

# OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



## 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Then the devil took Jesus up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." - Mt 4:8-9

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

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**FEBRUARY 22, 2026**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

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 [ourladyofmtcarmel.org](http://ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

 [facebook.com/olmcdarien](https://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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### 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**

## PASTOR'S LETTER

Ash Wednesday is past and we are in the thick of Lent now! I hope that this is a blessed time for everyone. Lent gives us a season of reflection and repentance. Two things we seldom do enough of. We need to reflect on life and who we are. Do we like what we see? Do we see a person who is loving, kind and trying to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? If you are reading this and are at mass on Sunday, then the answer is that you are trying to be. However, no one is perfect. When we look in the mirror, we see a person who has flaws. We see our own spots, wrinkles and imperfections. We see someone who struggles with the temptations of life. The Gospel today is the story of the temptations in the desert. Jesus is out praying and the devil comes and tries to allure him with power, fame, greed, lust and doubt. These are all things that you and I struggle with daily. To some degree, we have all faced these temptations and will continue to face these temptations. Jesus provides us with a role model of faithfulness that can get us out of tempting situations. Lent challenges us to look at the temptations we face and examine the root causes of why. We reflect on what it is that is causing us to act in certain ways. However, when the reflection is done, then we must go into action. That is the repentance part of Lent. It is not just enough to reflect, we have to take steps to change, to repent. Lent is the time for us to begin that transformation and put those things hurting us aside. That is certainly easier said than done, which is why Lent comes every year. We continue to be works in progress make a little improvement each time. When have the courage to ask for forgiveness and seek out the mercy of Christ, great changes can happen in our life. I encourage everyone to seek out repentance this Lent. Our parish reconciliation service will be on Tuesday, March 24 at 7pm. As we journey together this Lenten season, let us all take time to reflect and repent.

We have launched the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal last weekend. This is a great way to support the good works of the Diocese. The funds support Catholic Charities, seminarian and deacon education, and all the programs that the diocese offers. We are a strong partner in the ministry to people with disabilities. We twice hosted the retreat for caregivers. Sherry Rochford serves on the committee for ministry to the disabled. The Diocese of Joliet has lauded our programming as exceptional, and we serve as a mentor to other parishes and dioceses who are looking to start programs for religious education and sacramental preparation for people with disabilities. This is all possible through the annual appeal. Our parish's goal is \$84,000. We have been blessed to have met our goal every year through your generosity. Any funds over the goal, we get a partial refund. Last year, OLMC received back almost \$30,000. This is money we can use right here for our needs. I ask that please continue to be as generous as possible.



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

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



### Readings for the week of February 22, 2026

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

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/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 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

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

# 03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

February 22, 2026/First Sunday of Lent

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**4:30pm** Dennis DeGrazia (Sheri)

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**8:15am** Charles Woods (Nick Rocco)

Penny & Jerry Rocco (Nick Rocco)

Arlene Brescia (Cathy & Marty Olson)

Ann Zimmermann (Thompson Family)

Donald Rokaitis-1<sup>st</sup> Anniv. (Germaine Moore)

**10:00am** Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

**Noon** Patricia Pochocki (Sscm Spred)

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**9:00am** Parishoners of OLMC

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

**9:00am** Patricia Pochocki (Frank & Fran Modelski)

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**9:00am** Arlene Brescia (Kathy & Pat Monahan)

Pablo Rosete Jr.-1<sup>st</sup> Anniv. (Josie)

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**9:00am** Fr. Dave Dillon (Mike & Colleen Lowery)

Sam Stauder (Family)

Michael Dinsmore-2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv. (Martha Demarte)

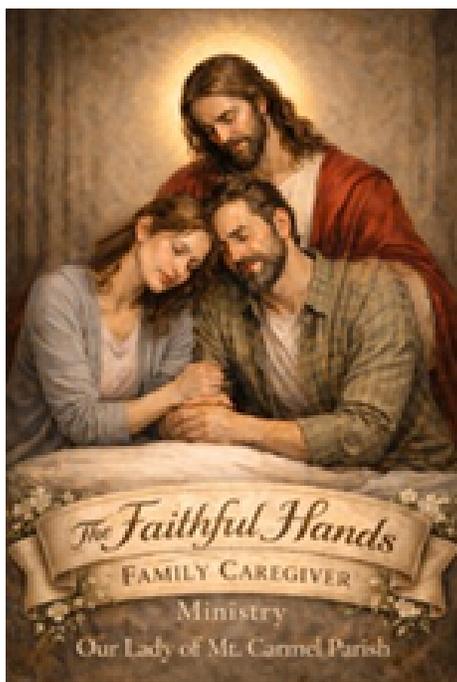
### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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

