

# OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." - Mt 3:17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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### OUR MISSION

We are the Church, alive with Christ, a diverse community rooted in faith, celebrating a liturgy of life. We are prayerfully responsive to the Spirit of the living Gospel, freely and fully ministering to all.

OFFICE PHONE: 630-852-3303 - RELIGIOUS ED: 630-963-3053

**JANUARY 11, 2026**

**THE BAPTISM  
OF THE LORD**

### CONNECT WITH US



[ourladyofmtcarmel.org](http://ourladyofmtcarmel.org)



[facebook.com/olmcdarien](https://facebook.com/olmcdarien)

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil | 4:30pm

Sunday | 8:15am, 10am & 12pm

#### WEEKDAY MASS

Monday-Saturday | 9am

#### RECONCILIATION

Saturday | 3:15pm - 4pm

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday | 8am-4:30pm

#### PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Jeff Smialek, O.Carm., Pastor**

[frjeff@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:frjeff@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

**Rev. Rob Traudt, O.Carm., Parochial Vicar**

[frrob@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:frrob@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

**Deacon Ed Ptacek**

[littlebirdfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:littlebirdfarm@hotmail.com)

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## PASTOR'S LETTER

January 8, 2026

I hope everyone had a wonderful celebration of Christmas and the New Year. Now, the decorations are coming down, and the parties are all over. The students are back in school from break and life is returning to normal for us. However, I hope that life never goes back to "normal" for us, I hope that we have been transformed by what we have celebrated. The mystery of the Incarnation and the realization of that mystery at the Epiphany must have some impact on our lives. Our hearts must have been moved in some way. We must be striving to be just a little bit better than we were. Total conversion never happens overnight, but if we are just a little better than before, then Christmas did its job. Today, we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus Christ. Jesus leaves us this example to follow. We are brought into the body of Christ through Baptism and made sharers of the Paschal Mystery. That is both frightening because of what is being asked of us and also an incredible experience of the love of God. Much is now demanded of the baptized Christian; we are called to show the world what that means and to live a life of great love in Christ. The story of our life in Christ begins at baptism. Several years ago, Pope Francis on this day challenged all Catholics to remember the day of their baptism and to celebrate it as a mini birthday, to recognize and mark the day in a special way. That is an excellent thing to do! Do you know the date of your baptism? The day your life in Christ began. I was baptized on July 28, I was born on July 12, my parents didn't mess around. When were you baptized?

We have much to do in 2026 to build the Kingdom of God. I continue to take the challenge of Bishop Hicks' letter Make seriously and pray that our community does as well. Just because Bishop Hicks is moving on shortly doesn't mean that his message is now meaning less. We must Make more disciples. At the New Years' mass, I asked the community to bring in at least one new person every Sunday. So far, so good, as I have seen many new faces on the weekends in recent weeks. Let's keep it up and keep our community growing! This is also a good chance to reflect on the previous year and all that we accomplished. We finished the elevator, laid down new carpet and resurfaced the parking lot which were all much needed projects. We installed the votive candle stand which has added both beauty and devotion to our community. We have undertaken new ministries with the disabled and with those experiencing mental illness. We have 402 students enrolled in religious education and celebrated 61 First Holy Communions and 64 Confirmations. We witnessed 11 couples enter into marriage and welcomed 86 babies through Baptism. Sadly, we also celebrated 87 funerals.

I asked on New Years Day, what now? I want all of us to keep asking that question this year, what now? What can we do to make OLMC even bigger and better this year? What can we do to bring more people to Christ? What now??

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel....Pray for Us!!

*Fr. Jeff*



**REV. JEFF SMIALEK,  
O.C.A.R.M., PASTOR**



### Readings for the Week of January 11, 2026

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

# 03 EVENTS & INTENTIONS

January 11, 2026/The Baptism of the Lord

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

4:30pm Maggie Phillips (Brescia Family)

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

8:15am Fr. Jerry Sesto (Nick Rocco)

Arlene Brescia (Family)

Kathleen McAuliffe (Thompson Family)

John Schultz (Family)

10:00am Rosemary McElroy (Mary Schueren)

Noon Richard Meister (Janice Meister-Kelly)

### MONDAY, JANUARY 12

8:15am Fr. Jerry Sesto (Nick Rocco)

Arlene Brescia (Family)

Kathleen McAuliffe (Thompson Family)

John Schultz (Family)

10:00am Rosemary McElroy (Mary Schueren)

Noon Richard Meister (Janice Meister-Kelly)

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

9:00am Parishioners of OLMC

### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14

9:00am Parishioners of OLMC

### THURSDAY JANUARY 15

9:00am Anthony Conniff (John & Kathy Callan)

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

9:00am Margaret Boyle (Family)

Dale Sonatello (Family)

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

9:00am Jerome J. Bukowski (Frank & Fran Modelski)



## Cursillo Corner

*Make a friend, be a friend, bring  
a friend to Christ!*

## Spring 2026 Cursillo

### Weekend Dates:

**Men's 147th: March 12-15**

**Women's 139th: April 9-12**

Cursillo Weekends are held at the  
Carmelite Spiritual Center in  
Darien.

Online applications are available  
at [www.jolietcursillo.org](http://www.jolietcursillo.org).

