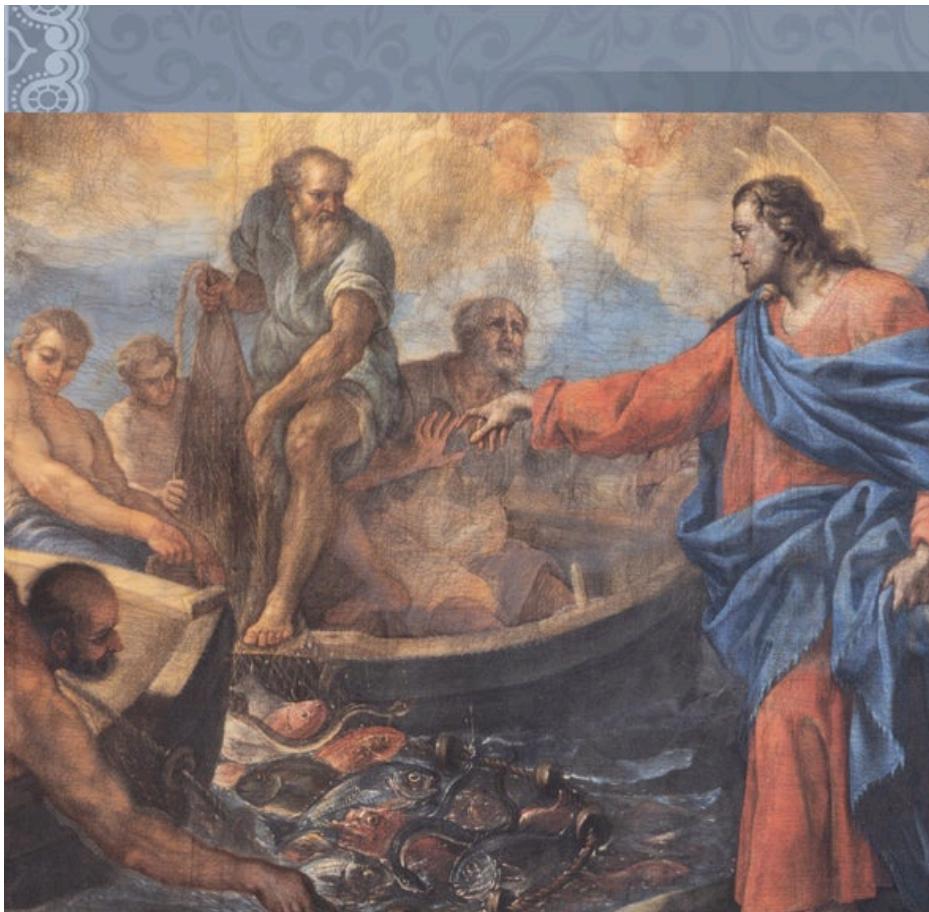


OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN, IL 60561



3rd Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

"He said to them, 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.'" Mt 4:19

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.

JANUARY 25, 2026

**THIRD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

CONNECT WITH US

ourladyofmtcarmel.org

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

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02 PASTOR'S LETTER

January 25, 2026/Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTOR'S LETTER

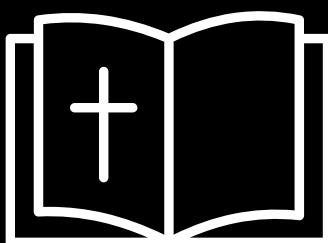
In addition to being a sports and football fan, I am a sci-fi and space nerd. I have always had an interest in space exploration. One of the most famous stories is that of Pioneer 10. In 1972, NASA launched a space probe named Pioneer 10. The satellite's primary mission was to reach Jupiter, study the planet and its moons, and beam the data back to earth. Scientists regarded this as a bold plan, for at that time no earth satellite had ever gone beyond Mars, and they feared the asteroid belt would destroy the satellite before it could reach its target. But Pioneer 10 accomplished its mission and much, much more. Swinging past the giant planet in November 1973, Jupiter's immense gravity hurled Pioneer 10 at a higher rate of speed toward the edge of the solar system. It kept going past Saturn, Neptune and Pluto. By 1997, 25 years after its launch, Pioneer 10 was more than six billion miles from the sun. Earth finally lost contact with Pioneer 10 on January 23, 2003. Before they lost radio contact with the spacecraft a NASA spokesman said: "Perhaps most remarkable, those signals emanate from an 8-watt transmitter, which radiates about as much power as a bedroom night light, and takes more than nine hours to reach Earth."

Can you imagine accomplishing that much exploration in space with only an 8-watt transmitter? Imagine accomplishing so much... with so little! Yet, that is exactly what God does through you and I. Today's gospel is the calling of the Apostles Simon, Andrew, James and John. The four of them were all fishermen. Fishing was not a prestigious job by any means, still isn't. It is hard labor menial professional that requires little education to do. These were not high-power professionals; they were as ordinary as you get. That is who Christ called and they helped to found the Church and spread of the Kingdom of God. They accomplished so much, with so little. You and I can do the same. We can all spread of the kingdom of God and continue to "Make" more disciples. I keep bringing up Bishop Hicks letter because we need to keep working on it. This past week two long-time parishioners told me that they were leaving. One was moving to Florida to enjoy the warm weather in retirement and the other has to go to an assisted living facility. We lost two active longtime parishioners; will we gain two new parishioners to replace them??? That is up to us.