Phil DeMaio-40<sup>th</sup> Anniv. (DeMaio Family)

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**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.**

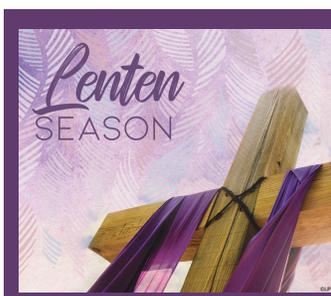
Rooted in Christ's Passion, our gatherings provide a gentle space to breathe and be renewed. Here, caregivers can find comfort for the soul and strength for the journey ahead.

Take this hour for spiritual self-care and remember:

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

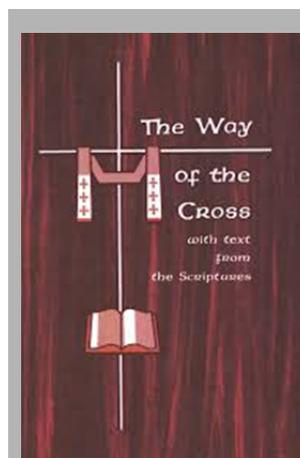
*"Do not fear, for I am with you..." — Isaiah 41:10*

[lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)



## 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.



## The Way of the Cross

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

# 04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

February 22, 2026/First Sunday of Lent

## 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.

## Catechist Workshops-Not Just for Catechists!

IF you would like to attend and are not a Catechist, please call the RE office. We provide dinner or breakfast.



### *"Christ-His Person and Works"*

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.



## 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.

## *Care for Creation Corner*

### *Meet Laudato Si- the Carmelite Way*

Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

Join us 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, followed with shared discussion and hospitality..



## 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 for pizza and dessert, then head up to the Chapel. Bring a friend!



### Known Retreat

Students in grades 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> are invited to the **Known Retreat** on March 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

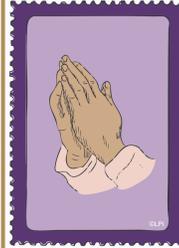


# 06 SPECIAL EVENTS

February 22, 2026/First Sunday of Lent



**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.



**Lenten Afternoon Recollection**  
 A Lenten afternoon of recollection will be offered on **Sunday, March 8 from 1:30 to 3:30.**  
 Fr. Rob will offer two talks on **"Humanity's Search for God and God's search for Humanity."** Quiet reflective time will also be part of the afternoon.  
*Refreshments will be provided.*



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

"I was considering giving up puns for Lent, but then I thought..."

**"Not so fast!"**

**PUN FACT!** During the 40 days of Lent, we give something up or we "fast." Often, we give up things like sweets, television, or video games. We do this as an act of penance, as well as a way to remove those things that distract us from our relationship with Jesus.

THE FAITHFUL FUNNIES



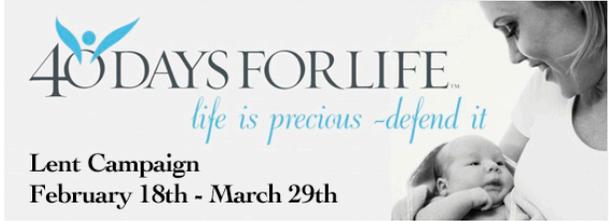
**Knights of Columbus Fish Fry**  
**Every Friday during Lent, 5 - 7:30pm**  
 Open to the public. Carry out meals available.  
 All dinners include the famous sides bar!  
 Nightly assortment varies.  
**St. John Council - Knights Of Columbus**  
**25 N. Cass Avenue, Westmont - 630.969.3738**



**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.



The Pads ministry serves 125-135 meals monthly, featuring fried chicken and sides, on the second Tuesday at the Butterfield Road interim housing center in Downers Grove. While volunteer help is sufficient, donations of food or funds for chicken are needed, with Jewel gift cards being welcome. Checks can be made out to Pads at the church office. For questions, contact Ellen Marquez or visit [www.dupagepads.org](http://www.dupagepads.org) for more information. [Elmarquez@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Elmarquez@sbcglobal.net)



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

**PRAY TO END ABORTION**