



St. Therese Carmelite Chapel

Northshore Mall - Peabody MA 01960

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July 2011



**Statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
venerated in Stella Maria
Monastery on Mt. Carmel in Israel**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary, in her role as patroness of the Carmelite Order. The first Carmelites were Christian hermits living on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land during the late 12th and early to mid 13th centuries. They built a chapel in the midst of their hermitages which they dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, whom they conceived of in chivalric terms as the "Lady of the place."

Since the 15th century, popular devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel has centered on the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel also known as the Brown Scapular, a sacramental associated with promises of Mary's special aid for the salvation of the devoted wearer. Traditionally, Mary is said to have given the Scapular to an early Carmelite named Saint Simon Stock. The liturgical feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is celebrated on July 16th.

The solemn liturgical feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was probably first celebrated in England in the later part of the 14th century. Its object was thanksgiving to Mary, the patroness of the Carmelite Order, for the benefits she had accorded to it through its rocky early existence. The institution of the feast may have come in the wake of the vindication of their title "Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary" at Cambridge, England in 1374. The date chosen was July 17th; on the European mainland this date conflicted with the feast of St. Alexis, necessitating a shift to July 16th, which remains the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel throughout the Catholic Church. The Latin poem *Flos Carmeli* (meaning "Flower of Carmel") first appears as the sequence for this Mass.

The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is known to many Catholic faithful as the "scapular feast," associated with the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, a devotional sacramental signifying the wearer's consecration to Mary and affiliation with the Carmelite Order. A tradition first attested to in the late 14th century says that Saint Simon Stock, an early prior general of the Carmelite Order, had a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary in which she gave him the Brown Scapular which formed part of the Carmelite habit, promising that those who died wearing the scapular would be saved.

The Carmelites see in the Blessed Virgin Mary a perfect model of the interior life of prayer and contemplation to which Carmelites aspire, a model of virtue, as well as the person who was closest in life to Jesus Christ. She is seen as the one who points Christians most surely to Christ, saying to all what she says to the servants at the wedding at Cana, "Do whatever he [Jesus] tells you." Carmelites look to Mary as spiritually their mother and sister.

Here at the Chapel-in-the-Mall we honor this history and tradition by enrolling all who request it in the Brown scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel at all the Masses on July 16th

JULY MEMORIALS

The **Altar Breads** for the month of July have been donated for the greater honor and glory of God in memory of **Mary DeVelis** by her devoted husband, **John**.

The **Altar Wine** for the month of July has been donated for the greater honor and glory of God in memory of **Beverly Dupuis** by a cousin.

The **Sanctuary Lamp** will burn during the month of July in memory of **Evan Feeney**.

The **Oil in the Altar Candles** will burn during the month of July memory **Maryann Unanue** at the request of a friend.



May you all enjoy this beautiful long holiday weekend. For us as Americans, it is a very special day. Really this weekend we celebrate who we are as a people, and give thanks to God for the wonderful men he placed here two hundred and thirty five years ago who had the vision, the foresight and the courage of their convictions that *“all men were created free”* and that they were capable of forming a system of government that would be *“of the people, by the people, and for the people”*. We are the beneficiaries of that unique

experiment in a democratic form of government. It is something that we cherish and we defend it vigorously, often times with the blood of our young men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

When we read the statements of our Founding Fathers, it is so obvious that they were men of deep faith in God, trusting in his Divine protection and guidance. It is good for us to reflect on their beliefs and their trust in Divine Providence.

George Washington: "While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian."

John Adams 2nd U.S. President and Signer of the Declaration of Independence: "Suppose a nation in some distant Region should take the Bible for their only law Book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! Every member would be obliged in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness, and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God ... What a Eutopia, what a Paradise would this region be." --Diary and Autobiography of John Adams, Vol. III, p. 9.

"The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God." --Adams wrote this on June 28, 1813, in a letter to Thomas Jefferson. "The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary

Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever." --Adams wrote this in a letter to his wife, Abigail, on July 3, 1776.

Thomas Jefferson 3rd U.S. President, Drafter and Signer of the Declaration of Independence

"I am a real Christian – that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus Christ."

John Hancock 1st Signer of the Declaration of Independence

"Resistance to tyranny becomes the Christian and social duty of each individual. ... Continue steadfast and, with a proper sense of your dependence on God, nobly defend those rights which heaven gave, and no man ought to take from us."

Benjamin Franklin Signer of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution

"Here is my Creed. I believe in one God, the Creator of the Universe. That He governs it by His Providence. That He ought to be worshipped.

That the most acceptable service we render to him is in doing good to his other children. That the soul of man is immortal, and will be treated with justice in another life respecting its conduct in this. These I take to be the fundamental points in all sound religion, and I regard them as you do in whatever sect I meet with them.

As to Jesus of Nazareth, my opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the system of morals and his religion, as he left them to us, is the best the world ever saw, or is likely to see." -Benjamin Franklin wrote this in a letter to Ezra Stiles, President of Yale University on March 9, 1790.

What an extraordinary group of men! What a heritage they have left us. We should be always on guard to protect that vision.

CHAPEL FINANCES Just a reminder. As you look around, I'm sure that you can see that attendance at Mass here in the Chapel has gone down somewhat during these summer months. It's great that people are able to get away and have a great vacation. The only bad part is that our weekly offerings, understandingly, also go down. However, the rent stays the same and the utilities (air conditioning) even go up. Please take this into consideration and be as generous as possible in your weekly offering during these summer months.