

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

February 19, 2023 † Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Seventh Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME
February 19

Love your enemies,
that you may be children
of your heavenly Father,
for he makes the sun rise
on the bad and the good.

Matthew 5:44, 45



8404 CASS AVENUE
DARIEN, ILLINOIS 60561
Parish Phone Number: 630-852-3303
Religious Education Phone Number: 630-963-3053

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday - 4:30 PM Sunday - 8:15 AM - 10 AM - 12 Noon

Weekdays & Saturdays - 9 AM

Holy Day Eve - 7:00 PM Holy Day - 9 AM - 7:00 PM
(Call Office to verify Mass times)

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 3:15--4PM

Parish Mission Statement

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.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Smialek, O.Carm., Pastor

frjeff@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Rev. Greg Houck, O.Carm., Parochial Vicar

frgreg@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Rev. Robert Carroll, O. Carm., Ph.D.

Priest In residence

Deacon Ed Ptacek

littlebirdfarm@hotmail.com

Deacon Guadalupe Villarreal

dcnlupe@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Sherry L. Rochford, Director, Children's Faith Formation

sherry.rochford@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Stephanie Rawls, Director, Youth Ministry

stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Lori Prado, Youth Ministry

lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Cathy Lentz, Director, Adult Faith Formation

catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Susan Haa, Parish Receptionist, Bulletin Editor

receptionist@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

John Hawkins, Business Manager

john@jmhawkins.com

Val Kazich, Admin Asst., Registrar, Religious Education

val.kazich@ourladyofmtcarmel.org



February 19, 2023

“Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Mark 5:48) Yea, right!!! Who could possibly reach that level? It is most definitely beyond our human ability to ever be perfect, and never will a person attain the perfect of God in this life. So many things get in the way of perfection, pride, vanity, greed, lust, well you get the idea. The list is endless. So, why would Jesus ever give us a command that is unattainable? Our modern day definition of the word “perfect” is different from what the word meant in Jesus’ time. To us, perfection is the best something can be, there can be nothing better than the perfect. The ancient understanding of perfection means doing one’s duty or doing what is required. For example, you can have the most beat-up old jalopy of a car that is all rusted out but if you put the keys in the ignition and it starts and gets to where you want to go, then that car is perfect, it did the job required. The car doesn’t look the best,

but it was perfect. What Jesus is asking us to do in today’s Gospel is not to reach perfection as we think of it today, but rather to just do one’s duty, which is to love and forgive. We will begin the sacred season of Lent in three days. Lent is a time for us to focus on trying to do what is required, to love and to forgive. We are being challenged to reach perfection just by doing our job. Lent may be challenging, as it should be, however we can all focus better on doing the job set before us.

We are planning several ways to help each of us to strive to reach Christian perfection this Lent. Ash Wednesday is on February 22. We will have liturgies at 9 am, 12 pm, 4 pm and 7 pm, with distribution of ashes following the homily. Every Friday during Lent we will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 6 – 7 pm, as well as the usual time slot of Saturdays from 3:15 – 4pm. Since we are adding extra reconciliation time on Friday evenings, there will not be a single penance service this Lent. The Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday at 7pm and will conclude with the presentation of the Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 3pm.

I know that we have all heard of the devastating earthquake last week in Turkey and Syria. The death toll is about 25,000 lives lost, with many still unaccounted for and several thousand severely injured. The destruction of buildings and property cannot even be measured yet. Thanks to the generosity of our parish community and donations to the needy fund, OLMC donated \$5,000 to Catholic Relief Services to assist their work in the earthquake zone. I hope that in addition to support of our food pantry, we can continue to provide donations to natural disaster relief when an event occurs. Thank you so much for your generosity to the needy fund.

Fr. Jeff

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Take no revenge and cherish no grudge; love your neighbor as yourself. (Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18).

Psalms — Our God shows mercy and graciousness (Psalm 103).

Second Reading — You are the temple of God, and holy (1 Corinthians 3:16-23).

Gospel — Offer no resistance; love your enemies (Matthew 5:38-48).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]; Mt 4:1-11

LENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Masses on Ash Wednesday are at 9:00AM, Noon, 4:00PM, and 7:00PM.

For the first six Fridays during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross in the Chapel beginning at 7 p.m. On Friday, March 3, since this is a first Friday, Adoration will begin at 3 p.m. and end with Benediction at about 6:45 p.m. so that the Stations will begin at 7 p.m. On Good Friday, April 7, Adoration will begin at 4 p.m. and end with Benediction at about 6:45 p.m. so that the Good Friday Service will begin at 7 p.m.

There will be additional reconciliation from 6-7PM every Friday during Lent in addition to the usual time of Saturday from 3:15-4PM. .

