

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish
Weekly Update as of December 2, 2020 at 9:00 AM

Dear Parishioners,

The season of Advent is here as we await the return of our Savior to bring us to our hearts desire, Heaven. It is also the season where we prepare ourselves to celebrate the great solemnity of the birth of Christ.

This year brings us a different way to celebrate our Christmas services. Because of the pandemic and the state's guidelines on gatherings, we are anticipating that our Christmas Masses will be celebrated outside. However, we want to make sure that this year's celebration of this great feast is still meaningful and brings the joy and the peace that this season is known for, so we will make these Masses as special as we can.

Our planned Outdoor Mass schedule is as follows:

Christmas Vigil Mass ▪ Thursday, December 24th at 4:30 pm ▪ "Family Mass" & Live streamed
Christmas Vigil Mass ▪ Thursday, December 24th at 7:00 pm ▪ "Mass at Night"
Christmas Day, Friday ▪ December 25th at 8:00 am ▪ "Mass of the Day"
Christmas Day, Friday ▪ December 25th at 10:00 am ▪ "Mass of the Day" & Communion afterwards

Seating will be limited to 200 people per service for health reasons, so reservations are a must. Yes, we are outside, but see it as "Christmas in Connecticut" - wear warm clothes, bring a lawn chair, blankets and maybe even a flashlight. Make it Christmassy, this is a great time to wear your ugly Christmas sweater. And remember, if it is raining, all outdoor activities will be cancelled.

To also prepare us for the Lords return and Christmas, it is a great spiritual practice to go to Confession. Many of us were not able go at Easter time because of the pandemic, so please plan to go this Advent. We have regular Confession at the school lunch benches every Saturday from 3:30 to 4:15 pm. We will add the following days for Confessions during Christmas week:

Tuesday, December 22nd ▪ 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Wednesday, December 23rd ▪ 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Wednesday, December 23rd ▪ 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

The Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th, a Holy Day Obligation, has been dispensed for this year, and being that our outside courtyard is very dark at night, we will just have our regular morning Mass that day at 7:45 am.

Also, today is "Giving Tuesday". Please remember Our Lady of Mount Carmel in your charitable offerings. You can go to our website to donate.

God Bless,

Fr. Lawrence

Sunday Masses: The 8:00 am and 10:00 am Sunday Masses are celebrated outside on the school grass, behind the church parking lot. Reservations are suggested, please send an email to infor@mtcarmelsb.com. Remember to bring a lawn chair or blanket. The 10:00 am Mass will also be livestreamed on our website www.mtcarmelsb.com or you can go to our Facebook page at [@mountcarmelsb](https://www.facebook.com/@mountcarmelsb). Mask/face covering required.

Those who are unable to attend the Mass because of their age or health concerns, they are invited to come by the church, starting on Sunday at 11:10 am to 11:30 am to receive Holy Communion.

Daily Mass: Monday through Saturday at 7:45 am outside in the side courtyard. Masks are required.

Adoration: Wednesdays, from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm, up at the school lunch benches. Masks are required.

Confession: Saturday, from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm up at the school lunch benches or call the office to set up an appointment (805) 969-6868.

Parish Office: Still closed, but we are still taking phone calls, answering emails, and accepting regular mail.

Flocknotes: To get up-to-date information from the Parish, please register for our communication program managed by Flocknotes.

1. **Go to “flocknote.com”**
2. Click on “Find Your Church”
3. Type Zip Code — 93108
4. Select “Our Lady of Mount Carmel”
5. Fill in your information
6. Click on “Sign me up”

Weekly Giving: We continue to be blessed with all your weekly giving. Our faith community has truly shown their dedication to the parish during this unprecedented time of crisis for our country. You can still drop off your offertory donation at the church office by sliding it under the front door, mailing in your checks or signing up for electronic online giving. Just go to our website – mtcarmelsb.com and click on the DONATE tab.