

128th Annual Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel



**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Church
449 East 115th Street
New York, NY 10029
(212) 534-0681**

Dear Pilgrims to the Shrine Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel:

It is once again time for our annual Feast to honor Our Lady. Hard though it is to believe, 128 years have passed since the Pallottine Fathers took custody of this great spiritual event. We have witnessed many interventions here: Our Lady seems keen to hear your prayers, whether they be in thanksgiving or supplication.

Remember, that our Madonna was crowned over 100 year ago by order of the Pope, in recognition of the devotion to the Lady of Mount Carmel and the answered prayers here at the Shrine.

As times change throughout the world, it is comforting to note that we can always come to Mary, to beg her to place our needs at the foot of her Son, Our Savior Jesus. We remember her example of faith at Wedding Feast of Cana, how He listened to her entreaties, and granted them. We are ever grateful to have the powerful intercession of the Blessed Mother on our side. Our Mother protects and helps all of her children.

So we reach another Feast: How this seed of 128th years has borne fruit to nourish us! The faithful from Southern Italy placed their lives in the hands of Mary, having immigrated to a strange land. The descendants of those faithful are now joined by many from all the world's peoples. Haitians, Latinos, Asians, Europeans and Africans, all come together at our Shrine to honor the Blessed Mother under her title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We remain united under the maternal mantle of our Blessed Mother.

Therefore, dear pilgrims, continue your devotion. Say the Rosary, and other Marian prayers. Wear the Scapular of Our Lady, specially given for this Feast. Attend our novenas. March in the processions. Participate in the many activities of the Feast. Be sure to demonstrate your respect by visiting her Shrine during the Feast for Mass. Be justifiably proud in your devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Your Mother calls you. Above all, keep in mind the adage, through Mary to Jesus.

Feast Program

Novena

French Triduum July 6-9 7:30PM
Spanish Triduum July 10-12 7:30PM
English Triduum July 13-15 7:30PM
Italian Triduum July 11-13 9:00AM

Anointing of the Sick Mass

July 8th at 5:00PM

Special Novena Mass with One Thousand Hail Marys

July 7th 9AM French/Latin Mass

Vigil Mass of Our Lady

July 15th at 6PM

Traditional Latin Vespers of Our

Lady of Mount Carmel

July 15th at 7:30PM

Candlelight Procession

July 15th at 9:00PM

Multi Language Rosary & Litany

July 15 at 10:45PM

Midnight Mass of Mt. Carmel

Anticipated at 11:30 PM, July 15

Traditional Latin Mass

July 16 at 9AM

Feast Mass followed by

Grand Procession of Our

Lady of Mt. Carmel

July 16 at 10AM

**Multi Language Masses and Confessions: throughout the
Feast Day 6AM-8PM**

ORIGINS OF THE FEAST

The Feast of Mount Carmel dates its origins back to Old Testament times of the Bible. It was at Mount Carmel, in the Holy Land, that the Prophet Elias (Elijah) recorded his victory against the priests of Baal. Baal's priests tried in vain to light their sacrificial fires. Elias poured water on his altar to drench his offerings and prayed to God to light his oblations. Fire came from heaven and consumed the offerings, water, and altar stone itself.

In early Christian times, hermits gathered to live in the Eastern monastic tradition at Mount Carmel. They met together occasionally for prayer, at a chapel they dedicated to Our Lady. This became the Lady of Mount Carmel. Turmoil in the Holy Land and the Muslim invaders scattered the hermits. They were forced to travel to the cities of southern Europe. Here, not having the solitude of the mountain, their rule was adapted to more of a cenobite monk existence. They spread throughout the western world. Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock, to whom She gave the brown scapular, and the graces of the Sabbatine Privilege. The Sabbatine Privilege, grants the wearer of the scapular, who follows the requirements of the Office of the Blessed Virgin, and chastity according to their station in life, release from time in Purgatory.

This devotion took special hold in southern Italy. When immigrants began to live in East Harlem they brought their love of the Lady of Mount Carmel with them. In 1884, they build the Shrine Church. In 1904, following the investigations began by Pope Leo XIII, Pope St. Pius X ordered the statue venerated at the Shrine, be solemnly crowned, in recognition of the favors granted at this Shrine. Thousands, from all communities of people, from all over the world still come here each July to pray, to thank the Blessed Mother, to receive the indulgences, or to ask for an intercession. Truly this Feast is blest.