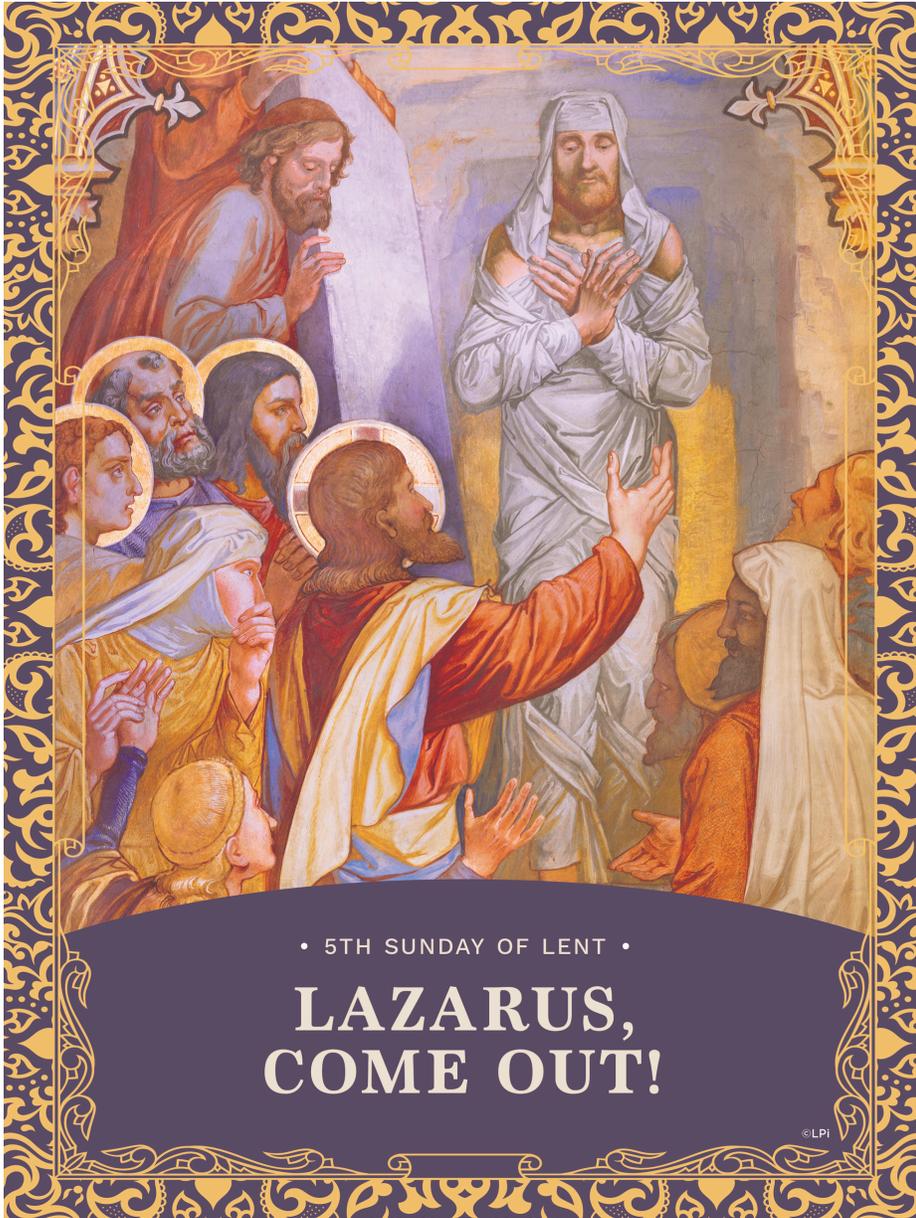


# OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



• 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT •

## LAZARUS, COME OUT!

© 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 22, 2026**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**



Scan to have the weekly  
bulletin emailed to you!  
parishesonline.com

### CONNECT WITH US



[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**

[frjeff@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:frjeff@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

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

[frrob@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:frrob@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

