

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN, IL 60561



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God." - Jn 1:34

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 18, 2026

**SECOND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

CONNECT WITH US

 ourladyofmtcarmel.org
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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
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02 PASTOR'S LETTER

January 18, 2026/Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTOR'S LETTER

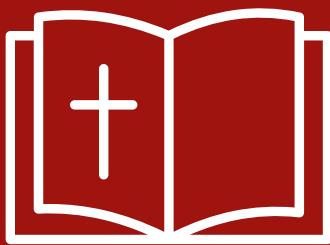
All the feasts of Christmas are officially and we celebrate the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time today. The scary part is that we are only four weeks away from Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. The great spiritual writer, Thomas Merton, once wrote, "If you want to get to know a person, don't ask where they live, where they work, or what they like to eat, instead ask what they are living for?" That is a good question for all of us to reflect on. What are you living for? We are all living for something. For many unfortunately, it is living for themselves, money, success, achievement or fame. For some it is living for family, which is not a bad thing. However, the ultimate is to live for God. The Prophet Isaiah says in the first reading, "I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." That is what the Lord wants from us. We are to be a light to the nations and all people. We are each called to bring the good news of Salvation to all we encounter. We can't do that if we are living for something else other than God. The second reading is from St. Paul to the Corinthians starts off by stating is call. Paul, called to be an apostle. That is us too! We are all called to be faithful apostles and disciples of Jesus.

The Gospel today is one of the stories of John the Baptist. John had one mission in life. John lived his whole life to point others to Christ. The reason why I came baptizing with water was so that He may be made known to Israel. John pointed and brought others to Christ. Do we love others so much that we bring them to Christ? Do we attract or do we scare at times? If you really want to know someone, don't ask where they live, or where they work or what they like to eat. Instead ask what are they living for? What are you and I really living for? It is going to take much effort on our part. Living for Christ isn't easy, living for ourselves is a snap. Are we willing to sacrifice for others? Are we willing to put ourselves out on the line and get involved? Are we willing to volunteer and help. Are we willing to speak to a friend or neighbor about Jesus Christ? Are we willing to Make a disciple?

We continue our efforts at following the call to Make disciples. We have some new initiatives planned for 2026. We plan to expand our ministries in mental health advocacy. We have more planned with ministry to the disabled, including hosting the Diocese's retreat for caregivers this weekend. We are looking at reviving our ministry to caregivers of the elderly and disabled. We are seeking ways to be more involved in the community through advertising and being present at community events. We plan to have a booth at things like Darien Fest and the summer concert series for people to come check out our parish. I am making plans to offer clothing items such as t-shirt, sweatshirts and polos with parish designs, so that we can be visible in the community and start those conversations. That is all in addition to the ongoing repairs such as the roof and flooring that we have planned. 2026 is going to be exciting!! This is all mixed in a good dose of cheering for the Chicago Bears!!!

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

Fr. Jeff



Readings for the week of January 18, 2026

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21



**REV. JEFF SMIALEK,
O.CARM., PASTOR**

03 EVENTS & INTENTIONS

January 18, 2026/Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

4:30pm Rick Filips-1st anniv (Friends)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

8:15am Maria & Costantino Poli (Nick Rocco)

10:00am Librada Manaligod (Family)

Noon Kathleen McAuliffe (Friend)

Kowalski Family-living (Family)

Eileen Murray (Family)

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

9:00am Keith Stockhausen (Pat Monahan)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

9:00am Marie Gancarz (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Marlene Carioto (Daughter)

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21

9:00am Parishioners of OLMC

THURSDAY JANUARY 22

9:00am Eileen Kosinski (Eugene Munin)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

9:00am Parishioners of OLMC

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

9:00am Miriam Lessek (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Tom Farrell (Mary Fran)

Victoria Quilang (Family)



We invite you to share your gifts by becoming a:

- **Lector**
- **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion**
- **Greeter**
- **Usher**
- **Alter Server**

Contact Lori Prado at
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)

04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

January 18, 2026/Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reconciliation Information

Grades 2-3: Good Shepherd Retreat- Saturday, January 24 From 10:30-12:45

If you have a child who is receiving First Communion this year, and is in grades 2 or three, this interactive Parent/Child Retreat is for you. We will look at why and how we go to Confession using Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as our guide.

4th Grade Retreat: No Greater Love- Saturday, January 31 From 10:30-12:45

All 4th Grade students and their parents are invited to this special retreat. We will be reviewing the 10 Commandments, taking a look at why we need to go to Reconciliation on a regular basis, and look at what Jesus did for us. This retreat is also for students in 5-8 who will be receiving Reconciliation for the first time. Parents do need to attend.



Reconciliation

Reconciliation for the families of our First Communicants and 4th Graders will be:
Tuesday, February 3 and
Monday February 9 at 6:30 PM.
Monday students will be excused from RE
to go to Reconciliation.

RE News-

No RE

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

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.

Questions of the Week

Question for Children: If someone were to ask you, "who is Jesus?" how would you answer?

Question for Youth: How are you able to see through all the busyness, the distractions, and the din of today's world to really see Christ as he makes himself present today? Where do you see him or experience his presence?

Question for Adults: In the gospel today, John tells us who Jesus is for him. If someone were to ask you, how would you answer this question: Who Jesus is for you?

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 NOW



05 ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 18, 2026/Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

YOUTH MINISTRY

January & February Newsletter

9/25: High School Youth Group 1:00 - 2:30

Looking for **service hours**? We will be making fleece tie blankets for Project Linus.

- Food will be served
- Bring a friend!

RSVP so we order enough food

2/8 High School Youth Group 1:00 - 2:30

Lent... Super Bowl, there's so much to prepare for!! Join us for football themed games and Lenten reflections.



Year 1 & Year 2 Confirmation Updates

Year 2 Confirmation Students:
Our Confirmation Retreat will be on 2/28 from 1:00 - 4:00 at OLMC. This is a Confirmation Responsibility, please contact Jen if you cannot attend.
There will not be RE for Year 2 students on 3/1 or 3/2.

Teen Rosary Prayer Group

Looking for an opportunity to **pray, reflect, and recharge** each month?

Join us from **7:00 - 7:30 pm** the **last Tuesday** each month in the chapel to pray the Rosary.

This is a great chance to pray for a special intention as you head into the next month.

Upcoming Dates:
1/27
2/24



06 ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 18, 2026/Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thank you so much for Spare a Square campaign for new carpet.

We did it!!!!

I am happy to announce that we have reached the goal of \$59,000.

Thank you to all who donated to keep our parish looking beautiful.

New projects such as the upper deck flooring and lobby tile
are coming up.

Please consider supporting these projects as well.

Fr. Jeff



**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 OR
GERRY LEGANSKI AT GERRYLEGANSKI@GMAIL.COM



**The 1st Quarter 2026 Ministry
Schedule is now loaded in MSP.
Use the QR code or your MSP
app to access.**