.

Construction is nearing completion on a new, fenced enclosure for our trash and recycling bins thanks to the generosity of Tom and Patricia Albanese.

Mass Intentions

June 20 – 28, 2026

Saturday June 20, 4:30 PM vigil:	Healing of Chad Peterson
Sunday June 21, 9:00 AM:	Intentions of All Living Fathers
11:00 AM:	Eternal Rest of All Deceased Fathers, † Ray Lucido (1st Anniv)
Wednesday June 24, 12:00 PM:	† Greg Franks
Thursday June 25, 12:00 PM:	Intentions of Lauren Oppenshaw
Friday June 26, 12:00 PM:	† Chuck McKay
Saturday June 27, 4:30 PM vigil:	People of the Parish
Sunday June 28, 9:00 AM:	† Jaynie White
11:00 AM:	† Betty Groves

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Weekly Collection

June 13 – 14: $2,289

Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

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Schedule

Weekday Mass

Wednesday – Friday: 12 PM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM
Sunday: 9:00 and 11:00 AM, in English
Spanish Masses:
2nd Sunday of the Month, 1:00 PM in the Church
4th Saturday of the Month, 7:00 PM 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
Human Trafficking
Music Ministry
Parish Hall & Kitchen Rental
Manna Ministry
Social Media
Website
Eucharistic Ministers
Coffee Hospitality
Sacristans
Lectors
Ushers

Parish Staff

Fr Jhonnatan Flórez Carmona, Parish Priest
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Rebecca Bayless, Bookkeeper
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Angelica Lozano, Custodian

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