

# OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



## 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father." - Jn 14:6-7

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

**MAY 3, 2026**  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
NEWLY CONFIRMED!

**Congratulations to all of  
the newly confirmed  
students!**

The Parish is proud of you!  
See page 5 for a list of  
names.

## 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 Formation**

sherry.rochford@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

**Jennifer Emanuele, Director, Youth Ministry**

jennifer.emanuele@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

**Lori Prado, Ministry Associate**

lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

**Susan Haa, Parish Receptionist, Bulletin Editor**

receptionist@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

**John Hawkins, Business Manager**

john@jmhawkins.com

**Val Kazich, Admin Asst., Registrar, Religious Ed**

val.kazich@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

# 02 PASTOR'S LETTER

May 3, 2026/Fifth Sunday of Easter

## PASTOR'S LETTER

I was a double major in college with degrees in history and geography. I then went on to earn a master's degree in geography. I miss the days of paper maps. I was right on the cusp of technological change. I was taught the principles of constructing a paper map and all that goes into it, while at the same time taking introductory geographic information systems (GIS) that would lay the groundwork all the programs that we have on our phones and cars for directions. Sadly now, paper maps are a thing of the past. Such is life. The great frontiers man, Daniel Boone, once said, "I have never been lost in my life, only bewildered for several days." That is when a good map comes in handy to figure out where we are. No one likes the feeling of being lost. It is a scary and lonesome place. We immediately start to panic and try to find our way to anything that is familiar. We do the same thing in life. We will encounter periods where we feel lost. Maybe life is getting difficult and we are struggling with our relationships. Maybe we are feeling stagnated in a career. Maybe an illness is pressing upon us. Sometimes too, we can feel distant for God. In times like this we can turn to something that seems familiar to order to help us feel calm. The physical thing of this world that we turn to for comfort (possessions, money, alcohol, drugs, etc...) never fill the emptiness and only leave us feeling worse than before. That is when we need to turn to Jesus Christ.

In the Gospel today, Jesus tells the apostle, "Where I am going, you know the way." Thomas has the courage to speak up and say, "no, we don't." You haven't left us directions or a map, how can we know where to go? Jesus replies, Yes, I have! I am the map that you need. I am the directions for your life. "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life." Christ is the map that we need to find our way. We are lost when Christ is not at the center of our life. When we take our eyes off the cross, we wander away. Christ is the ultimate GIS that brings us home to the Father in Heaven. Let's all try to pull out that roadmap and remember that Jesus Christ is the only "Way and Truth" that we need. Anything else will just get us lost.

We had a wonderful celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday evening. I want to thank all who helped the young people to prepare, their parents, sponsors, and all our volunteer Catechists. A special thank you to Jen Emanuele, our youth minister and Confirmation coordinator, for her hard work all year long. It was an honor to have Bishop Joseph Perry from Chicago as part of our community for the Sacrament. Let's continue to hold these young people in our prayers as they continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Most importantly, let's pray that they continue to be active members of our parish community.



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

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



### Readings for the week of May 3, 2026

**Sunday:** Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

**Monday:** Acts 14:5-18/ Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26

**Tuesday:** Acts 14:19-28/ Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a

**Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1-8

**Thursday:** Acts 15:7-21/ Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11

**Friday:** Acts 15:22-31/ Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/Jn 15:12-17

**Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10/ Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

# 03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

May 3, 2026/Fifth Sunday of Easter

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, MAY 2

**4:30pm** Peggy Walsh (Denise Basile)

Josephine Ryczyn (Family)

Victoria Knafl (Family)

Reynaldo Evano (Family)

Faith Teodoro-living (Family)

Daisy San Juan-living (Family)

Norma Caballes (Family)

### SUNDAY, MAY 3

**8:15am** Marco, Cynthia, & Louis Rocco (Nick Rocco)

**10:00am** Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

Cathy Hosman (Family)

Donna Billenstein (Family)

Dorothy Sobczak (Family)

Casimir Sobczak (Family)

**Noon** John & Marge McMahon-living (Ed Ptacek)

### MONDAY, MAY 4

**9:00am** Elinda Casclang-living (Maribeth Seecheung) **4:30pm** Intentions for all Mothers

### TUESDAY, MAY 5

**9:00am** Gertrude Modelski (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Marie Bishop (Pat Monahan)

Rose DeGrazia (Granddaughter)

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

**9:00am** Bonifacio Sobredo (Family)

Joseph (Family)

