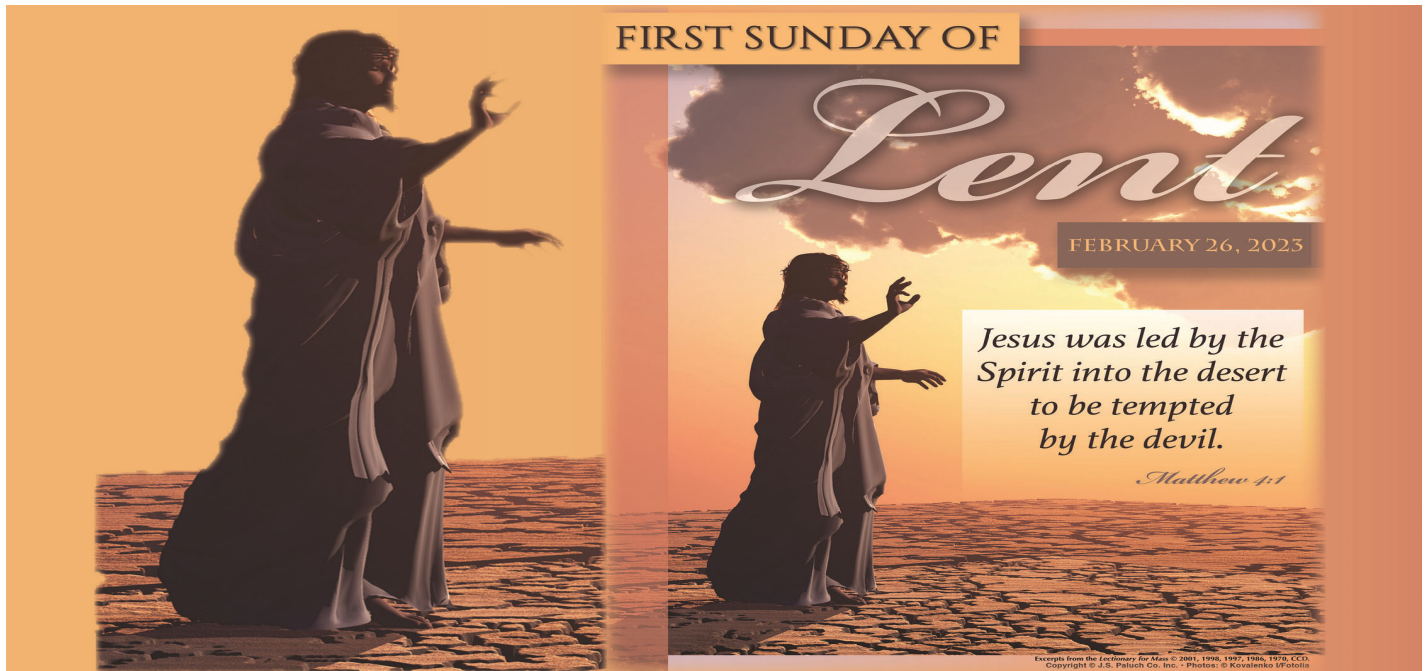


# Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

February 26, 2023 † First Sunday of Lent



**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

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February 26, 2023

We have entered the sacred time of Lent. This journey of 40 days is a time to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ and our worthiness to share in the Resurrection. There are things inside each of us that are in need of change as we work towards being more faithful disciples. Lent is the time to really focus on ourselves, in a good way, not in a selfish way. Lent calls us to reflect inward on who we are and on who we are becoming through our actions in life. The Gospel for this weekend is the temptation of Christ in the desert. We are all tempted by the devil in so many ways. The devil tempts us through our passions. The devil tempts us through jealousy and greed. The devil

tempts us with worldly goods and acclaim. Lent is the time for us to look at what are we finding tempting and why? What is that thing that lies inside each of us that is causing us to fall from time to time. These questions are not going to be easy. It is hard to be critical of oneself and even harder to have the resolution to change. I hope that this will be a difficult Lent for us. It is only in facing what lies in us that we can grow and improve. I pray that we use this sacred 40 days to take an honest look inward and begin the change that each of us needs in order to be even better disciples of Jesus Christ.

I hope that our community takes advantage of the extra offerings this Lent. We will be having Reconciliation every Friday from 6 -7 pm and Stations of the Cross at 7pm on Fridays. Reconciliation is the best way to work on making those changes needed in life with the grace of God. Stations of the Cross is a wonderful devotion that helps us enter into the passion of Christ and to remember the Salvation that was won for us through the passion of the Cross. I hope that Lent is a blessed time of transformation for all of us.

*Fr. Jeff*

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The man and the woman ate the fruit of the one tree that God had told them to avoid, and their shame overtook them (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7).

