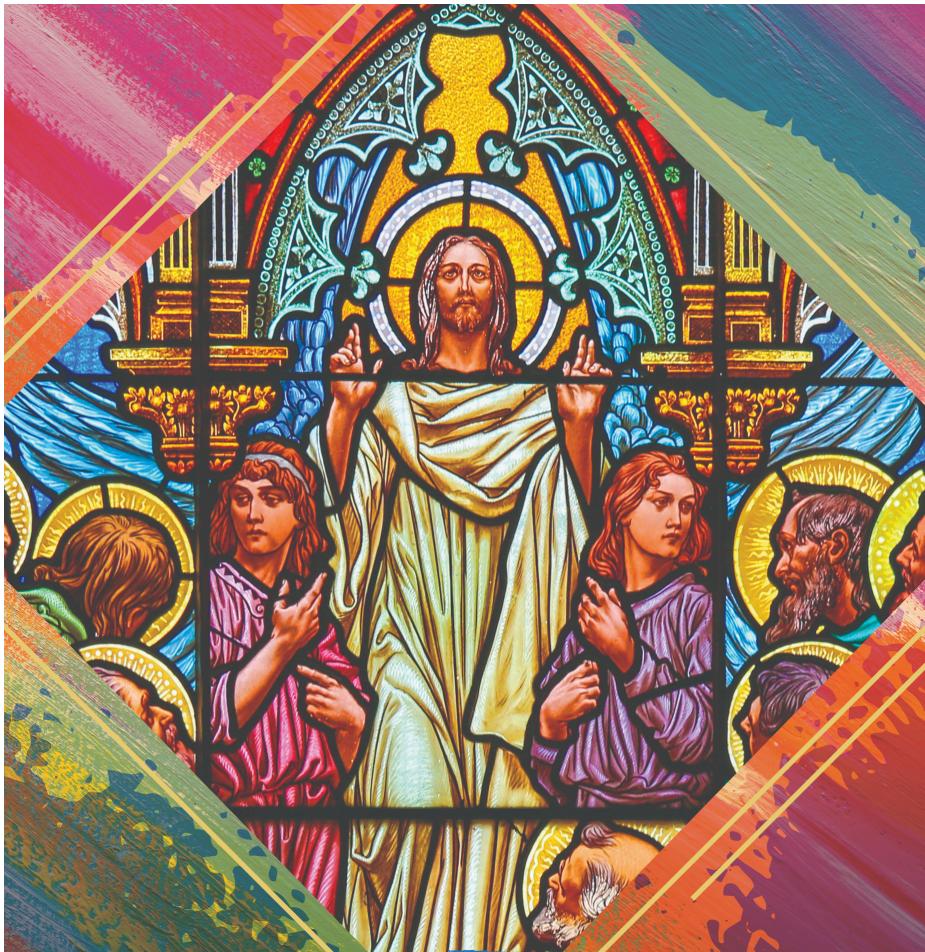


OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN, IL 60561



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment." - Mt 5:22a

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

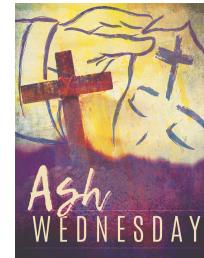
OUR MISSION

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

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

SIXTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME



Ashes Distribution

Wednesday,
February 18
9am, Noon, 4pm,
7pm

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

Rev. Rob Traudt, O.Carm., Parochial Vicar
frrob@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Deacon Ed Ptacek
littlebirdfarm@hotmail.com

Sherry Rochford, Director, Children's Faith Formation
sherry.rochford@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Jennifer Emanuele, Director, Youth Ministry
jennifer.emanuele@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Lori Prado, Ministry Associate
lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Susan Haa, Parish Receptionist, Bulletin Editor
receptionist@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

John Hawkins, Business Manager
john@jmhawkins.com

Val Kazich, Admin Asst., Registrar, Religious Ed
val.kazich@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

02 PASTOR'S LETTER

February 15, 2026/Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTOR'S LETTER

I have a bad habit of overpacking when I travel. I take extra of everything and never use half of what I pack. I tell myself that it is better to be safe than sorry, but I then have to carry around the luggage with all the things that I don't need. I think many of us do similar things when we travel. Oh well! However, what is even worse is the emotional luggage that we carry around. We all have plenty of that. We hold onto the old wounds, hurts, regrets and grudges and can't let them go. Often times we can't forgive ourselves and get bound into cycles of anger and self-loathing. The gospel today has Jesus warning us about three things that so often way us down.