**Deacon Ed Ptacek**

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# 02 PASTOR'S LETTER

March 22, 2026/Fifth Sunday of Lent

## PASTOR'S LETTER

The older I get the more I hate to wait. I am sure we all feel that way. We hate standing in line. We hate waiting days to get a repair person to come to the house. We hate waiting weeks to schedule doctors' appointments. In our fast-paced culture, we want things done right now, if not yesterday. Even at Disney World, we hate standing in line for two hours for a ride. Unfortunately, so much of life is waiting. Waiting for the next big life event to happen. Waiting for graduation, waiting for retirement, even waiting for death. The important thing is what do we do while we wait? Do we make the most of the time we have? What do we do when we wait for God? That is the hardest question of them all. Do we occupy ourselves with the thing of the Lord while we wait for God to move? Do we spend the time in prayer and service and love?

We have one of the greatest stories of waiting in the Gospel today, the story of Lazarus. We know that Jesus had a personal friendship with Martha, Mary and Lazarus. It may seem odd that Jesus made his friends wait. I think Jesus did it to teach us all a lesson on the power and love of God. Jesus could have dropped everything and rushed to his friends, which would be a normal reaction for most. Jesus waited. Jesus waited to show us his love for us. When he finally arrived, Jesus went to the tomb and we get one of the most profound lines in all of Scripture, the shortest verse in Scripture too, "And Jesus wept." Jesus sat with his friends and cried. When we experience those difficult times in life, when we suffer the death of someone or another tragedy in life, we tend to immediately shout out, why? Or where were you God? Maybe it would be more comforting to remember that Jesus might be sitting next to us crying with us. Jesus wanting to be our friend and just put his arm around and cry with us. When there seem to be no immediately clear answers, remember "And Jesus wept." Then Jesus manifested his power with the raising of Lazarus, and we get another one of my favorite passages, "Untie him and let him go." After Jesus cries with us, He helps to let go and move on from what was holding us back. Maybe we need to be untied from the grief of loss. Maybe we need to be untied from fear and anxiety. Maybe we need to be untied from an addiction. We all need to be untied from something in life. That is what Lent challenges us to do. What is holding us back and what do we need to be untied from? Are we working on loosening the bonds of what is limiting us and preventing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ? The story of Lazarus reminds that Jesus is there to comfort us and have a good cry with us, "And Jesus wept." After that, if we are willing to do the hard work and place our faith in Him, Jesus is there to tell us, "Untie him and let him go."

This week we will have our evening prayer on Monday at 7pm. Our parish reconciliation service will be on Tuesday at 7pm. There will be multiple priests available for individual confessions. Then next week we celebrate Palm Sunday and beginning of Holy Week.



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

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



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

**Sunday:** Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

**Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

**Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30

**Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

**Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

**Friday:** Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28/Jr 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56

# 03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

March 22, 2026/Fifth Sunday of Lent

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, MARCH 21

4:30pm Fred Ryczyn (Family)

### SUNDAY, MARCH 22

8:15am Margaret, Sergio, Ann, & Luciano Valta (Nick Rocco)

Rev. Jerry Hubbard (Thompson Family)

Capt. Peter John Cross (Family)

John Schultz (Family)

Frank & Alice Massi (Family)

10:00am Phil Schuessler-3rd Anniv. (Family)

Noon James Sturino (Family)

Bill & Sylvia Dziak (Mary)

### MONDAY, MARCH 23

9:00am Udarbe Anniversary (Levita)

### TUESDAY, MARCH 24

9:00am Jack Harbacek (Family)

Frances Chapukonis (Jerry Barich)

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

9:00am Tom Farrell (Mary Fran)

### THURSDAY, MARCH 26

9:00am Patricia Klimala (Frank & Fran Modelski)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 27

9:00am Parishoners of OLMC

### SATURDAY, MARCH 28

9:00am Dorothy Harchalk (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Julian Cesna (Daughter)



OLMC Youth Ministry

# EASTER EGG Hunt

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Be sure to bring a basket to collect all those eggs! The hunt will start at 1:30. We will have crafts, games and a visit from the bunny!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH | 1:30 - 3:00**  
OLMC Backyard and Basement



### Young at Hearts

Meets on the Lower Level | Join us April 2nd at 10:00 a.m.  
Members bring your favorite Potluck! Hope to see you then!