February 12, 2023 Collection

	<i>Church</i>	<i>Online</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>General Fund</i>	<i>11,257.80</i>	<i>3,162.22</i>	<i>14,420.02</i>
<i>Building Operation & Maint</i>	<i>140.00</i>	<i>58.00</i>	<i>198.00</i>
<i>Needy</i>	<i>1,496.00</i>	<i>131.00</i>	<i>1,627.00</i>



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™ *life is precious -defend it*

Spring Campaign
February 22nd - April 2nd



Put your faith in action by joining your fellow parishioners for the Spring 2023 ***40 Days for Life*** prayer vigil to end abortion.

Please consider committing to a specific hour of prayer at the Access Health abortion clinic in Downers Grove during the hours of 7AM to 7PM from February 22nd to April 2nd, and bring a friend. Another option would be to sign up your church for an entire day or even half a day to pray.

For more information and to sign up, go to **www.40daysforlife.com/downersgrove**. Access Health Clinic is located at 1700 W. 75th Street, Downers Grove.

PRAY TO END ABORTION

Cathy's Corner—The Mark of Cain

Adam and Eve did not have their creative juices flowing when they named their firstborn son Cain, since that word literally means “something produced,” echoing Eve’s own statement to that effect. But with Abel’s name perhaps they had some unconscious precognition of his sorrowful fate, since it means “breath,” even with a connotation of “transitory” placed in front of it. Indeed, his time on earth was as fleeting as a breath, struck down as he was in premeditation by his brother, who lured him to a field where no one could see the attack. The Lord, of course, sees everything, and the question posed about Abel’s whereabouts was a mere formality.

How might the Lord have responded to Cain, however, if Cain had foregone the classic response of “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” and instead broken down in anguished sobs over what he had done, begging God’s forgiveness? That will never be known but what we do know is that God had warned Cain about the demon lurking at his doorway when he was resentful and crestfallen that his younger brother’s offering was chosen over his own. God reminded Cain of his ability to master the sin of envy crouching in his path, waiting to pounce.

Even after Cain had succumbed to his bitterness toward the success of Abel in a brutal and deadly fashion, God protected him from retaliation for what he had done, permanently marking him as safeguarded by the divine. It was with God’s help that Eve had produced her son Cain, and God’s help stayed always with him. As well with the heartbroken parents, who had lost both of their children, given as they were another chance by God to create a family with the birth of Seth.

There is no clear explanation as to why God accepted Abel’s offering and not Cain’s, just like there is no clear explanation why some seem to live charmed lives, with good health, financial security and close families, while others struggle in sickness, poverty and loneliness. No matter where we fall in the spectrum of happiness and good fortune, like Cain, God’s help is always with us. Still, should we succumb to bitterness and envy, engaging in destructive behavior toward another because of it, the metaphorical blood of the one we have injured will cry out to our God.

But we have the choice to take the road that Cain did not, asking forgiveness for what we have done from God and from our sister or our brother, trying once again to master the demon of sin ever crouching in our path. The mark of Cain is a sign of hope, a sign that no matter what we do God’s help stays always with us. It is also a sign of how destructive our envy and bitterness can be. Let us keep sight of them both, and ever choose the path Cain did not take.

Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1 and 8, 6bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13

High schoolers,

Come join us for an
OLMC Youth Group
meeting!

2/19/2023
1:00PM-2:30PM

Letters for Rose:
A Service Project

We will write letters and
create art for homebound
senior citizens!

We hope to see you there!



RE News...

We are looking for a few catechists and seasonal helpers. We really need a 3rd grade or 6th grade teacher on Monday at 7:00.

Questions of the Week

Question for Children: What can you do at home or at school to show that you follow Jesus' Commandments?

Question for Youth: Do you think Jesus was serious when he said to love your enemies? Why or why not?

Question for Adults: Have you ever told someone to do something for his/her own well being? Do you accept God's laws in the same spirit of love and concern?

Activity of the Week:

How is loving one another similar to God's character? Discuss the community found in the Triune God. Father God, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit love and live as community. How is that community an example for all relationships? Why might that work so well? Have family members relate how difficult it is to love everyone and why it is still important to do so. How does forgiveness fit into the equation?

Prayer for the Week:

Lord our God, you sent your son into the world to live with us as one of us, to heal, to teach, to sanctify, and to proclaim the Good News of the coming of the Kingdom.

Help us to live out our Baptism to the full and to find ways to do what Jesus did: to bring joy and life wherever we go, to lift up the suffering, and to tell other people

Upcoming Dates

Family Faith Session-

Our Family Faith Session will meet on Ash Wednesday this month, between the 5:00 and 7:00 Masses. The theme -Morality and Lent. Join us in the 3rd grade classrooms at 6:00 pm.

Teaching Mass

Join us at 3:00 on Sunday, February 26 as we learn about the Mass. Fr. Jeff will walk us through the Mass parts, and we will learn about why we do what we do at Mass. This is required for 3rd and 5th grade students as part of their curriculum, but all are invited.

