

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy;
I came so that they might have life and have it more
abundantly.” - Jn 10:9-10

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

APRIL 26, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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bulletin emailed to you!
parishesonline.com

CONNECT WITH US



ourladyofmtcarmel.org



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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

Rev. Jeff Smialek, O.Carm., Pastor

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02 PASTOR'S LETTER

April 26, 2026/Fourth Sunday of Easter

PASTOR'S LETTER

We are now on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, time is flying, it seems like Easter was just yesterday. The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday because we always proclaim the Gospel in which compares himself to a shepherd. I don't know much about animal husbandry, but I have learned some traits of shepherds over the years. It was hard and dirty work. The person was outside in the fields for days at a time, through all the weather that came. You stood outside in the rain if you had to keep watch. If you had a tent to sleep in at night, you were lucky, but most of the time it was sleeping under the stars. The sheep were dirty and smelled. The insects and pests were relentless. Not to mention, looking out for the wolves and other predators that might be after the sheep which you would have to fight off. The hard, physical work was coupled with an emotional toll as well. Shepherds in early society were social outcasts. They were viewed as ritually unclean, so they were not allowed into the temple or synagogues. They were not allowed to enter most public areas in Jewish towns. Their nomadic lifestyle often brought a reputation for theft as they passed through an area. They were so distrusted that they were not allowed to give testimony or serve as a witness in court because it was felt that they could not be reliable. Despite all these going against shepherds, Jesus still compares himself to one. Jesus is saying that he is willing to do all those things for us. He is willing to do the hard, manual labor for us. Most of all, Jesus is willing to take on the shame and outcast status for us. That is love. Jesus is telling us that he is willing to do what must be done to help you and I to get to the Heavenly Kingdom. Despite the many drawbacks, there is a unique feature about shepherds. They are always out front. They lead their flock. The shepherd is first in order to scout the terrain for threats and to call the flock forward. The sheep become so in tune with sound of his voice that they only follow when he calls. They won't respond to anyone except the shepherd they were trained to follow. That is also what Christ is doing for us. He is out front and calling us to come forward and follow. The big question is whether we are willing to follow and listen to His voice? Happy Good Shepherd Sunday!

Thanks to everyone who donated to the clothing drive last weekend. It was an overwhelming response. The truck was pretty full by the end of Saturday and was beyond capacity following the 8:15 mass, we had to call for a second truck and that one was full by the end of the day. A huge shout out to Lou Mallers for organizing the drive and his crew of volunteers. They were loading the second truck in a downpour of rain and hail. Also, please keep our young people in your prayers. We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, April 30 at 7pm. We will welcome Bishop Joseph Perry, retired auxiliary bishop of Chicago to our parish as the main celebrant.



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

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



Readings for the week of April 26, 2026

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/ Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:11-18 (second choice)

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/ Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24-13:5a/ Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/ Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/ Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/ Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14

03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

April 26, 2026/Fourth Sunday of Easter

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

4:30pm Gonzalo Navejar (Family)

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

8:15am Maria & Nicola Rocco (Nick Rocco)

Ted & Ella Smith (Thompson Family)

Frank Jasek-3rd Anniv. (Family)

10:00am Patrick Stang-1st Anniv. (Cindy Mikrut Milani)

Veronica Tejada (Pax & Rose Ravina)

Rose Abbate-23rd Anniv. (Family)

Noon Craig McDwayne (Sheri)

Andrea Narag (Friends)

MONDAY, APRIL 27

9:00am Parishoners of OLMC

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

9:00am Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

9:00am Philip Carioto (Daughter)

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

9:00am Jossy Puthenveetil (Family)

Domingo Echevari (Family)

FRIDAY, MAY 1

9:00am Sam & Joan Stauder (Family)

SATURDAY, MAY 2

9:00am Enrique E. Pabellon (Obmaces Family)

4:30pm Peggy Walsh (Denise Basile)

Josephine Ryczyn (Family)

Victoria Knafl (Family)

Reynaldo Evano (Family)

Faith Teodoro-living (Family)

Daisy San Juan-living (Family)

History of the Rosary

Although a longstanding tradition attributed the rosary to Saint Dominic and the Dominican Order, the practice of using beads to count prayers predates the Dominicans by a few hundred years. In fact, it seems that what we now think of as the rosary (which means "garland of roses") was first developed by illiterate peasants and religious brothers and sisters as a way of offering 150 "Our Fathers" to replace the praying of the 150 psalms in the Divine Office.

