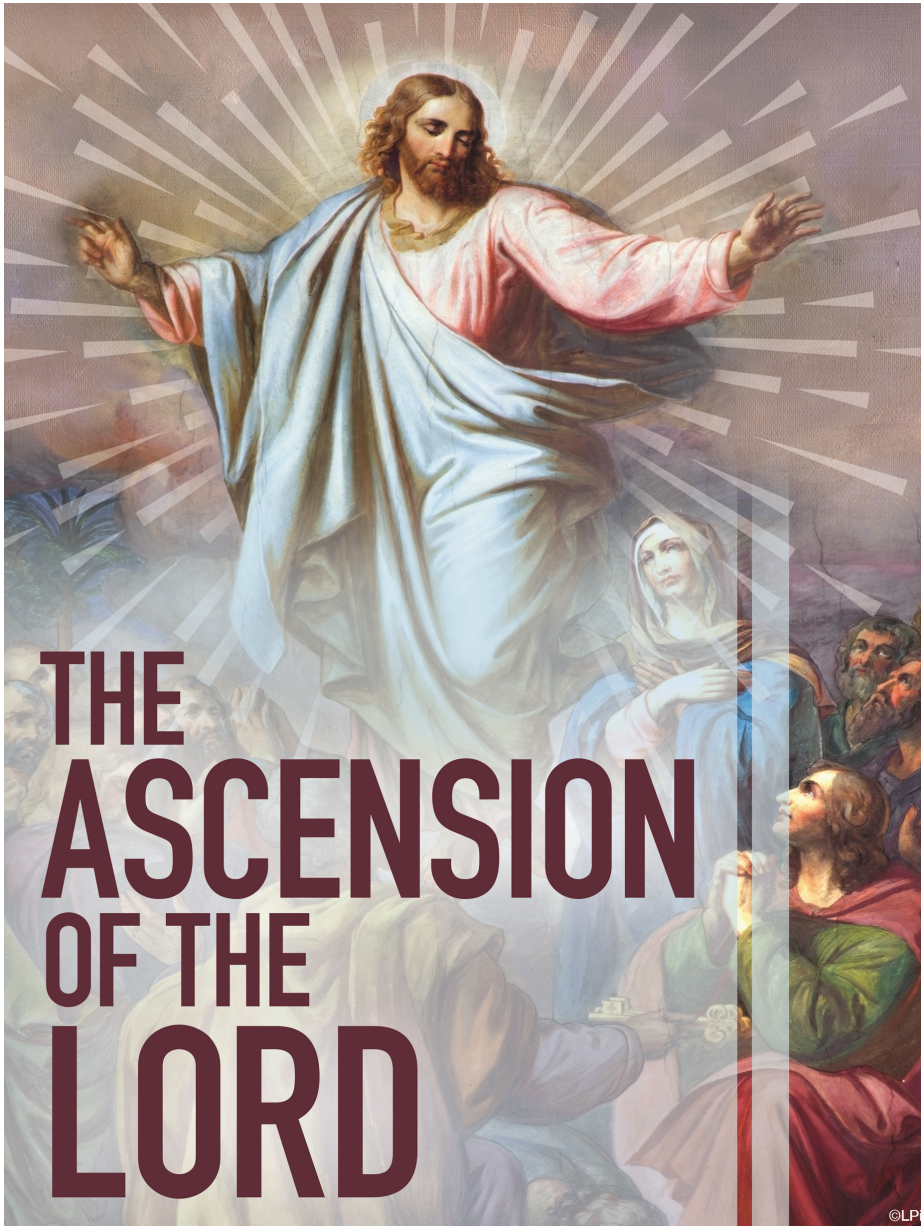


# OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



**MAY 17, 2026**  
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



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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[val.kazich@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:val.kazich@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

