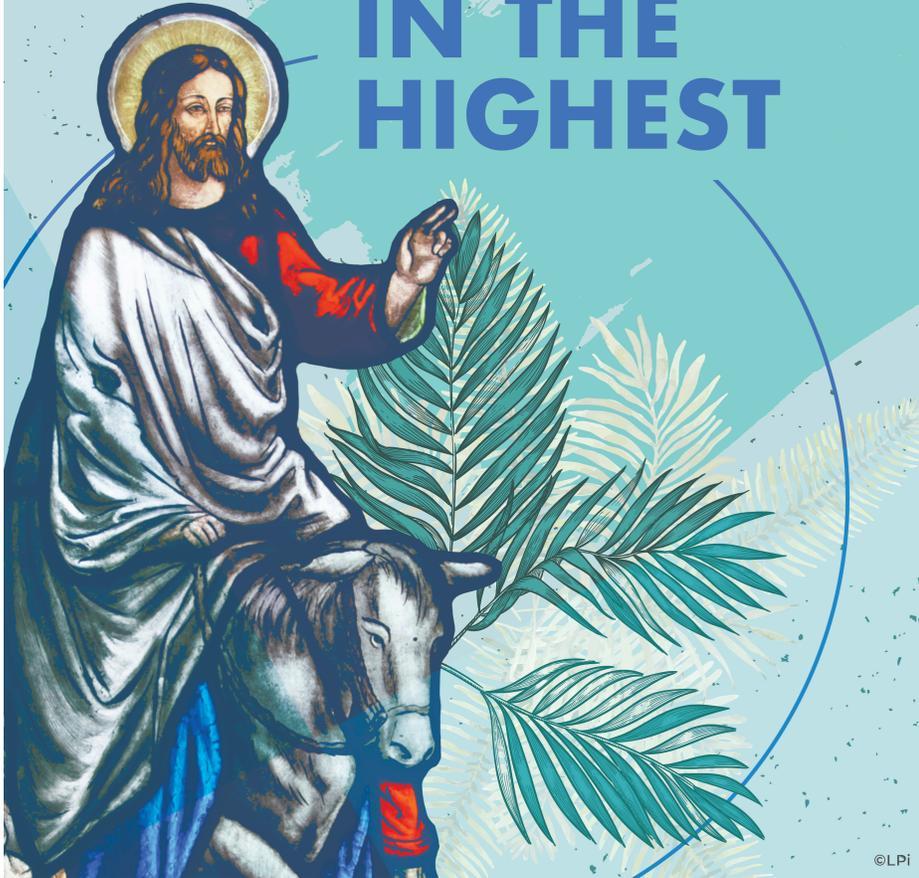


# OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561

PALM SUNDAY OF  
THE PASSION OF THE LORD

HOSANNA  
IN THE  
HIGHEST



**MARCH 29, 2026**

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION  
OF THE LORD**



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



*Easter Vigil*

**EASTER VIGIL  
SATURDAY, APRIL 4  
8PM**

## 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  
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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**

# 02 PASTOR'S LETTER

March 29, 2026/Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

## PASTOR'S LETTER

We enter into Holy Week today, Palm Sunday. This week stands at the height of the year for Christians around the world. The celebrations of the Triduum are soon to be here and next weekend is the great Feast of the Lord's Resurrection, Easter! This is a holy time of the year. I hope that we can all enter into the Paschal Mystery in a deeper way this week. However, it all begins today. Jesus makes his joyful entry into Jerusalem. The crowds are wild with joy to see him. They are cutting down palm branches and having a huge parade to welcome him into the city. However, who did they come out to see? There were hundreds, maybe thousands of people welcoming Jesus today, what happened to them all when the passion began? We see three main groups of people. The first and largest group are all the people who turned so quickly. These are the fair-weather sports fans. When the weather is nice and things are going well, they are glad to support you. But when things get tough, they are nowhere to be found. It was the same with Jesus. As soon as the persecutions started and things got rough, they ran away. They were not going to suffer and be inconvenienced by this. They quickly fled and went back to old ways when Jesus asked just a little bit more from them. The next group are the people, such as many of the early apostles, who got scared. They wanted to remain close to Christ, but became paralyzed, at least momentarily by fear. They too ran and hid because they didn't want to be caught and have to suffer. The good thing was that these people later realized their blessings and came back to Christ with even great faith than before. The final and smallest group were the few that remained faithful to the end, such as Mary his mother, the other women at the foot of the Cross, and the beloved disciple. As we celebrate again Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, which of these groups of people do think you might fall into? That is a tough question to ask ourselves. We all want to say that we would remain faithful, but I am sure that many of us have experience doubt. It is hard to remain faithful during difficult times and in the face of temptation. Let us pray during this Holy Week that we may all continue to grow in faithfulness and in our calling as disciples.

The Triduum is the most sacred time of year for us and the liturgies are amazingly beautiful. We will celebrate the Lord's Last Supper on Holy Thursday at 7 pm. On Good Friday, the live stations of the cross presented by the youth of our parish will be at 3 pm. The Celebration of the Lord's Passion will be at 7pm on Friday. The Easter Vigil liturgy will be at 8 pm on Holy Saturday. There are NO 9 am masses on the days of the Triduum. On Easter Sunday, we will have the usual mass times of 8:15 am, 10 am and 12 pm. I hope to see you there. I pray that Holy Week is a blessed time for all.



