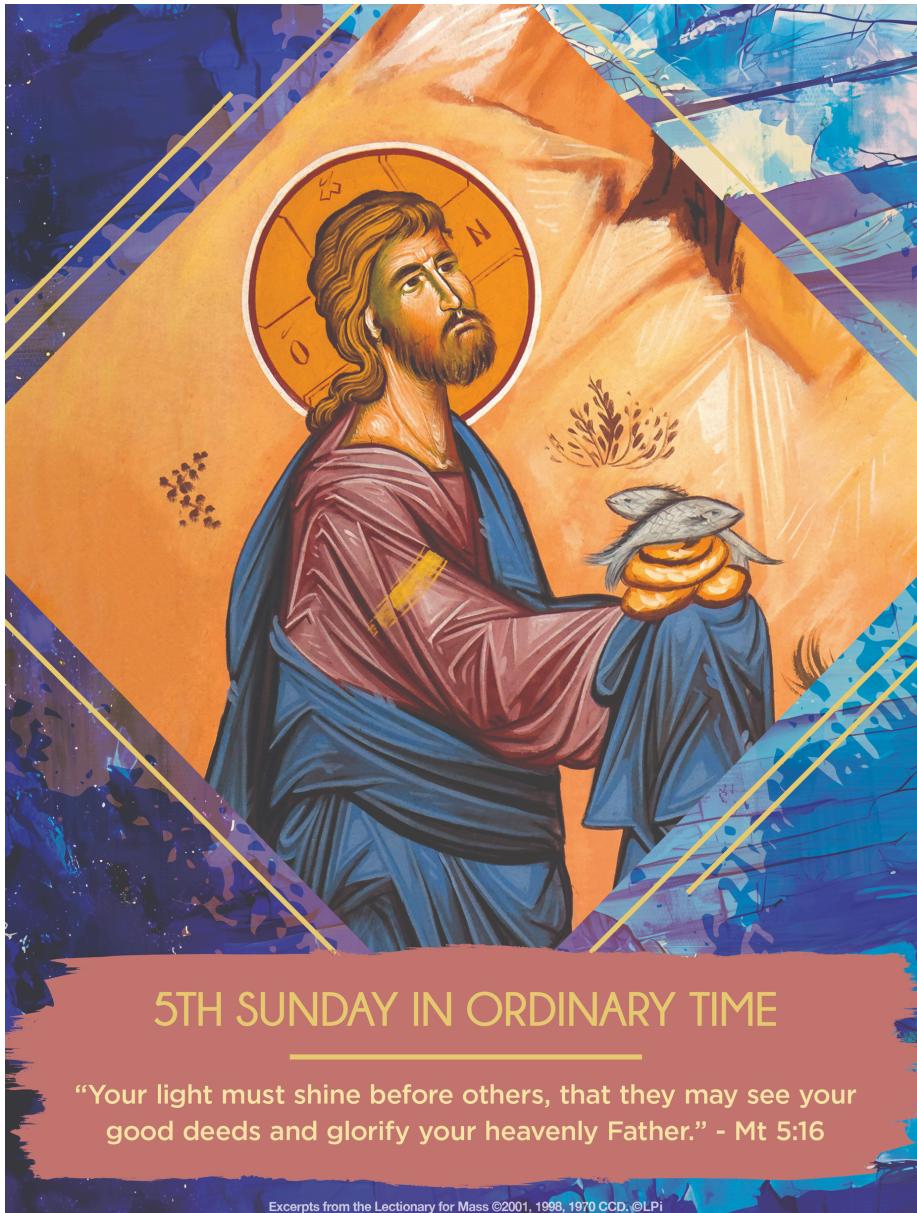


OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN, IL 60561



5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” - Mt 5:16

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 8, 2026

**FIFTH 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

frjeff@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Rev. Rob Traudt, O.Carm., Parochial Vicar

frrob@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Deacon Ed Ptacek

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02 PASTOR'S LETTER

February 8, 2026/Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTOR'S LETTER

I love to cook and am known as a decent amateur chef. At Christmas, I host a party for our staff and their spouses. It has been an international themed dinner. This past Christmas we took a trip to the Middle East with dishes such as falafel, kabobs, fried zucchini cakes, chicken Pulao, Moroccan carrot salad and other dishes, all homemade from scratch. The things that were store bought were the hummus and pita. I think everyone had a good time and enjoyed the world flavors. The various ministries have their summer cookouts as I love nothing more than being behind a grill on a nice summer evening. Of course, I have a whole kitchen cabinet dedicated to spices. In it, I have five or six different kinds of salt. There is your standard iodized salt, coarse sea salt, kosher salt, pink salt, black salt and several others. Salt is the foundation and most important ingredient in all of cooking. There is pretty much no dish that I know of that does not require a pinch of salt to help enhance the flavors. The human body requires salt to function and contract muscles. Salt has been so important over the centuries that wars have been fought over the saltshaker, such as the Salt War of 1304 between Venice and Padua over access to salt mines. Is it any wonder why Jesus calls us salt? As salt is the foundation of all good food, so too must we be the source of all the good being done in the world today. It is to be our good works that bring about peace and healing and understanding. We are called to bring out the good that exists in one another, just as salt brings out flavor. We are the salt of the earth! However, Jesus also reminds us that salt can lose its flavor and then is good for nothing. How good is our salt? Is our salt going bland or beyond the expiration date? It is easy to do sometimes; we can lose our edge. That is why we continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. It is Christ who can keep us fresh and flavorful. The more we can grow and are rooted in Jesus Christ, the more we can salt for the earth bringing out the good in one another.