The practice of reciting 150 Hail Marys (which was later subdivided into 15 decades of 10 Hail Marys) arose during the late Middle Ages. Devotion to the rosary began to flourish in the nineteenth century, especially as new devotions to Mary began to spread throughout Europe and the New World. An annual liturgical celebration of Our Lady of the Rosary was introduced into the Church calendar in 1573 and it has been observed on the date of October 7 since 1913.

In the apostolic letter On the Most Holy Rosary, Pope Saint John Paul II not only added five new mysteries to the traditional fifteen, but he also reminded Catholics that the rosary is, at its core, an opportunity to go deeper into the life of Jesus: "The rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer ... It has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium. It is an echo of Mary's prayer, her perennial Magnificat ... With the rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and are led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love" (no. 1).

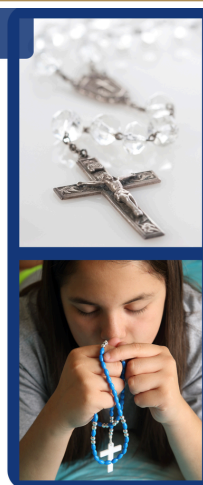
ROSARY ACROSS THE DIOCESE

A free Zoom webinar presented by the Catholic Schools Office.

Thursday,
May 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Join Associate Superintendent
Dr. Nikki Kanzla and Diocesan
Principals as we pray for our
schools, students, and families.

Register Today!



The Beyond the Books parenting
workshop series accompanies
parents and students as we
navigate the challenging world
around us.

Diocese of Joliet Catholic Schools
**Beyond
the Books** ORIENTING FORMATION
SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD



Young at Hearts
Meets on the
Lower Level
Join us **May 7th**
at **10:00 a.m.**
Hope to see you
then!

ADORATION
**Eucharistic
Adoration**
First Friday of the
Month
3pm to 6:30pm
Concluding with
Benediction



Pray the Rosary — All
Are Welcome
Every Wednesday | 7pm
OLMC Chapel
Join us as we pray the
Holy Rosary.
"To Jesus through Mary"

04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

April 26, 2026/Fourth Sunday of Easter

Celebrating the Easter Season



Questions of the Week

Question for Children: How is Jesus your example when others don't like you?

Question for Youth: Sheep know their shepherd and follow his voice. How hard is it for you to recognize the voice of God in your own life? Who has helped you hear God's voice?

Question for Adults: In what specific ways is Christ an example which you follow when dealing with others, especially with the ones against whom you hold a grudge or those who dislike you?

Activities of the Week

Who are the ones in need in your family, extended family, neighborhood, or community, for whom you can be a shepherd? In imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd, help meet these needs in a caring way.

As a family, identify some of the voices that try to drown out Jesus' voice in today's culture. Discuss how these voices can lead us astray.



Summer VBS
July 20-24
Registration
now open!



We need your help!

The Registrations are coming in, but we need many hands to help us work through this amazing Amazon adventure.

We are looking for small group leaders (High School aged or older)
Station Leaders (Adults)

and Decorating teams. Please contact the RE Office to see how you can help!



Parish Service:

Thank you to all who helped provide service this past weekend.

Between the Gardening, preparing buckets for the food pantry, and clothing drive, we had lots of help.