This is also the time of the year that the parish's financial position is shared with the community. Printed in the bulletin is the 2024-2025 fiscal review. Repairs and maintenance of the building and grounds continue to run high. The building is over 50 years old now and requires a lot of upkeep. In the previous fiscal year, we spent \$345,000 to complete projects such as the elevator (which is mostly paid for by ERC credits), the RE door stairs, the Mary Prayer garden, more security cameras and alarm upgrades. In total we are down \$131,000. Future projects will need to be paid for by either going into savings or through new contributions. I encourage everyone to consider giving towards the building fund when possible. Thank you for your love and generosity to our parish.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel ... Pray for us!

Fr. Jeff



Readings for the week of January 25, 2026

Sunday: Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Monday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41



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

03 EVENTS & INTENTIONS

January 25, 2026/Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

4:30pm Mike Feehan (Kish Family)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

8:15am Kathy Klemens (Frank & Fran Modelska)

Lee, Jerry & Joe Poli (Nick Rocco)

Rev. Jerri & Rev. Jimmie Hubbard (Thompson Family)

10:00am Romulo Acosta (Family)

Isidoro Ravina (Pax & Rose Ravina)

Noon Nicholas and Lydia Busanic (Family)

Josefa Sas-living (Greg & Jo Walega)

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

9:00am Victoria Borucki (Daughter Evelyn)

David Spang-22nd anniv (Family)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

9:00am Parishioners of OLMC

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28

9:00am Anthony Benesh (Family)

THURSDAY JANUARY 29

9:00am Parishioners of OLMC

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

9:00am Parishioners of OLMC

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

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

Donald Antikauskas (Wife Evelyn)

Jennifer Benish (Family)

Eduardo Rosete-2nd anniv (Josie)



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



Young at Hearts

Meets on the Lower Level

Join us February 5th at 10:00 a.m.

Hope to see you then!

04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

January 25, 2026/Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Questions of the Week

Question for Children:

How do you hear Jesus calling you to do what he wants you to?

Question for Youth:

As you grow into young adulthood, Jesus calls you to follow him in particular ways, both big and small. What are some of the small ways in which Jesus calls you to follow him?

Question for Adults:

As you grow into young adulthood, Jesus calls you to follow him in particular ways, both big and small. What are some of the small ways in which Jesus calls you to follow him?

Activities of the Week

Take time as a family to look through the Gospels and list the names of followers of Jesus on a sheet of paper. Discuss how these figures inspire you to follow Jesus today. Discuss these questions: How does Jesus call you? How do you follow?

Discuss with your child the divisions among people in his or her school.

What are the reasons for the divisions?

How can your family help?



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 in grades 2 & 4 will be excused from RE to go to Reconciliation. All family members are invited to receive the sacrament as well.

Please contact the RE office for more information.



Catechist Workshops

This is a reminder that all Catechists need to complete 6 hours of formation every year.

3 hours are completed through one of The Catechetical Institute of Franciscan University's workshops. We will be offering "Christ-His Person and Works" (first workshop) on Saturday, February 21 from 9:00-12:30, or Wednesday, February 25 from 6:00-9:30. please contact the RE office for more info.

Family Mass

Thanks to the Garcia family who helped with readings at January's Family Mass, and the Onyweni family, who brought up the gifts. Our next family Mass is on February 15 at 10:00. We will need readers, greeters, jr. ushers, and gift bearers.

We also invite children to sing in the choir at this Mass. Practices will be on Thursdays at 6:30 PM. Call Sherry Rochford in the RE office for more info.



05 YOUTH MINISTRY

January 25, 2026/Third 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.



Known Retreat

Students in grades 6th - 8th are invited to the **Known Retreat** on March 7th from 9:00 - 5:00 pm at Central Athletic Complex in Wheaton. Cost to attend is: \$40, lunch is included.

Contact Jen or Sherry with questions.



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 FINANCIAL REPORT

January 25, 2026/Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish
Financial Report
July 1, 2024 - June 30th, 2025

	Church	Religious Education	Total
Revenue:			
Sunday Collections	\$ 872,180	\$ -	\$ 872,180
Christmas, Easter, Holy Days	\$ 145,825	\$ -	\$ 145,825
Tuition and Fees	\$ -	\$ 32,910	\$ 32,910
Diocesan/Bank Interest	\$ 88,401	\$ -	\$ 88,401
Directed Contributions	\$ 299,250	\$ -	\$ 299,250
Total Revenue	\$ 1,405,656	\$ 32,910	\$ 1,438,566
Expenses:			
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 448,457	\$ 233,415	\$ 681,872
Services	\$ 145,390	\$ -	\$ 145,390
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 90,921	\$ -	\$ 90,921
Capital Expenditures	\$ 345,462	\$ -	\$ 345,462
Materials & Supplies	\$ 50,772	\$ 27,974	\$ 78,746
Utilities	\$ 90,534	\$ 2,806	\$ 93,340
Insurance	\$ 18,958	\$ -	\$ 18,958
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 68,820	\$ -	\$ 68,820
Charity Expenses	\$ 30,792	\$ 2,886	\$ 33,678
Rentals & Other Expenses	\$ 13,200	\$ -	\$ 13,200
Investment in Religious Education	\$ 234,171	\$ (234,171)	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 1,537,477	\$ 32,910	\$ 1,570,387
Balance to Operating Revenue	\$ (131,821)	\$ -	\$ (131,821)

Capital Improvement Projects: \$ 345,462

Reaching out to Others: \$ 88,406

- Charity: Individuals, Food Pantry, Organizations, Holiday Dinners
- Carmelite Seminary
- Carmelite Missions

General Information

Funds on Deposit with the Diocese	\$ 3,006,218
Operating Funds	\$ 129,693