## 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

May 17, 2026/The Ascension of the Lord

## PASTOR'S LETTER

"Men of Galilee, why are you standing looking at the sky?" we hear in the first reading from the Book of Acts. Today is the Feast of the Ascension. It is now 40 days after Easter. Jesus had spent that time following the Resurrection to continue to teach and prepare his disciples and us for what was to come. The mission of being His disciple and building the Kingdom of God here on earth. The first disciples were lost, I bet they had that deer in the headlights look. They were looking at the sky as Jesus departed from them. Now they had to figure out where to go from there. They could not just stand there looking up forever. They had to choose whether to get to work or go another way. We too must make the same choice; do we get to work building the Kingdom or do go another way? The disciples chose to get to work for Christ by building the Kingdom. We continue with that work of building the Kingdom. The Gospel of Matthew today gives us the great commission, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." Making something requires action on our part. Things just don't happen; we must make them happen. We became followers of Jesus Christ because we were made so through the actions of others. Our parents, families and friends along the way by their example inspired us to be disciples and to live our faith. Are we doing the same? Are we inspiring others to live their faith? A year ago, the Diocese of Joliet initiated the Make campaign and asked all parishes to go and make disciples. We have been doing a great job here at OLMC. All of our various ministries and groups have been making disciples. I am excited for new young adult group. I hope that age group of our community really catches fire and makes disciples. We will be a sponsor and have a table with volunteers at the upcoming Darien Dash race. We will have a presence at some of the summer concerts and at Darien Fest because we have to go to the people, we can't wait for them to come to us. We have to take the Great Commission to Go and Make disciples seriously, both as individuals and as a community. Let's choose to Go and Make more followers of Christ and not just be standing looking at the sky.

We had a wonderful celebration of First Holy Communion on Saturday morning. It was great to see all the children all dressed up in suits and dresses and so excited. I want to thank our parish staff and catechists for their hard work in preparing the children to receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time. I also want to thank their parents for their love and role modeling. I feel the need to challenge the parents as well, your child just made his or her First communion, when will the second communion be? These children need their parents to be disciples so that they can grow up to be disciples.



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

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



### Readings for the week of May 17, 2026

**Sunday:** Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

**Monday:** Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/Jn 16:29-33

**Tuesday:** Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a

**Wednesday:** Acts 20:28-38/ Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19

**Thursday:** Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26

**Friday:** Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19

**Saturday:** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25

# 03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

May 17, 2026/The Ascension of the Lord

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, MAY 16

**4:30pm** Kowalski Family-living (Family)  
David Amory (Family)  
Reynaldo Evano (Family)  
Faith Teodoro-living (Family)  
Daisy San Juan-living (Family)  
Norma Caballes (Family)  
Mary DeSanto-3rd Anniv. (Family)

### SUNDAY, MAY 17

**8:15am** Margaret & Marco Rocco (Nick Rocco)  
Arlene Brescia (Family)  
John & Joan Arnast (Thompson Family)  
Dee Serritella (Griffin Family)  
**10:00am** Martin Garvin (Brian & Andrea Lances)  
Anselmo Jardin (Family)  
Eleonora Niziolek (Family)  
**Noon** John & Marge McMahon-living (Ed Ptacek)  
Rowena Cotner-living (Maribeth Seecheung)  
Mary Ann Brosowski (McMahon Family)

### MONDAY, MAY 18

**9:00am** Fortunata Quilang (Family)  
Nell Sikora (Family)  
Michael Feehan (Ed Ptacek)  
James Hardig Sr. (Minoque Family)  
Hugh O'Doyle (Minoque Family)

### TUESDAY, MAY 19

**9:00am** Hallett Barry (Daughter)

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

**9:00am** Peggy Chandler & Ozzie Kremer (Pat Monahan)

### THURSDAY, MAY 21

**9:00am** Bruno Chapukonis (Jerry Barich)

### FRIDAY, MAY 22

**9:00am** Frank Barzyk (Frank & Fran Modelski)  
Remigio Echevari (Family)  
Fortunato & Martina Moraga-50th Anniv. (Family)

### SATURDAY, MAY 23

**9:00am** Parishoners of OLMC

NAMI Family to Family  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
June 6<sup>th</sup>-August 1<sup>st</sup>  
Saturday 10:30 AM-1PM

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 8-week class for family members, partners, and friends of adults living with a mental health condition. The course covers helpful information about mental health conditions.