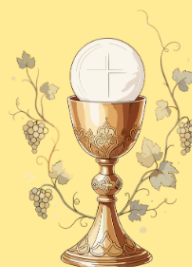
For the Gardening and cleaning supplies, we would like to thank:

Wayne & Linda Lesko, Izzy Reichl, Mary Schurren, and the Serritella Family
Dominic & Amber.

Thank you again!

First Communions:

We would like to congratulate the following students who received First Holy Communion on April 19:



Luz Alvarado
Salvador Alvarado
Amelia Glabinski
Luke Metzel
Adian Metzel
Parker Musil

YOUTH MINISTRY

April Newsletter

Upcoming Youth Group Meetings

April 26: Celebrate the Graduates!

May 3rd: Scripture or Star Wars?
Youth Group vs Father Jeff

Please Pray for our Candidates

April 30th is Confirmation!

Please keep our Candidates in your prayers as they finish their final weeks of preparation.

Summer Retreat: Steubenville

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



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!



OCIA CORNER



What an exciting time in our Church! We have a group of participants who will be continuing their OCIA journey, meeting weekly, in September! **If you are or know someone who is interested in becoming Catholic or completing initiation, please contact Jen Emanuele: jennifer.emanuele@ourladyofmtcarmel.org.**

The Ministry of OCIA not only involves committed participants, but it also includes dedicated members from our parish to walk alongside them. If you would like to be apart of our group's OCIA journey, please reach out to Jen to discuss.

06 SPECIAL EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 26, 2026/Fourth Sunday of Easter



2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal - GOAL MET!



Our OLMC Parish goal is \$88,000, and we have raised \$91,000 through 4/19/26. Thank you to all who have donated! If you are still interested in supporting the Annual Appeal, you may donate at the link below.
<https://giving.diojoliet.org/annual-appeal>



Ellen Marquez, OLMC Pads Coordinator
 Elmarquez@sbcglobal.net

A Great Big Heartfelt Thank You to all who donated to Pads. Your kindness, generosity, and support for our neighbors in need is greatly appreciated. You can be assured that your donations are making people smile when they receive their delicious chicken dinners! Thanks again for keeping the OLMC Pads ministry alive.



Thank you to everyone that worked and donated to the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Clothing Drive this past weekend. We filled one truck and almost a second truck. As always, your donations are blessings to others.

Electronics Recycling & Textiles & Book Collection

Co-sponsored by CTS Green Team, eWorks Electronics Services, & SCARCE Environmental Education

Items Accepted: **Computers & peripherals (disposal fee for TVs and monitors), Office Equipment & Products, Small Home Appliances, Home Entertainment, and Textiles & Clothing**

Saturday, May 16 | 8:30am-11:30am
Christ the Servant Parking Lot
8700 Havens Drive, Woodridge

For a detailed list of items accepted, visit
<https://www.scarce.org/event/woodridge-recycling-event-hosted-by-christ-the-servant/>

Legion of Mary ROSARY CRUSADE

THE LEGION OF MARY HAS A NEW ROSARY CRUSADE.

We are looking for 100 million Rosaries starting now and continuing all over the world. We are asking people to pray the Rosary for peace in the world, peace in the Church, and peace in the womb. (Or for an end to abortion.) You are welcome to pray as many Rosaries as you like, or if you would like to be counted, you can email me at rshennum56@gmail.com

Are you widowed and still hurting? Please join us.
What: 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

Join Us

For a presentation on the cause for the canonization of Venerable Augustus Tolton

6:30-8 pm, Tuesday, May 5
 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus
 604 N Raynor Ave, Joliet, IL 60435
 Parish Commons - Door 26

Join **Bishop Perry** from the Archdiocese of Chicago for his presentation on the cause for the canonization of Father Augustus Tolton

KINDLY RSVP

Sponsored by Diocese of Joliet Black Catholic Ministry

For more information, contact blackcatholicministry@dioceseofjoliet.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!