Family/Parish Lent Event

Join us on Sunday, March 12 as we take a deeper look at the Lenten Gospel Readings also known as the Scrutinies. Families will get the opportunity to break open each of the three Scrutinies with activities, crafts, and prayer. Call the RE Office for more info.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our Vacation Bible School will happen on the week of July 10-14 from 12:00-3:00 PM each day, with a celebration and Ice Cream Social on Friday, July 14 at 3:00.

The Theme this year is STELLAR: an outer space odyssey where we learn how to Shine Jesus' Light. Each day is filled with songs, activities, crafts, games and FUN! Each day we will look at a bible point and make our



Mary Anne Trochim	James Curley
Julie Ann Lacey	Barb Schunk
John Guzior	Frank Jasek
Jeanette Seebock	Nancy Kososki
Gentle Cabrera	Bridget Gallmeier Raineri
Nancy Jisisju	Kevin & Jenne Gallmeier
Bill Haran	Susan Nugent
Evelyn Swartz	Abby Grace McCarver
Jean & Mark Boyd	Allen Raineri
Jamie Carpenter	Diana Clohecyc



PFC Jonathan Poynton	Lindsey Johnson
Joe Barker	Diahann Bavan
Sgt. J. Bartlett Pvt.	Ronan Randy S. BA.SAT-U.S.Navy
Cpl. Joseph Belgis, USMC	Derek McCarthy
Wayne R. Zefeldt, Army	Joe Michalski
S. Sgt. Michael Mullahy	Steve Baker, Lt
Ryan Pertile, Army	Luke Fluder
Major Thomas Bessler	Pfc Drew Hillebold, Army
Mike Noonan	Vincent Napoli, USMC
Adam Kowalski, Army	Nikolas Horskey, Army
Capt. James Lucas US Army	Lt. Col Jason O'Neil, USMC
Sgt. Greg Burnett	Capt. Tim Wilson
Sgt. Meghan Callham, USMC	Rachael Smith
Ron Caruso Jr.	Kevin Pope
Specialist Drew Stocks	Dave Rawlings
Christine Christensen, USAF	LCpl Daniel Holakovsky, USMC
Lt. Joseph A Vacek, USMC	Tom Reiter
Colin Cusack	Nathaniel Rozgo
Michael Sklodowski, Army	Robert DeMatio
Nick Radziwon, US Navy	Frank Andrew McKenna, Navy
Gwen Zemaitis Baker	Captain Jackson Panice
James Lucas US Army	Ryan Snyder
Capt. Melissa Sprague	Capt. James Lienau
Capt. Mark Sprague	Sgt. Kevin Gallmeier Jr.
Zach Wallace	Pat Gill Petty Officer
James Chipman	Brian Sheenhan, Army
Keith Thomas	Joseph Higgins
L.C. David Treadwell	Gary Hogan
Timothy Vaughn, USAF	Kevin Hornett
Zachary Bell	Dan Eugene Bavan
Christopher Johnson USCG	Dan Welters
Sgt. Eric Kuchta, Army	Alex Erkiens
Pvt Dylan R. Hagan	Capt. Michael K. Desmond, Jr., USMC
Danielle Monahan SrA	1st Lt. Mark Marten, US Army
	Ted Cook

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, February 18, 2023

4:30PM Dorena Brescia (Family)

Mary Ann Stahurki (Family)

Sunday, February 19, 2023

8:15AM Frances & Jack Caponi (Nick Rocco)

Jerome W. Bukowski (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Don Brescia (Family)

10:00AM William Serritella (Christina Serritella)

Michael Dinsmore (Martha & John DeMarte)

Marie & Vincent Comella (Christina Serritella)

Noel Bissonette (M. Minogue)

NOON Philip Rizza (Bruno & Maryann)

Nenita & Nellie Libo-on (Kowalski Family)

Casimir & Frances Kowalski (Kowalski Family)

Monday, February 20, 2023

9:00AM Jim Monahan & Patrick Cleary

(Pat Monahan & Family)

June Braczykowski (Lily & Menchu Tumaneng)

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

9:00AM Parishioners of OLMC

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

9:00AM Parishioners of OLMC

Thursday, February 23, 2023

9:00AM Peggy Pisani (Friends)

Theresa Dragozetick-1st anniv (Niece)

Friday, February 24, 2023

9:00AM Parishioners of OLMC

Saturday, February 25, 2023

9:00AM Julia Smith-8th anniv (Family)

Anna & Placito Angelucci (Family)

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18. Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13. 1 Corinthians 3:16-23. Matthew 5:38-48.

“The Lord is kind and merciful” [Psalm 103].

Jesus still teaches on the mount today. He moves from the “blessed are” to the “I say to you.” He says today: Do not hate. Do not get even. Do not retaliate. Do not insult. Love your neighbor, domestic and foreign. He ends with this: “So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Clear. To the point. Hard but doable with God’s help.

⇒ How will I be kind, be merciful today?

⇒ Whom shall I stop hating?

⇒ How can I shape my less-than-perfect behavior in the perfection of God?