

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." - Jn 20:26-27

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APRIL 12, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
(SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)



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The Feast of Divine Mercy
*A Day of Extraordinary
Grace!*
Sunday, April 12
Holy Hour 3pm

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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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

April 12, 2026/Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

PASTOR'S LETTER

Happy Easter!!! We continue to celebrate Easter with great joy. I hope everyone enjoyed last weekend with family and friends rejoicing together in the glory of the Lord's Resurrection. However, don't let it end there. The Church celebrates Easter for 50 days, all the way up to the Feast of Pentecost. Each day is to be celebrated as a "mini-Easter" as we keep the experience of the risen Christ alive in our hearts and souls. However, we struggle often with keeping that hope and faith alive.

That struggle is not unique to us. We see it in Thomas today. He was a doubter. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." Thomas struggled with his faith and believing in the Resurrection. However, I think doubt was just the starting point for his resurrection story. What if where we start is less important than where we go, where we end? Do you know the end of Thomas' story? Do you know where he died? He died in India. He was the apostle to the people of India. He brought the gospel of Christ to India. He died a martyr after he was run through with five spears by five soldiers. That doesn't sound much like a doubter, does it? It sounds like someone who grew and changed, someone for whom the resurrection of Christ was real, someone for whom the empty tomb made a difference. It just took a little time, as it does for most, maybe all of us. We know Doubting Thomas but let's not forget Confessing Thomas. He's in today's gospel as well. "My Lord and my God!" With those words Thomas has recognized and named a new relationship, a new worldview, a new way of being. Somewhere between Doubting Thomas and Confessing Thomas is the story of resurrection in Thomas' life. All that stuff about Doubting Thomas, the fact of his disbelief, is just Thomas' starting place, nothing more and nothing less. It's neither good nor bad. It's a starting place. And we all have our starting places. Let what we have celebrated in these days, be our starting point in coming to a deep belief in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Happy Easter!!



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

***Our Lady of
Mount Carmel***

... Pray for us!

Fr. Jeff

Readings for the week of April 12, 2026

Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21



03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

April 12, 2026/Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

4:30pm David Richarson (Michael & Andrea)

Bessy (Family)

Thomas McCarthy (Family)

Christina Bukowski-1st Anniv. (Family)

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

8:15am Marco Rocco (Nick Rocco)

Arlene Brescia (Family)

Robert & Helen Sayre (Thompson Family)

Joseph Kasperski - 19th Anniv. (Germaine Moore)

10:00am Rosa Abbate (Family)

Margaret Vidal (Family)

David & Julie Zielinski (Family)

Mary Beth Doyle-7th Anniv. (Family)

Noon Anaciz Serrano (Family)

Marie Santoro (Calvanese Family)

Rose Sunny (Sheri)

MONDAY, APRIL 13

9:00am Erlinda Casacang-living (Maribeth

Seecheung)

Ted Sevier (Cindy)

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

9:00am Tom Sullivan (Fr. Rob)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

9:00am Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

9:00am Ostrowski/Curley Families (Family)

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

9:00am Parishoners of OLMC

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

9:00am Kathleen Corso (Mother Evelyn)

Arthur C. Munin (Eugene Munin)

You Are Invited!

The Feast of Divine Mercy | Holy Hour Sunday, April 12th, 3-4pm | Our Lady of Mt. Carmel A Day of Extraordinary Grace

The Holy Hour will include Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction.

Come experience the wonders of Jesus' Love and Mercy.

Jesus told St. Faustina, "I am Love and Mercy itself. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me even though its sins be scarlet. My mercy is greater than your sins, and those of the whole world. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. I want the whole world to know of My infinite Mercy." The message of Divine Mercy is that God is merciful. He is love poured out for us and He wants no one to escape that merciful love.

Please join us to celebrate His Merciful Love and Forgiveness!



Where did the feast of Divine Mercy come from?

