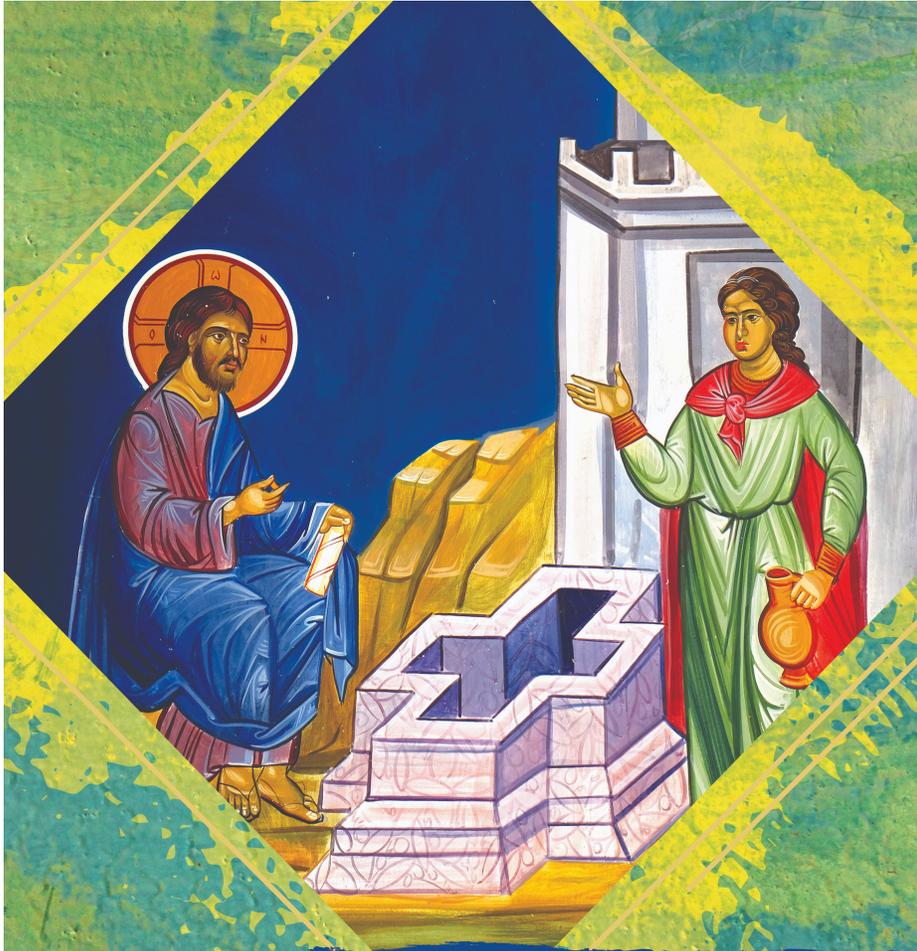


OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one speaking with you." - Jn 4:24-26

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

MARCH 8, 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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

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

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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 8, 2026/Third Sunday of Lent

PASTOR'S LETTER

We love stories of great tragedy and loss followed by redemption and overcoming are common in literature and movies. We are about to enter one of the greatest times of the year for sports fans, March Madness!!! Let the games begin! There will be stories of underdogs and upsets. I am reminded of one of the greatest sports movies ever made Hoosiers. I am sure many of us have seen it. The movie was released in 1986. Maybe it's time to introduce your children and grandchildren to a true classic. Hoosiers tells the story of tragedy, loss and redemption. A new head coach, played by Gene Hackman, comes to this small Indian town to coach the basketball team. The town is small and falling on hard times. The senior all-star of the team has encountered personal tragedy with the recent death of his father and no longer wishes to play. The new coach recruits a local man to be his assistant; however, he struggles with alcoholism. The deal is that he must be sober at all practices and games. Long story short, all overcome their personal tragedies and go on to win the state championship. It is truly an inspiring movie, give it a watch sometime.

We see another story of tragedy, loss and redemption in the Gospel today. We hear the story of the woman at the well. First, she is a Samaritan, which means she is a foreigner in the land. We know the struggles that entail. She is female at a time when women had no rights in society at all. She has been through five previous husbands. The story never says if she lost the husbands through death or by divorce, Regardless, the loss of a spouse by either means is a personal tragedy to endure. She is at the well at noon, which is a time that women were not allowed to be there. Was she desperate? Was she avoiding the other women of the town because she has a reputation? We don't know, but she is doing something she should not be doing. It is amid so many personal tragedies and at a time of doing something she should not be doing, that she encounters Jesus Christ. Through this beautiful exchange she journeys from tragedy and loss to redemption. There is also so much masterful story telling by John the Evangelist in this account. There are 7 exchanges in this conversation. It parallels the 7 days of creation and the journey from nothingness to the fullness of life in Christ. We see the personal faith growth of this woman. She begins by calling him "a Jew," then moves to "prophet," then, she tells the town people, "Could he possibly be the Christ?" At the end the town folk call him "the savior of the world." Because of her experience. Lent is the time for us all to journey through our personal tragedies. We all have been through something. Severity varies from person to person, but we all know loss and we all know what sin does in our lives. This Lent is about our journey through sin, loss and tragedy to the joys of redemption in Jesus Christ.