**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



+ Advocate  
Good Samaritan Hospital

### Volunteers Needed

Catholic Communion  
Ministry

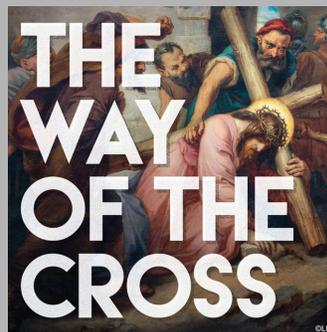
Good Samaritan  
Hospital - Downers  
Grove

Contact Gail  
Miskowicz-Retz  
Gail.Miskowicz-Retz@aah.org  
630-852-5347

## UPDATE: Midweek Lenten Vespers



Because the parish reconciliation service will be held on Tuesday, March 24, Lenten evening prayer will be offered on **Monday, March 23 at 7p.m.**



## The Way of the Cross

Fridays at 7 p.m.  
Throughout Lent

# 04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

March 22, 2026/Fifth Sunday of Lent

## Cleaning Supply Drive

We will once again be collecting cleaning supplies for the visitors of our Food Pantry during Lent. Items needed include: buckets, mops, paper towels, wipes, window cleaner, all-purpose cleaners, disinfectants, furniture polish, or any item that can be used for general house cleaning. The food pantry can always use any kind of paper goods as well. We will be putting together the buckets during our Service Day on Saturday, April 11 from 10:00- Noon. Contact the RE office for more info. Please bring any cleaning supplies to the RE office. Thank -You!

## Activity of the Week

Plant seeds with your child to help him or her understand death and new life. If planting indoors, fill a plastic container with potting soil. After planting the seeds, talk with your child about watering the seeds and watching for growth. Even though the seeds will die in the soil, they will also reappear in a new form, as a new plant. Explain that the seeds are a symbol of the new life that Jesus gives.

## RE Save the Dates:

### Breaking Bread Celebration:

March 26 from 6:45-8:30

This is a special celebration for families of all our

First Communicants. Don't miss this one!

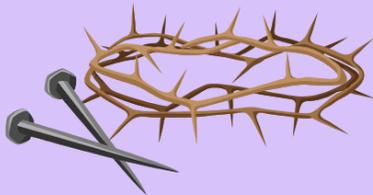
Call the RE office for info.



### A Walk through Holy Week: A Family Retreat

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

Please Call the RE office to RSVP so we can have enough supplies..



**There will be no RE on  
March 29 or 30, and  
April 5 & 6  
for Spring Break and Easter**



**Summer VBS  
July 20-24  
Registration  
now open!**

**Check our website to see how you  
can help!.**

## Questions of the Week

**Question for Children:** How do your actions show that you put your faith and trust in Jesus?

**Question for Youth:** Lazarus received a second chance at life through Jesus. How have you experienced second chances in your own life?

**Question for Adults:** The death from which we are called is healing from those things which bind us and hold us back: memories, fears, rejection, or other such things. What binds you? What keeps you from fully being your own most true self in Christ?

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### March Newsletter

#### Youth Group Meeting: 3/22 - Lenten Painting

Looking for a creative way to pray this Lent? Join us on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will have a guided painting session with a Lenten theme. Please RSVP so we have enough materials.



#### Easter Egg Hunt 3/29

Interested in helping with our annual Easter Egg Hunt? Join us on March 29<sup>th</sup> to help set up the festivities at 1:00. Egg hunt will start at 2:00.



#### 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



8<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited!



**BOWLING  
YOUTH GROUP  
PARTY**

8<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to our annual Youth Group Bowling Party! Come see what our Youth Group is all about and what we have planned for next year! Scan the QR to RSVP!