If you were born well before the year 2000, you know the feast of Divine Mercy has not always been celebrated in the Church. In the early 1900s, a young Polish nun began receiving private revelations. Jesus appeared to her during her times of prayer, speaking a message of mercy and love for the world. She received a set of prayers — the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** — and the request to have a feast day established to remind the Church of the mercy of God. St. Faustina died in 1938, on the cusp of war and in the midst of one of the most violent centuries in the history of the world.

Her story and her diaries began circulating in Poland and beyond. It quickly became apparent that this was a holy young woman, and the cause for her canonization opened. In the year 2000, she was canonized by the first-ever Polish pope, St. John Paul II. On her canonization day, he established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, "a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind with experience in the years to come."

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, April 18th 10-11:30am

For information, contact Lori Prado



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 **4th grade and older** who have received **First Communion**, are responsible, and willing to learn. **Training is provided.** Contact Lori Prado.



"Your Gifts Are God's Blessings – Share Them!"
Sign up for Ministry Opportunities!
Contact Lori Prado

04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

April 12, 2026/Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)



Celebrating the Easter Season

Questions of the Week

Question for Children: Even though you can't see him with your eyes, how do you "see" Jesus in others?

Question for Youth: Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit and gave us the power to forgive sins. How do you offer forgiveness to your friends and family? How do you seek forgiveness for yourself?

Question for Adults: When and how do you experience the "new birth" which we are given in Christ? When someone has forgiven you? When you have forgiven others? When you celebration reconciliation? At other times?

Activities of the Week

Easter is not a one-time event. Rather it is an ongoing reality of our new life in Jesus. At bedtime, trace the Sign of the Cross on your child's forehead. Pray the following prayer together: Dear Jesus, it gives us great comfort to know that you rose from the dead and that you are alive today. Come alive in our hearts and help us to be your faithful followers. Amen..

Plant a tree to help your family continue its celebration of Easter. Let it be a symbol of your family's faith as both grow and mature.

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 decorating.



Pick Up Registration for 2026-2027 RE after all Masses this weekend.

The RE year is almost finished. We are already planning for summer events and next year's curriculum. If you would like to be a part of our amazing team, and we can always use your help, please prayerfully consider joining us. Call the RE office for any questions you may have. Thanks to all of our teammates that have stepped up to help our youngest parishioners grow in their faith. You are truly gift!

YOUTH MINISTRY

April Newsletter

Help Needed: OLMC Clothing Drive

Our Service Ministry needs help with our Spring Clothing Drive. Use the QR code to sign up for a time that works for you on **4/18** or **4/19!**



OLMC Clothing Drive

Upcoming Youth Group Meetings

April 12: Bowling at Tivoli Bowl

April 26: Celebrate the Graduates!

Confirmation Reception Help

Calling all 7th graders! We would love your help getting ready for our Confirmation Mass and Reception! Use the QR to sign up to help on April 30th! Let's celebrate this amazing group of Candidates!



8TH GRADERS INVITED!

8th Graders are invited!

BOWLING YOUTH GROUP PARTY

8th 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 - 3:00 PM

938 Warren Ave Suite A, Downers Grove

Summer Retreat: Steubenville

All rising 9th - 12th graders are invited to attend the Steubenville Conference this summer June 26 -28 at Benedictine University. We have a few tickets left! Scan the QR code to sign up today!



06 SPECIAL EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 12, 2026/Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)



Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to the Easter Food Drive! Your contributions made a big difference in many families' lives.



Are you widowed and still hurting? Please join us.

Announcing our next 2 retreats in April and May 2026:

What: Attend a Joyful Again! 2-day Workshop & Spiritual Retreat

When: April 25th & 26th 2026

Where: Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House Barrington IL
Overnight Accommodations available

What: Attend a Joyful Again! 2-day Workshop & Spiritual Retreat

When: May 30th & 31st 2026

Where: St Joan of Arc Parish, Lisle IL.

No overnight accommodations available at this event.

For further information, call: 708-354-7211.

info@joyfulagain.org | www.joyfulagain.org

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, 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!