On Friday, February 6th, now Archbishop Ronald Hicks was officially installed in New York City and ceased serving as bishop of Joliet. We wish him well in his new position and I think we can all say with confidence that the Church could not have selected a better man for the job. We thank Archbishop Hicks for his five years of service to us in the diocese of Joliet. We are especially grateful for the at least three visits he personally made to Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish. He celebrated two confirmation liturgies and my installation liturgy. He was very complimentary of our parish!!! He will be deeply missed here, but we are grateful and forever changed by his ministry. We will continue to be challenged by his pastoral letter "Make" and will push forward with seeking ways to make more disciples. Thank you and the Lord bless Archbishop Hicks!!! At the time of the writing of this letter, there has been no word on the selection of a new local bishop or temporary administrator. Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



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

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



Readings for the week of February 8, 2026

Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40/Mk 7:24-30

Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10

03 EVENTS & INTENTIONS

February 8, 2026/Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

4:30pm Cheryl Mielkus (Jeanne & Jerry Barich)
Arlene Brescia (Donatello Family)
Elle Nowak (Family)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

8:15am Antoinetta, Antanio, & Gerald Marino
(Nick Rocco)

Tom & Mary Smith (Thomson Family)
John Schultz (Family)

10:00am Nena Villanueva (Family)

Juanito Segovia (Family)

Noon Gene Saffold (Eugene Munin)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

9:00am Dom Donatello (Family)

Avery Krashen (Ampy)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

9:00am Marsha Velders (Charles & Peggy Neach)
Ann Costello (Mino Gues)
Jeanette Kirin (Cathy & Dave Mate)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

9:00am Gene & Shirley Chesen (Donna Kolacki)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

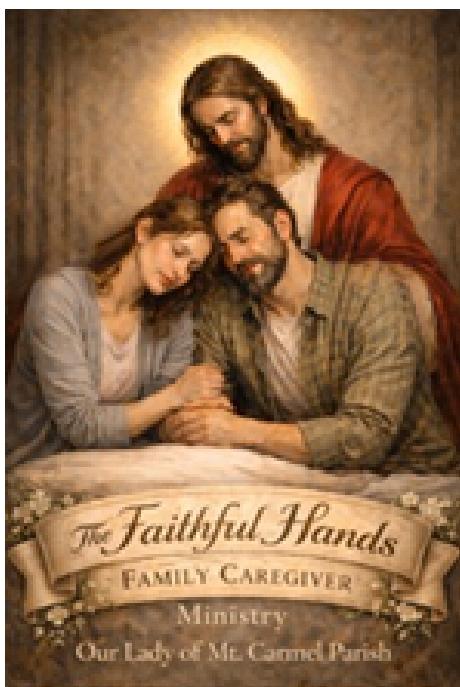
9:00am Anthony Ramacki (Frank & Fran Modelska)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

9:00am John Lattner (Pat Monahan)
Carmela Pacer-10th Anniv. (Family)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

9:00am Vidal Deato-1st Anniv. (Family)



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

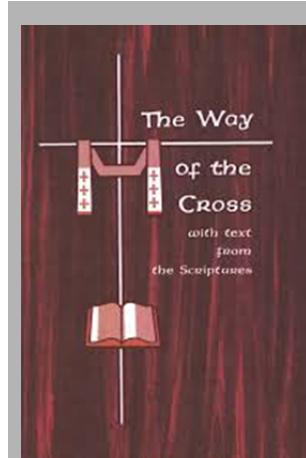
lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org



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 8, 2026/Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Questions of the Week

Question for Children: What can you do to bring the light of Jesus into the lives of your family, friends, and people you meet?

Question for Youth: How do you feel when Jesus says that YOU are the salt of the earth and that YOU are called to be the light for others?

Question for Adults: What specific efforts do you take to maintain your light? Do you let your light dim? Why?

Activities of the Week

Pop some popcorn for a family snack. Leave some of the popcorn unsalted and salt the remainder. Then salt a small portion too much. Can the salt be removed from the too salty popcorn? Without salt, how does the popcorn taste? Discuss how this relates to the Christian who maintains his/her salty walk despite what the world thinks.

What is a salty Christian?

How is one different from an unsalty one?



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.



Reconciliation for the families of our First Communicants and 4th Graders will be: 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.



Family Mass

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.

NO RE February 15-16 in honor of Presidents' Day.



05 YOUTH MINISTRY

February 8, 2026/Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

YOUTH MINISTRY

February Newsletter

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. We are ordering Buffalo Wild Wings, please RSVP! YUM!



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.



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 8, 2026/Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Be Our Valentine

Ladies Valentine Luncheon | You're Invited

A SPECIAL EVENT FOR WIDOWS

February 17, 2026

HAVE A
BLESSED
Valentine's
DAY!

Join Us!

We invite all widows of our community to enjoy an afternoon filled with fine food and entertainment.

Please bring a friend!

February 17 at 11:30am - Maggiano's Little Italy

Please RSVP by February 13 to Modell Funeral Home.

630-852-3595 or info@modelldarien.com



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.

WELCOME

We welcome the following to the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel family:
Mark & Allison Donahue
Francis & Margaret Wagner

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