The goal is to help you better understand what your loved one is going through— while also taking care of your own well-being. The class is led by trained volunteers who have personal experience caring for someone with a mental health condition. They truly understand what you're facing and are there to offer guidance and support.

NAMI DuPage  
117 N. County Farm Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
[namidupage.org](http://namidupage.org)  
(630)-752-0066



**OLMC  
Young Adult  
Group**

**20  
MAY  
7:00PM**

You are invited to join us at OLMC's inaugural Young Adult Group meeting to learn about St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and plan our future together.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Darien

Parents and caregivers are often the first to notice when something feels different.



Sometimes the most important step is listening. Take time to listen.  
<https://www.samhsa.gov/mental-health/children-and-families> #MentalHealthAwarenessMonth #MHAM2026



### THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

**Where did he go?** Many times when we think of those who have died, we imagine escape from this world to a purely spiritual place. Jesus' Ascension can leave us in a place of confusion. What happens to Jesus? And why does this matter to us?

**The Ascension has been confirmed in the Creed for two millennia.** In Jesus' Ascension, we're invited to consider our own ultimate end. Regardless of death's reality now, we believe in the resurrection of the body and the reunification of body and soul. One day, earth and heaven will meet perfectly and without end. We anticipate this "new heaven and a new earth" at every Mass and throughout the beauty, truth, and love of the Church and her members. Today, celebrate a foreshadowing of the fullness we all await!



## Celebrating the Easter Season

### Questions of the Week

**Question for Children:** Jesus helps us be strong in our faith. When do you need to be really strong in faith?

**Question for Youth:** Prayer is essential to being a disciple, because it is the way we build our relationship with God—through talking and listening. What is one way you can take more time this week to listen to God in prayer?

**Question for Adults:** In these heartfelt instructions from a leader of the church, what are the ways in modern life that we sometimes suffer for our faith? Or are there no such ways?

## First Communion

Angelina Apa  
Nicole Augustine  
Rocco Bagnall  
Elena Camarena  
Charlotte Caylor  
Emma Cebulski  
Isaiahs Cepican  
Antonina De La O  
Brantley Debnar  
Hunter Debnar  
Mateo Delara  
Kevin Desarden  
Addison Favia  
Dominic Gismondi  
Theodore Guzan  
Rome Jardin  
Jordyn Jones

Nolan Kazee  
Charlotte Kennedy  
Michael James Klafeta  
Rosie Klafeta  
Edward Krenn  
Jazzlyn Laughrey  
Bridget McHugh  
Amanda Mendoza  
Liam Olitan  
Adeline Otmanski  
Michele Patano  
Caleb Phares  
Emma Polasek  
Dominick Prignano  
Thomas Raffenetti  
Declan Rickert  
Fiona Rickert

Niko Rodriguez  
Leonardo Rodriguez Castillo  
Lucero Rodriguez Castillo  
Allison Roegner  
Carter Ruffolo  
Giovanni Ruiz  
Bridget Shannon  
Cora Simantirakis  
Andrew Steiner  
James Stortz  
Paisley Strappazon  
Marcello Tito  
Theo Tyk  
Adelina Vega  
Giovanni Vitagliano  
Alexis Wolf  
Oliver Zimmer



## Welcome to the Table!

God bless all those who received Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist in 2026!

May you always be filled with the joy you have today every time you come to Mass!



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### May Newsletter



#### Upcoming Youth Group Meetings

**June 17** : Make a T-Shirt 6:00 – 7:30 pm

**June 26 - 28** : Steubenville Conference

#### Enjoy your Summer!

I hope everyone has a great start to the summer! Jr High – High Schoolers consider helping out at VBS! It's a fun way to help out!

#### Summer Retreat: Steubenville

All rising 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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!



#### Youth Group Newsletter

Our Youth Group will continue to meet over the summer. If you would like to be included on our Youth Group Newsletter, scan the QR code to stay informed.