The first thing is murder. Jesus challenges the people to go beyond the literal meaning to see the deeper ways that we figuratively kill people. Jesus says to look at those times of anger towards someone that can bring about a slow death of a relationship. Jesus tells us that if we hold a grudge against our brother or sister, that we should first go and be reconciled. Who might we have a grudge against today? Are we willing to let it go or we going to slowly kill the relationship and hurt ourselves in the process. The second thing is our lustful desires. We all have them and for many they are a real struggle. Jesus challenges us to reconsider how we look at one another. No one is meant to just be a toy to bring us satisfaction. We are called to see the good in each other. The third thing Jesus challenges us on is on our oaths. The deep issue is really our faith in God. Are we allowing other things to distract us and take us away from the first true loyalty made in our baptismal promises. What extra weights are we carrying around? Maybe as we head into the season of Lent, we can unpack some of that luggage.

The sacred season of Lent begins this week. Wednesday February 18 is Ash Wednesday. We will have mass and distribution of ashes at 9 am, 4 pm and 7pm. There will be a prayer service with ashes at 12 noon. Lent is traditionally a time of sacrifice, and all are encouraged to give up something. Maybe what we can give up is an hour of a time in order to grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ. We have Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7pm. We are going to try evening prayer on Tuesdays at 7pm. Both are great ways to enter more deeply into the spirit of Lent. Fridays are days of abstinence in which meat is allowed. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast. I hope we all have a blessed Lent.

This weekend launches the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal. This program helps to support so many wonderful activities at the Diocesan level. It helps with Catholic Charities and the many support programs that are offered. It helps with seminary education for our future priests. The appeal helps with the office of evangelization which runs programs for ministry to people with disabilities, youth programs and pro-life events. Our parish has always been very generous to the CMAA, so I ask for your continued support. In this time of transition for our diocese, we pray for the selection of a new bishop. The Vatican has appointed Bishop Dennis Spies to be the temporary administrator until a permanent bishop is chosen. We pledge our love, support and prayers to Bishop Dennis.



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

**Our Lady of
Mount Carmel ...
Pray for us!
Fr. Jeff**

Readings for the week of February 15, 2026



Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37
Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: 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
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32

03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

February 15, 2026/Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

4:30pm Parishoners of OLMC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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

John Schultz (Family)

Barbara Lea Maslan-6th anniv. (Family)

10:00am Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

Noon Leonard G. Nicko (Family)

Kowalski Family-living (Family)

Nenita & Nellie Libo-On (Family)

Reny & Melchita Guevarra (Family)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:00am Parishoners of OLMC

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

9:00am Paul Novotny (Family)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

9:00am Connie Faldrowicz (Evelyn Antikauskas)

Noon, 4:00pm, 7:00pm Parishoners of OLMC

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

9:00am Jerome N. Bukowski (Frank & Fran Modelska)

Kathy Marino (Cindy O'Connell)

Ruth Barry (Daughter)

Maura Walsh (Sister)

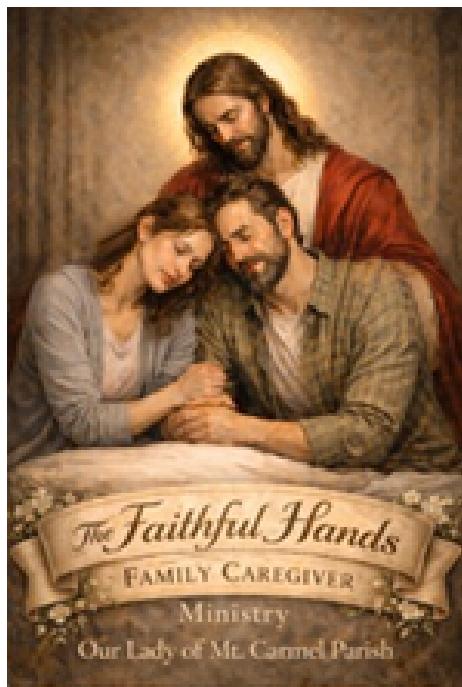
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

9:00am Jim Monahan & Patrick Clancy (Monahan Family)

Mary Kay McClelland (Eugene Munin)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

9:00am Parishoners of OLMC



Faithful Hands- Family Caregivers Ministry

Thursday, March 26 | 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Lower Level
(Meets on the fourth Thursday of each month)

This is a ministry for **Family Caregivers**, those who play a crucial role in providing care for, **a family member or loved one with a disability or mental health condition**.

Rooted in Christ's Passion, our gatherings provide a gentle space to breathe and be renewed. Here, caregivers can find comfort for the soul and strength for the journey ahead.

Take this hour for spiritual self-care and remember:

"You are not alone on this sacred path of caregiving."

"Do not fear, for I am with you..." — Isaiah 41:10

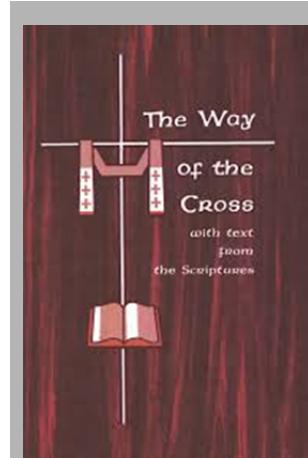
lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org



Together in Loss is a **grief support ministry** for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. Our next gathering will be

Saturday, February 21st 10-11:30am

For information, contact Lori Prado
lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org



The Way of the Cross

Fridays at 7 p.m.
Throughout Lent,
beginning February 20

04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

February 15, 2026/Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Questions of the Week

Question for Children: Which rules cause you the most difficulty? Why?