Questions: Contact  
Lori Prado  
[lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

**TOGETHER IN LOSS IS A GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY  
FOR ANYONE WHO HAS EXPERIENCED A LOSS OF A LOVED ONE.  
OUR NEXT GATHERING WILL BE  
SATURDAY JANUARY 17TH 10-11:30 A.M.  
FOR INFORMATION-CONTACT LORI PRADO:  
([LORI.PRADO@OURLADYOFMTCARMEL.ORG](mailto:LORI.PRADO@OURLADYOFMTCARMEL.ORG))**



# 04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

January 11, 2026/The Baptism of the Lord



## UPCOMING DATES

### CORE Catechist Meeting

Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 for dinner, followed by the meeting at 7:00. Contact Sherry Rochford if you are interested.

### All Catechist Meeting

All Catechists are invited to join us for our Catechist Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, January 22, 2026. We will be inviting the Darien Police Department to come in and share some valuable safety protocols with us. Please Contact the RE office to RSVP. Dinner starts at 6:30 with meeting to follow.

### No RE

There will be no RE on Sunday January 18 or Monday, January 19 in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

We will have Family Mass on Sunday, January 18 at 10:00 PM. 5th graders and 1st graders will be leading this Mass. We still need readers, greeters, and gift bearers. Call Sherry for more info.

## RE NEWS

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus which, according to the USCCB is the last day of the Christmas Season. It is the celebration before Ordinary time that recognizes the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

Centuries ago, Jesus' Baptism related to the Epiphany. So while the baptism of Christ marks the beginning of his public ministry, it is also part of his "manifestation" or "appearance"—one of the events signaling that God has broken into human history in a unique way.

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:

Question for Children: What does God want you to do? To forgive? Be generous? To love?

Question for Youth: As you grow, how do you know what God wants you to do? How do you hear the voice of God saying, "you are one of mine, of my chosen?"

Question for Adults: Today's readings lead to a core question: As you follow God and do what he wants, how do you experience his loving words: "You are my own. My favor is upon you."?

## ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Our commitment in Baptism is to be a servant of God, spreading the Good News of Jesus to others. Discuss one action that you could do as a family this week to spread the Good News of Jesus to others. Bring out pictures and remembrances of the Baptism of each family member. Then tell the story of those events.

## Parents/Caregivers of Persons with disABILITIES Retreat

You need a break and we are offering a wonderful opportunity to take the time for yourself.

Join us on Sunday, January 25, 2026, from Noon to 5:00 PM. Mass is at Noon followed by our guest speaker, Fr. Mark Yavarone, OMV, the Co-founder of the Ignatian Discernment Institute. Lunch will be provided for those who wish to partake. Please use the QR code to register. Brought to you by the Diocese of Joliet disABILITIES ministry. Please contact Sherry Rochford with any questions.



REGISTER HERE

## DIOCESE OF JOLIET



### THE 2026 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES ANNUAL APPEAL HAS BEGUN!

The Diocese of Joliet invites all parishioners to support the 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Together, we can make a profound difference.

This year's theme is **Beyond all Expectations: Faith that Elevates!** Through the CMAA, we ensure Christ's mission and ministries reach everyone. We provide shelter for the homeless, feed the hungry, support vocations, and educate the next generation of Catholics. Our parish cannot accomplish this alone. As a diocese, we can do so much more.

CMAA mailings will be distributed in the coming weeks so keep an eye out in your home mail for your envelope.



**JOIN EVEREST ACADEMY LEMONT  
FOR OUR ANNUAL WINTER TRADITION!**

**OPEN HOUSE + WINTERFEST**

**SCHOOL TOURS, SLEIGH RIDES, JOEY'S RED HOTS, TIPSY TRAILER!**



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026  
11AM: MASS / 12:30PM: FESTIVITIES  
11550 BELL RD. LEMONT, IL 60439**



# 06 ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 11, 2026/The Baptism of the Lord

**FRS. JEFF AND ROB WANT TO THANK ALL WHO GAVE US GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS. YOUR GOODNESS IS DEEPLY APPRECIATED! WE WILL HOLD YOU IN PRAYER DURING THE NEW YEAR.  
PLEASE PRAY FOR US.  
MANY THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR GOODNESS!**



**THAT MAN IS YOU!  
NOW MEETING SATURDAY  
MORNINGS**

**Men of the parish are invited to join That Man Is You!, a dynamic men's program that combines faith, fellowship, and personal growth. Sessions are held Saturday mornings from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the church basement.**

**Come enjoy coffee, brotherhood, and meaningful discussion as we seek to deepen our relationship with God and strengthen our roles as husbands, fathers, and leaders.**

**All men are welcome—bring a friend!**

**For more information contact**

**JOE KENNY AT [CRUSADERJOE87@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CRUSADERJOE87@GMAIL.COM) OR  
GERRY LEGANSKI AT [GERRYLEGANSKI@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GERRYLEGANSKI@GMAIL.COM)**



**THE 1ST QUARTER 2026  
MINISTRY SCHEDULE IS NOW  
LOADED IN MSP. USE THE QR  
CODE OR YOUR MSP APP TO  
ACCESS.**