We continue to have several opportunities for prayer and reflection during Lent. The Vespers service on Tuesdays at 7pm haven been moving and special. Station of the Cross on Fridays at 7pm are very well attended. Today, Sunday March 8 at 1:30pm, Fr. Rob is having an afternoon of reflection. Lastly, on Tuesday, March 24 at 7pm we will have our parish reconciliation service, there will be multiple priests available for individual confession.



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

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

Readings for the week of March 8, 2026

Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14



03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

March 8, 2026/Third Sunday of Lent

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

4:30pm Judy Romano (Jerry Barich)

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

8:15am Dorothy Siroky (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Brian Bowden (Nick Rocco)

Melanie Beltran (Thompson Family)

10:00am Lt. Geno Munin (Eugene Munin)

Dorothy Sangpeal (Friend)

Noon Dorothy Apolinski (Evelyn Antikauskas)

Edgar & Allan Delfinado-living (Kowalski Family)

Maureen Ferreri (Family)

Robert Ferreri (Family)

MONDAY, MARCH 9

9:00am Mary Walega (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Adam Smith (Evelyn Antikauskas)

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

9:00am Carol DiPietro (Tony & Melanie Ruta)

Patrick Jarvis (Family)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

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

Mary Jacko (Family)

Phil Demaio (Demaio Family)

A. Denison Weaver (Wife)

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

9:00am Carol Mertes (Family)

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

9:00am Parishoners of OLMC

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

9:00am Estelle Modelski (Frank & Fran Modelski)



Lenten Afternoon Recollection

A Lenten afternoon of recollection will be offered on

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

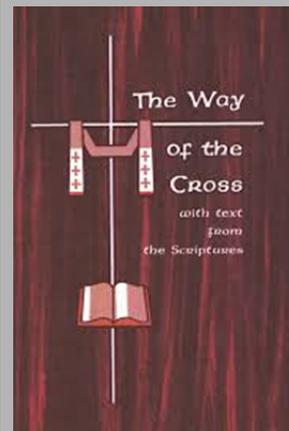
Fr. Rob will offer two talks on **"Humanity's Search for God and God's search for Humanity."** Quiet reflective time will also be part of the afternoon.

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 8, 2026/Third Sunday of Lent

Questions of the Week

Question for Children: How do you experience Jesus helping and loving you?

Question for Youth: Jesus revealed himself to an outcast of society. How can you be “living water” to the outcasts of your school? Society? The world?

Question for Adults: When you are tempted to try to satisfy your “thirst for meaning” through some other means, what keeps you coming back to the living water of intimacy with Christ? Through what means do you experience Christ’s power in your life: Sacraments? Scripture? Prayer? Others?

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.

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 all our

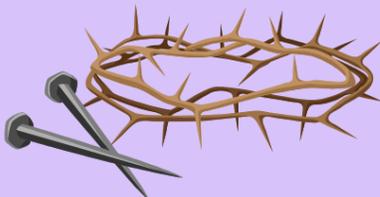
First Communicants. Don’t miss this one!

Call the RE office for info.



A Walk through Holy Week: A Family Retreat

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



Activity of the Week

Create a centerpiece for the dinner table on the theme of water. You may want to use a dish of water, a flower to float in the water, or a candle that floats in the water. Go around the table and have family members answer this question. How is Jesus satisfying a thirst of yours?

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!

Care for Creation Corner

Food Waste DID YOU KNOW:

“According to the nonprofit organization Feeding America, Americans waste more than \$408 billion each year on food, with dairy products being the food item we toss out the most. The average American family of four throws out \$1,600 a year in produce.”

BE AWARE!

Access your fridge and pantry before you shop.

Utilize any items to make creative leftovers.

Shop locally and more frequently to eliminate food waste.

PRAY!

Heavenly Father, thank you for your generous provision of food in my life, and for the blessing of having plenty to eat. For the times I have wasted food, I am truly sorry, as I am not mindful of your gifts.

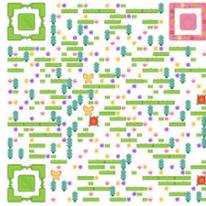
Forgive me and help me to become a better steward of everything you give me. I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

YOUTH MINISTRY

March Newsletter

High School Service Hour Opportunity!

We 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!



Easter Egg Hunt 3/29

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



Youth Group Meeting: 3/22 - Lenten Painting

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



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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 8, 2026/Third 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.

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.



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 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!**



jolietsdioceseappeal.org



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



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**



We will be holding our **Holiday Food Drive for Easter on Saturday March 28th.** We will only be accepting monetary donations that we then will pass on to people in need to supplement their food needs. Please take an envelope home with you, put in any donation you want, write your name & address on it then place it in the collection basket next week. You could give **gift cards, checks or cash.** When giving a gift card, make sure the amount is clearly on it. If you are giving a large amount in gift cards, please get them in \$25's instead of one large amount. If you pay by check please put "Holiday Food Drive" in the memo. You will get credit for any donation you make. Please return your envelopes by **Sunday, March 22nd.** at the latest.
Thank You, Paul Gangi - Holiday Food Drive Chairperson