**Psalms** — Have mercy on us sinners, O Lord (Psalm 51).

**Second Reading** — Death reigned from Adam to Moses, but now grace and life abound in Christ Jesus (Romans 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]).

**Gospel** — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and there he fasted for forty days and forty nights (Matthew 4:1-11).

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

**Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

**Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

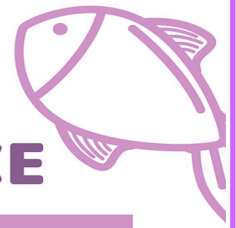
**Sunday:** Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

## LENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

## LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE



### Fasting

Ash Wednesday  
Good Friday

Ages 18-59

### Abstinence

Every Friday  
during Lent

Ages 14+

### How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

### Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the **physically or mentally ill** including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as **diabetes**. Also excluded are **pregnant or nursing women**.

For more information on fasting and abstinence, visit [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).



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## 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](http://www.40daysforlife.com/downersgrove). Access Health Clinic is located at 1700 W. 75th Street, Downers Grove.

## PRAY TO END ABORTION



### Cathy's Corner—*Fasting, Prayer and Almsgiving for Whom?*

Even now return to me with your whole heart, says the Lord. Fasting, almsgiving and prayer, says the Church. We know the drill. Fasting: give up chocolate, of course. Almsgiving: send a check to Catholic Charities, great organization. Prayer: go to Stations of the Cross on Fridays. Done. The list is complete. No, return to me with your whole heart, says the Lord. Okay, we say, no meat on Wednesday as well as Friday, another check, this time to the Greater Illinois Food Depository, and a daily Mass during the week. Done. Return to me with your whole heart, says the Lord, not with your mind. Rend your hearts, not your garments.

Remember the question I asked you through the Prophet Zechariah, says the Lord. Was it really for me that you fasted? Because if it was for me that you fasted, when you were not ordering dessert at that restaurant, you would say thank you to the person who busses the table who likely makes less than minimum wage and is virtually ignored by all the diners. When you were not buying meat in the grocery store you would speak kindly to the very slow cashier and stop to help the very confused person in the aisle even when you are running very late.

Was it really for me that you gave alms? Because if it was for me that you gave alms, you would approach the homeless person you see on the street corner and hand him or her a bagged lunch, or a cup of coffee, or a few dollars. You would treat that person with dignity and respect and look into his or her eyes with love, not disgust. You would give up some of your precious leisure time and bring your check, and maybe some groceries, and help out at a food pantry or tend to families at a soup kitchen who cannot put food on their own tables and so must come there with their loved ones, just so they can eat.

Was it really for me that you prayed? Because if it was for me that you prayed, you would see the Body of Christ at Mass not just in the bread and the wine, but in the random person in the last pew you do not recognize and the one you brushed past in the street because you were running late for the service. When you completed the Stations of the Cross you would recognize all the people who are, as was the Son of God himself, spit on and beaten, insulted and humiliated, simply because they are different, simply because they live differently, love differently, pray differently. And you would stand with them and for them.

Return to me with your whole heart, says our gracious and merciful God. We will not find the Lord in our checklists, even the ones that satisfy the Lenten guidelines. But we will find the Lord in the way we carry out those guidelines if we know where to look. This Lent let us take our eyes off our lists and fix them on our Lord embodied in the people around us. Let our fasting, almsgiving and prayer truly be for God rather than for appearances. Let us return to God with our whole hearts in the only way possible – by using those hearts to heal the heartaches all around us.

*Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4,5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18*

SPRING SEMINAR

## You Don't Need Luck When You Plan Ahead

Join us for a complimentary meal and learn how organizing your final wishes in advance can protect yourself and those you love from financial and emotional distress.

**Tuesday, March 7**  
**11:30 a.m.**

Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurants  
510 Village Center Dr.  
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Scan to RSVP



**SPACE IS LIMITED, RSVP TODAY at**  
**(630) 313-2066 or SCAN THE QR CODE**





## RE News...

We are looking for a few catechists and seasonal helpers. We are still looking for a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Catechist on Monday at 7:00PM

### *Questions of the Week*

**Question for Children:** What do you plan to do during Lent this year as a way of showing you want to grow closer to Jesus?

**Question for Youth:** Jesus was tempted by the devil. How are you tempted? What helps you resist these temptations?

**Question for Adults:** When you yourself pause to be alone with God, what distracts and prevents you from dwelling in that? Busyness? The demands of life? TV? The internet?

### *Activity of the Week:*

Point out to family members that Jesus was tempted just like we sometimes are, but he did not give in to temptation. Jesus was obedient to God's will. Lenten resolutions can help us choose God's will over our own. As a family talk about what Lenten resolutions each person has made. Write out these resolutions and put them inside the family Bible. Decide what you will do as a family to observe Lent this year.

