

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

His face shone like the sun and his clothes
became white as light. - Mt 17:2

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

MARCH 1, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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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

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PASTOR'S LETTER

Wow, It is March already! The year is off to a fast start. I hope that this month brings warmer temperatures and the first signs of spring. This is also the second Sunday of Lent. We are in the thick of it right now. I hope that Lent continues to be a challenge. Lent is not meant to be easy. This season should be hard because self-improvement and conversion of heart are hard. If conversion and following Christ was easy, everyone would be doing it. It's hard to be a Christian and Lent reminds us of that. I hope that we can face the challenge and grow stronger as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel today is the story of the Transfiguration. Jesus goes up on the mountain with Peter, James, and John. It was there that Jesus showed a foreshadowing of his divine nature as he changed and met with Moses and Elijah. This is another of those moments I wish I were a fly on the wall. I would really love to know what they were speaking about. Scripture never says. We can certainly use our imaginations. I tend to think it was a pep talk to remind Jesus of what he must do. That he must go down and into Jerusalem. Moses and Elijah certainly had their share of troubles, and the Lord showed His constant faithfulness toward them. They were reminding Jesus that God the Father did not abandon them and the Father will not abandon you wither. I wish we knew for sure. Peter, James, and John were having their mountain top experience. We have those times that we wish would never end. If we could just pause life right here and relive this moment forever. That one second in time where all is right in the world. Maybe it was a wedding day or the birth of a child. Maybe that perfect moment was when we made the big play and won a game. However, we know that life goes on. That perfect moment does not last forever. The real question is what do we do next? That is what Peter, James and John had to figure out. Their "mountain top" experience wasn't seeing the Transfiguration but rather when Jesus said "Rise, Do not be afraid." It was at that moment that they had to figure out what to do next. They got up and followed Jesus into Jerusalem and continued to be his disciples. Are we willing to do the same? Do we have the courage to "Rise, do not be afraid" today? Can we go out into the world with courage and conviction to share our faith and let everyone that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ? We continue to ask ourselves how are we making disciples? Can we deepen our faith this lent? Can we "Rise, do not be afraid?"

We are making great progress on the remodel of our upper deck. It should be done soon. It will continue to be a great space for meetings, talks, doughnut Sundays and other occasions. The best part is that we will not have to worry about spills and messes as much because we just mop the floor. Stop by and take a peek.



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

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



Readings for the week of March 1, 2026

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

March 1, 2026/Second Sunday of Lent

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

4:30pm Dorie Brescia (Family)
Carmello Granato Leodoro (Son)

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

8:15am Jay Biskupski (Frank & Fran Modelski)
Christine, Frank, & Frank Jr. Poli (Nick Rocco)
Arlene Brescia (Family)
Tina Vasbinder (Family)

10:00am Mary Clare Karnick (Family)
Scott Arnold-11th Anniv. (Family)

Noon Jan Snyders (Evelyn Antikauskas)
Paclencia Vergara (Family)
Felipe Rosales-3rd Anniv. (Family)

MONDAY, MARCH 2

9:00am Bernice Heery (Family)
Paciana Losanez (Family)

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

9:00am Patricia Pochocki (Frank & Fran Modelski)
Joe Macairan (Family)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

9:00am Benedicto Tutor (Andrea Tutor)
Richard Rice (Eugene Munin)

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

9:00am Tony Corso (Evelyn Antikauskas)
Tracy Gannon-14th Anniv. (The Gannon Boys)
Joseph DeMasi (Wife)

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

9:00am Brian & Nancy Monahan (Monahan Family)
Vito Caroselli (Family)

Kathleen O'Connell (Eugene Munin)
Jim Mocarski (Kim & Phil Enochs)

Joseph Chacko (Family)
Fr. Gavin Quinn (Kathi & Terry)

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

9:00am Xandra Kaczala (Frank & Fran Modelski)
Thomas Melton (Lay Carmelites)

Marie Coffey (Eugene Munin)
Josephine Farrera (Family)



Lenten Afternoon Recollection

A Lenten afternoon of recollection will be offered on

Sunday, March 8 from 1:30 to 3:30.

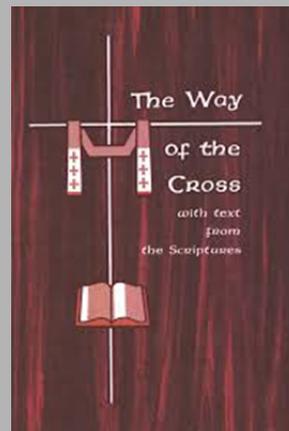
Fr. Rob will offer two talks on **"Humanity's Search for God and God's search for Humanity."** Quiet reflective time will also be part of the afternoon.

Refreshments will be provided.



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

March 1, 2026/Second Sunday of Lent

Questions of the Week

Question for Children: Share about a time when you felt especially close to God or Jesus.

Question for Youth: Have you ever had a “mountain top” experience where you felt exceptionally close to God? How was your life changed by that experience?

Question for Adults: Perhaps this reading calls us, not to cling to the familiar, but to leave the comforts of the parish and reach out to the world around us. In your neighborhood or community, who is waiting to hear the Good News?

Activity of the Week

We grow in our knowledge of Jesus through prayer. As a family, share some experiences of prayer. Encourage family members to share their favorite forms of prayer. Remember that prayer can take many forms, such as silent meditations, song, journaling, litanies, the Rosary, Mass, spontaneous conversations with Jesus, and so forth. Arrange for your family to come together for prayer. Also encourage family members to spend some time in prayer on their own.



Catechist Workshops

“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.



Teaching Mass:

Sunday, March 1 @ 3:00 PM

Do you have questions about why we do what we do at Mass? Then join us as Fr. Jeff teaches us all about the Mass. See you then!

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 4th 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.



Cleaning Supply Drive

We will once again be collecting cleaning supplies for the visitors of our Food Pantry. Please bring any cleaning supplies to the RE office.

YOUTH MINISTRY

March Newsletter

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.



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.



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



High School Service Hour Opportunity!

We are in need of helpers in filling the Easter Eggs for our fantastic Egg Hunt. Join us on Wednesday, March 18th from 6:30 - 7:30. We will have snacks for the volunteers! We will meet in the 6th grade classrooms. RSVP here!



06 SPECIAL EVENTS

March 1, 2026/Second Sunday of Lent



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.



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



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 for more information. Elmarquez@sbcglobal.net



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

Special Announcement for Ministry Scheduler Pro Users

Ministry Service Scheduler Reminder

Please update your MSP profiles for the period of April - June of this year prior to March 10. Your update should include your unavailable dates for this period. The new schedule will be sent to you shortly after March 10 for the new period. Thank you for your service to our parish.



ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT *Knights of Columbus* FISH FRY



Every bite supports a great cause. Voted "Best Fish Fry" by Suburban Life Magazine, this beloved event brings our community together for an all you can eat fish fry filled with delicious food and great company. Each dinner includes access to our famous side bar featuring hearty soup, crispy french fries, creamy cole slaw, macaroni and cheese, and freshly prepared vegetables. There is truly something for everyone to enjoy. Come for the fish and stay for the fellowship. Carryout and kids meals are available, so bring the whole family and make it a night to remember.



EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT!
FEBRUARY 20TH & 27TH
MARCH 6TH 13TH 20TH & 27TH
APRIL 3RD

5:00PM-8:00PM



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST. JOHN COUNCIL**
25 N CASS AVE
WESTMONT, IL 60559

SCAN HERE FOR THE MENU!