Question for Youth: In your own words, describe what the spirit of God's law is.

Question for Adults: Have you considered that laws are made with love? Do you accept God's love through his laws?

Activity of the Week

Discuss what radical obedience might mean. What does obedience require? How can one be radical in practicing obedience? Then have each person relate how he/she might specifically practice obedience in a radical manner.

Make a connection between the 10 commandments and the Great Commandment. Talk about how we are called to love God, others, and self.

Catechist Workshops

"Christ-His Person and Works"

Saturday, February 21 from 9:00-12:30, or

Wednesday, February 25 from 6:00-9:30.



"Catechesis with Persons with Disabilities"

Saturday, March 14 from 9:00-12:30, or

Wednesday, March 18 from 6:00-9:30

Please contact the RE office for more info.



Care for Creation Corner

Meet Laudato Si- the Carmelite Way

Join us on Wednesday, March 4th at 7:00 PM for a look at how the Popes through the ages have called us to care for creation. We will also look at the encyclical, Laudato Si, with a Carmelite lens. We will be welcoming Deacon Fred Maier for our presentation and we will offer light hospitality and further discussion following the presentation.



Thank-You!

We have reached our goal of 1000 lbs of plastic to be donated for a bench. We look forward to bringing you new opportunities to help keep our neighborhoods plastic free!

No RE February 15-16 in honor of President's Day

RE Save the Dates:

First Communion Retreat:

March 21 from 10:30-12:15-this is an interactive retreat for Parents and Children.

Breaking Bread Celebration:

March 26 from 6:45-8:30-this is a special celebration for families of First Communicants. Call the RE office for info.

A Walk through Holy Week: A Family Retreat

Saturday, March 28 2:00-4:15 Mass following.

05 YOUTH MINISTRY

February 15, 2026/Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

YOUTH MINISTRY

February & March Newsletter

2/22: High School Youth Group 1:00 - 2:30

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration!

We will meet in the basement and have lunch.

Bring a friend!



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.



3/8: Chicago Wolves Hockey Game 3:00 Puck Drop

We still have some tickets available. Tickets are \$15.

This includes a hot dog and soda. Scan QR to secure your ticket!

We will leave OLMC at 1:30. to arrive in time for the start of the game.



Living Stations of the Cross

All 7th grade - High School teens looking for a **service opportunity**, come help our Living Stations of the Cross come to life!

There are **speaking** and **non-speaking** parts.

If you have a child aged 7- 11 who would like to participate, we will have a children's choir!

We will have 2 practices:
3/28 & 4/1: 11:00 - 1:00 pm



06 SPECIAL EVENTS

February 15, 2026/Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Check out our new Our Lady of Mount Carmel

T-shirts, sweatshirts, polo shirts and more!!!!!!

Orders can be placed through

<https://lansingsportshop.chipply.com/ourladyofmountcarmel>

All orders must be placed by **March 1, 2026**

Items will be shipped directly to your home.



47th Boy Scout Troop 101 Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 15, 2026 | 8AM to 1PM

It's all you can eat! Includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, orange juice, and coffee!

Eisenhower Junior High Commons

1410 75th Street, Darien, IL 60561 (two blocks west of Cass Avenue)

Tickets at the Door - \$9.00 per person | Under 6 years old - Free | Cub Scouts in uniform - Free



Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Every Friday during Lent, 5 - 7:30pm

Open to the public. Carry out meals available. All dinners include the famous sides bar! Hearty soup, French fries, coleslaw, macaroni & cheese, freshly prepared veggies. Nightly assortment varies.

St. John Council - Knights Of Columbus • 25 N. Cass Avenue, Westmont
phone 630.969.3738 • www.kofc3738.org



Pancake Breakfast



Darien Lions Club - Annual Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 8th, from 7:30 am – 1:00 pm

Eisenhower Jr. High in Darien

Beyond the all-you-can-eat breakfast (pancakes, eggs, and sausage), we are proud to provide FREE hearing and retinal screenings to the community.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$9.00, or in advance from any Club member for \$8.00. Children 5-and-under eat free.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

life is precious -defend it

Lent Campaign

February 18th - March 29th



Put your faith in action by joining your fellow parishioners for the Lent 2026 *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 8AM to 6PM beginning Ash Wednesday and ending on March 29th, and bring a friend.

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



Midweek Lenten Vespers

Join us on **Tuesday evenings** during Lent at **7:00 PM** for a time of quiet reflection, scripture and prayer. Please join us and experience a peaceful conclusion to your day in the presence of the Lord.