### **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 Catholic Connections to that point.

### *What is the meaning of Lent?*

As Catholics, the spiritual pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving guide us in daily reflection on our own lives as we strive to deepen our relationship with God and neighbor—no matter where in the world that neighbor may live. Lent is a time of personal and spiritual growth, a time to look outward and inward. It is a journey in mercy.

### *Operation Rice Bowls-CRS*

This Lent, join us as we participate in Operation Rice Bowl through CRS 25% of all donations stay within the diocese to help fight hunger locally. Pick up your Rice bowl in the back of Church.

### *Upcoming Dates*

#### 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.

We need help too! If you would like more info, or want to help us plan the event, call the RE office.



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

### **Mass Intentions for the Week**

#### **Saturday, February 25, 2023**

**4:30PM** Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

#### **Sunday, February 26, 2023**

**8:15AM** Penny & Jerry Rocco (Nick Rocco)

Rita & Robert Sayre (Rita Thompson)

Irene Cholewa-14th anniv (Family)

**10:00AM** Sam Stauder (Family)

Thomas P. -living (Maureen & Rick Well)

Josephine Ryczyn (Family)

Victoria Knafl (Family)

**NOON** Parishioners of OLMC

#### **Monday, February 27, 2023**

**9:00AM** Phillip Carioto (Daughter)

Dr. James Johnson (Charles & Peggy Neach)

Ann Brudzinski (Charles & Peggy Neach)

Marie Dulay (Family)

#### **Tuesday, February 28, 2023**

**9:00AM** Parishioners of OLMC

#### **Wednesday, March 1, 2023**

**9:00AM** Jay Biskupski (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Felicia Grganto-1st anniv (Family)

Mary Clare Karnick (Family)

Jan Snyders (Evelyn Antikauskas)

#### **Thursday, March 2, 2023**

**9:00AM** Linda Augustyniak (Friends)

Vesta Calucin-16th anniv (Sisters)

Sylvia Stoklosa (Family)

#### **Friday, March 3, 2023**

**9:00AM** Jose Macairan (Wife)

#### **Saturday, March 4, 2023**

**9:00AM** Ted Dobrowolski (Family)

Apolonia Tutor (Andrea)

Richard Rice (Eugene Munin)

Todd Melton-living (Elaine Mitchener)

Sheila Stevenson-living (Elaine Mitchener)

Reynaldo & Simone-living (Family)

Fairel & Francis Smith (Family)

Lucille Christianson (Family)

Jose Leon (Ampy)



PFC Jonathan Poynton  
Joe Barker  
Sgt. J. Bartlett Pvt.  
Cpl. Joseph Belgis, USMC  
Wayne R. Zefeldt, Army  
S. Sgt. Michael Mullahy  
Ryan Pertile, Army  
Major Thomas Bessler  
Mike Noonan  
Adam Kowalski, Army  
Capt. James Lucas US Army  
Sgt. Greg Burnett  
Sgt. Meghan Callham, USMC  
Ron Caruso Jr.  
Specialist Drew Stocks  
Christine Christensen, USAF  
Lt. Joseph A Vacek, USMC  
Colin Cusack  
Michael Sklodowski, Army  
Nick Radziwon, US Navy  
Gwen Zemaitis Baker  
James Lucas US Army  
Capt. Melissa Sprague  
Capt. Mark Sprague  
Zach Wallace  
James Chipman  
Keith Thomas  
L.C. David Treadwell  
Timothy Vaughn, USAF  
Zachary Bell  
Christopher Johnson USCG  
Sgt. Eric Kuchta, Army  
Pvt Dylan R. Hagan  
Danielle Monahan SrA

Lindsey Johnson  
Diahann Bavan  
Ronan Randy S. BA.SAT-U.S.Navy  
Derek McCarthy  
Joe Michalski  
Steve Baker, Lt  
Luke Fluder  
Pfc Drew Hillebold, Army  
Vincent Napoli, USMC  
Nikolas Horskey, Army  
Lt. Col Jason O'Neil, USMC  
Capt. Tim Wilson  
Rachael Smith  
Kevin Pope  
Dave Rawlings  
LCpl Daniel Holakovsky, USMC  
Tom Reiter  
Nathaniel Rozgo  
Robert DeMatio  
Frank Andrew McKenna, Navy  
Captain Jackson Panice  
Ryan Snyder  
Capt. James Lienau  
Sgt. Kevin Gallmeier Jr.  
Pat Gill Petty Officer  
Brian Sheenhan, Army  
Joseph Higgins  
Gary Hogan  
Kevin Hornett  
Dan Eugene Bavan  
Dan Welters  
Alex Erkiens  
Capt. Michael K. Desmond, Jr., USMC  
1st Lt. Mark Marten, US Army  
Ted Cook