## 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](mailto: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

May 17, 2026/The Ascension of the Lord



## Good Things Come in Threes

Give blood May 1-31 to help patients in need — and you'll be entered for a chance to win one of three \$10,000 gift cards.\* Your blood donation has a threefold effect: It saves lives, helps your community and benefits you.

Make an appointment at [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org) or call 877-25-VITAL

Use blood drive code: 100564117

## BLOOD DRIVE Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

Sunday, May 24, 2026  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Religious Education  
Gathering Area

Appointments Recommended. Walk-ins Welcome.  
Prepare: Eat well, hydrate, & bring ID.



\*Terms and condition apply; see [vitalant.org/SpringGiveaway](http://vitalant.org/SpringGiveaway).

For more information or to schedule a donation,  
call 877.25.VITAL or visit us at [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org)  
Find us @vitalant:



OLMC will be hosting a Blood Drive Program on Sunday, May 24 in the Religious Education Gathering Area from 9:00 until 2:00 PM.

Please note this event will not be restricted to OLMC parishioners; however, we will be taking sign-up appointments at the Church Gathering Area during the May 16-17 weekend masses. If you make an appointment through the Vitalant website, please use the code 100564117. You can also scan the QR code on the poster to access their appointment schedule.

We are now part of the City of Darien Blood Drive program that gives others the "Gift of Life." All it will cost you is approximately an hour of your time. Please remember to bring a photo ID and hydrate before coming.

If you are not able or just rather not being a donor, you can still participate as we need volunteers to receive donors as well as the post-donation "snack" and beverage area.

If you have any questions, please call Mark Kazich at 630-528-7639, or email at [kazich.mark@gmail.com](mailto:kazich.mark@gmail.com).

## SACRED VOICES CONCERT

Featuring Singers from the  
Vatican & Roman Choral

Saturday, June 20 · 7:30 pm

St. Raphael Catholic Church  
1215 Modaff Road, Naperville

Experience this extraordinary, one-night-only event and the  
choir's only appearance in the Diocese of Joliet!

This 40-member choir features singers from leading Roman and Vatican musical institutions. Under the direction of Pontifical Cantore Adriano Caroletti, they will be accompanied by Josep Solè Coll, organist of the Pope and St. Peter's Basilica.

The program highlights the richness of the Catholic Church's musical tradition, featuring works by Palestrina (known as the "Prince of Music") along with compositions by Perosi and Bartolucci, both former directors of the Pope's Choir. These timeless works have accompanied papal liturgies in the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica and showcase some of the Church's most beautiful music. The Sacred Voices Choir also had the honor of performing for Pope Leo XI.

For Tickets, visit [bit.ly/sacredvoicesnaperville](http://bit.ly/sacredvoicesnaperville)  
or scan the QR code  
Premium Seating (front of the church): \$75  
General Admission: \$40



## BE PART OF THE DIRECTOR'S CLASSIC GOLF OUTING JUNE 10, 2026

All proceeds directly benefit the St. Stephen's Fund  
which supports deacons during times of need.

### How you can help:

- **Play:** Gather friends or coworkers for a competitive and meaningful day of golf.
- **Sponsor:** Promote your business while supporting a great cause. Several sponsorship levels available.
- **Donate:** Consider a donation to the St. Stephen Fund
- **Dine:** Not a golfer? Join us for the awards dinner and silent auction at 5pm for just \$35/per person.

### REGISTRATION FEE:

- \$150/golfer or \$500/Foursome  
Includes green fee, cart, lunch, and dinner
- Prairie Bluff Public Golf Course  
19433 Renwick Road, Crest Hill 60403  
11:30 am shotgun start

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DEACON  
VIC PUSCAS AT 815-221-6172



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



Knights of Columbus

## Silver Rose

Prayer Service

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel | Wednesday, May 27 | 7pm

Share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life by participating in this meaningful pilgrimage. The Silver Rose program is a Mass and prayer service promoting the dignity of all human life and honoring Our Lady.



Faith in Action

Life



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](mailto:info@joyfulagain.org) | [www.joyfulagain.org](http://www.joyfulagain.org)