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

*Our Lady of  
Mount Carmel*

*... Pray for us!*

*Fr. Jeff*



### Readings for the week of March 29, 2026

**Sunday:** Mt 21:1-11 (37)/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

**Monday:** Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11

**Tuesday:** Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

**Wednesday:** Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14-25

**Thursday:** Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

**Friday:** Is 52:13-53:12/Ps 31:2 and 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17 and 25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1-19:42

**Saturday: Easter Vigil:** Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/

Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30) or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/

Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/

Ex 14:15-15:1/ Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/Is 54:5-14/

Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/

Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/

Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2)/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mt 28:1-10

# 03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

March 29, 2026/Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, MARCH 28

**4:30pm** Ellen Nowak-8th Anniv. (Family)  
Kowalski Family-living (Family)  
Costantino & Lucia Libo-On (Family)  
Rodrigo & Angeles Delfinado (Family)  
Marianne Birgersson (Family)  
Adrianna Dinh-living (Tolentino Family)

### SUNDAY, MARCH 29

**8:15am** Mary, Anthony, & Jerry Poli (Nick Rocco)  
Thomas Ostrowski-13th Anniv. (Family)  
John Schultz (Family)  
John Pope (Family)  
**10:00am** Monica Gurgone (Family)  
Andrea Abate (Family)  
**Noon** Santos Esmilla (Family)  
Corazon Salazar (Family)

### MONDAY, MARCH 30

**9:00am** Ron Grezenia (Family)  
Eduardo Rosete (Family)

### TUESDAY, MARCH 31

**9:00am** Lee Valero (Monahan Family)  
Mary Jung (Evelyn Antikauskas)

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

**9:00am** Chestra Ramocki (Frank & Fran Modelski)  
Connie Gurgone (Family)  
Jerry Zielinski-living (Family)  
Jeffrey Carioto (Sister)

### THURSDAY, APRIL 2 *Holy Thursday*

**7:00pm** Washing of the Feet

### FRIDAY, APRIL 3 *Good Friday*

**3:00pm** Youth Stations of the Cross  
**7:00pm** The Lord's Passion

### SATURDAY, APRIL 4

**8:00pm** Easter Vigil



**Washing OF THE FEET**

**HOLY THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 2ND**  
**7PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**APRIL 3**  
**3PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**APRIL 3RD**  
**7PM**

LITURGY OF THE LORD'S  
**PASSION**

**EASTER VIGIL**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 4**  
**8PM**

**EASTER SCHEDULE**

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**MASS TIMES**  
**8:15AM**  
**10:00AM**  
**NOON**

*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!**

*Carrying Christ*

**Ministers of Care**

Share Christ's Love Through Communion  
To the sick, elderly and medical restricted  
To arrange for a Minister of Care,  
Contact: Lori Prado  
(lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

**ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY**  
**INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN ALTAR SERVER?**

Altar Servers play an important role in assisting the priest during Mass while growing closer to Christ through service at the altar. This ministry is open to parish youth in **4<sup>th</sup> grade and older** who have received **First Communion**, are responsible, and willing to learn. **Training is provided.** Contact Lori Prado.

# 04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

March 29, 2026/Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

## Questions of the Week

**Question for Children:** Share how you sometimes make sacrifices for the good of others.

**Question for Youth:** Today begins the holiest week of the year. It is a once-a-year opportunity to really reflect on Jesus life, death, and resurrection. How will you enter into this experience? How will you be open to how you might be changed?

**Question for Adults:** Name one specific way that you live your baptismal call to enter into the death of the Lord by forgiveness, generosity, hospitality, or other ways.

## Activities of the Week

Take time to evaluate your Lenten observance and to plan for the celebration of the Triduum. Have family members reflect on what they need to let go of in order to fully rise with Christ.

To make this Holy Week special, turn off the television set for the entire week. You may want to put a crucifix or a picture of Jesus on your table. Put a palm branch with it. Have a family discussion about what each person can do to grow closer to Jesus this week.



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

**Have a wonderful Spring Break!  
We hope to see you at some of the  
Holy Week Celebrations**



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

**We need your help!**  
Looking for small group leaders-each group has 5-6 mixed aged children with a jounior helper to assist you. We also need station leaders and help with deocorating.

## Service Day-April 11- 10:00-12:30

**We still need cleaning supplies for our drive! Please donate any of the following supplies to help us with our Cleaning Supply Drive. Bring them to the RE office by April 8:** 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.

In addition to the cleaning buckets, we will be prep the garden for planting. Extra hands make light work. See you on April 11!  
Contact the RE office for more info.

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## March Newsletter

### Easter Egg Hunt Volunteer 3/29

Interested in helping with our annual Easter Egg Hunt? Join us on March 29<sup>th</sup> for lunch at 12, set up will begin at 12:30. Egg hunt will start at 1:30.



### Help Needed: Decorate OLMC for Easter

Our Decorating Committee is in need of volunteers to help decorate our parish for Easter on Holy Saturday. Scan the QR for more info and to sign up!



### 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 29, 2026/Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

**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.

Support your local hospital  
 UChicago Medicine  
 AdventHealth  
 Hinsdale.

versiti  
 Blood Center of Illinois

### 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>

## WELCOME

**ANTHONY AND KAREN MARTINO**  
**TO THE OLMC FAMILY!**

**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!**

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

**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!**