**APRIL 12 - 1:30 - 3:30 PM**

938 Warren Ave Suite A,  
Downers Grove

# 06 SPECIAL EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 22, 2026/Fifth Sunday of Lent



**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH**  
**CLOTHING DRIVE**  
 April 18 & April 19

- ✓ CLOTHING
- ✓ SHOES
- ✓ BELTS & PURSES
- ✓ ACCESSORIES
- ✓ TOYS
- ✓ SMALL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS & BOOKS

8404 S Cass Ave  
 Darien, IL, 60561  
 United States

## Hope is in Bloom

### Donate Blood

**MONDAY**  
**APRIL**  
**6th**  
 2:30 PM to 7 PM

**BLOOD DRIVE HOSTED BY**  
**K OF C ST JOHN COUNCIL # 3738 & UNCLE BUB'S BBQ**

GIVE HOPE & LIFE THIS APRIL DONATE BLOOD. EVERY DONOR WILL SAVE UP TO THREE LIVES!

Uncle Bub's BBQ - 132 S. Cass Ave. Westmont Versiti Coach

Appointments appreciated; Walk-ins welcome!

To schedule, go to [www.versiti.org/IL](http://www.versiti.org/IL), load the Versiti Donor app, call (800) 7TO-GIVE, or scan the QR code----->

PLEASE BRING A PHOTO ID.

All donors will receive a Uncle Bub's BBQ sandwich.

Call (800) 786-4483 with eligibility questions.




### Darien Historical Society & Darien Woman's Club Annual Plant Sale

Getting ready to plant this spring? Support two local organizations that benefit the community by ordering plants through their annual fundraiser. Order deadline is **Monday, April 7**. Plant pickup is Saturday, May 3 at Old Lace School. Details and order form can be found on <https://www.darienwomansclub.org/fundraising>




**Be an angel to someone in need.**



### Catholic Charities Angel Fund

You can help bring hope to neighbors in need by supporting the Catholic Charities Angel Fund. Your gift helps provide **food, shelter, counseling, and other essential services** to families, seniors, and individuals across the Diocese of Joliet. Thanks to a generous angel donor, all donations will be matched (up to \$50,000), doubling your impact. **Please consider donating by May 3.**

Visit [catholiccharitiesjoliet.org](http://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org), call 815-724-1140, or mail a gift to:

Catholic Charities Angel Fund- 16555 Weber Rd., Crest Hill, IL 60403

**On behalf of those served by Catholic Charities, thank you!**

### The 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal has begun!

The Diocese of Joliet invites all parishioners to support the 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). **Together, we can make a profound difference.**

This year's theme is **Beyond all Expectations: Faith that Elevates!** Through the CMAA, we ensure Christ's mission and ministries reach everyone. We provide **shelter for the homeless, feed the hungry, support vocations, and educate the next generation of Catholics.** Our parish cannot accomplish this alone. As a diocese, we can do so much more. We receive 70% of any amount raised over goal to use within our parish. Please review your mailing from the Diocese of Joliet and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's appeal.

If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the parish office. **Thank you!**

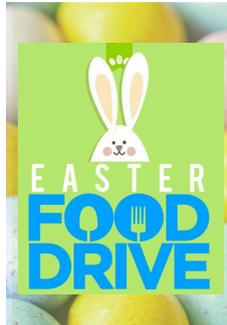


[jolietdioceseappeal.org](http://jolietdioceseappeal.org)



## RECONCILIATION NIGHT

TUESDAY, MARCH 24  
 7PM



**EASTER FOOD DRIVE**

We will hold our Holiday Food Drive for Easter on Saturday, March 28th, accepting only monetary donations to help those in need. Please take an envelope, include your donation (cash, checks, or gift cards), write your name and address, and **return it in the collection basket by Sunday, March 22nd.** For gift cards, indicate the amount clearly and prefer \$25 denominations for larger amounts. If donating by check, write "Holiday Food Drive" in the memo. You will receive credit for your donation.

Thank you, Paul Gangi - Holiday Food Drive Chairperson.