Joseph Vadakava (Family)

### THURSDAY, MAY 7

**9:00am** Michael Sislow Jr.-10th Anniv. (Mom & Jerry)

Marlene Carioto (Daughter)

**FRIDAY, MAY 8 9:00am** Parishoners of OLMC

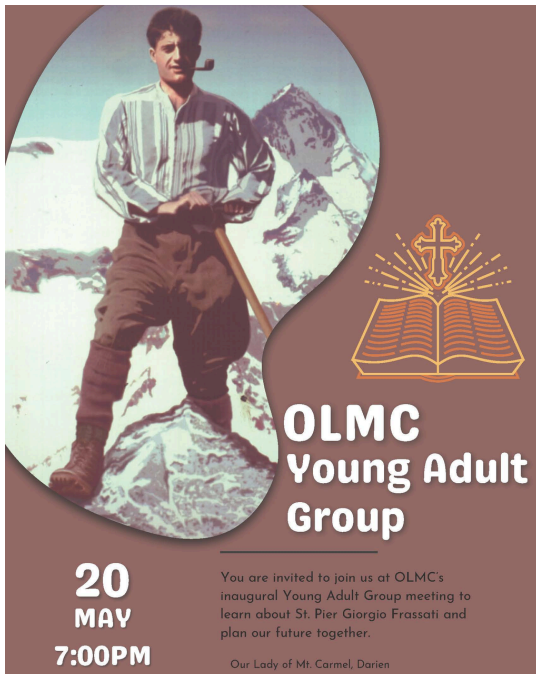
### SATURDAY, MAY 9

**9:00am** Donald Nilles (Tony & Mari Burda)

Ted Sevier (Cindy)

Julian Cesna (Daughters)

Edilberto & Carmelita Ortiz-60th Anniv. (Family)



**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

### Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church

Welcome to one of the newest feasts in the Catholic Church! The feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, was established by Pope Francis in spring 2018. While the formal celebration is new, the honor is as old as the Gospels. Jesus spoke few words on the Cross, but several of them were addressed to his mother and the apostle John. "Woman, behold your son." "Son, behold your mother." This means far more than simply someone to care for Mary as she got on in years and someone for John to celebrate Jewish festivals with. John represents all of us, the Church.

Jesus entrusted Mary to us as our mother. At the end of the historic Second Vatican Council in the midst of tumultuous times, Bl. Pope Paul VI formally declared Mary as Mother of the Church and invited us to pray to her under that title. With our recent celebration of the birthday of the Church at Pentecost, we remember that every birth has a mother. **Happy Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church!**



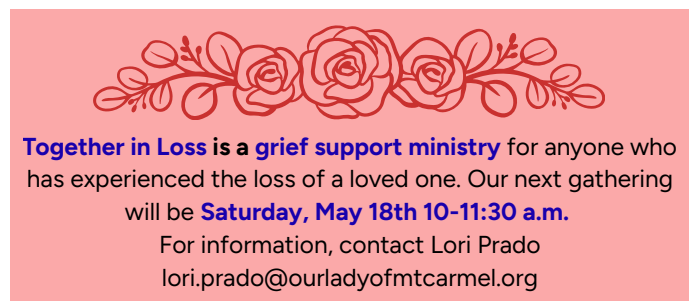
**Young at Hearts**  
Meets on the  
Lower Level  
Join us **May 7th**  
at **10:00 a.m.**  
Hope to see you  
then!



**MENTAL HEALTH  
Awareness  
MONTH**

#MHAM2026  
#SEETHEPERSON

Supporting someone living with a serious mental illness starts with understanding. Learning about mental health conditions can help you respond with **empathy**. Learn more:  
<https://www.samhsa.gov/mental-health/serious-mental-illness/managing-life>



**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, May 18th 10-11:30 a.m.** For information, contact Lori Prado [lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

# 04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

May 3, 2026/Fifth Sunday of Easter

## Celebrating the Easter Season



### Questions of the Week

**Question for Children:** What are some ways that you can act like Jesus would if he were in your situation?

**Question for Youth:** Jesus is “the way, the truth, the life” and he asks us to do as he does. How do you try to follow Jesus’ way?

**Question for Adults:** How are the promises of this Gospel passage made real in your own life? How do you experience yourself doing greater works than even Jesus did?

### Activities of the Week

Provide each family member with construction paper to make road signs that lead to God. Discuss with your family how Jesus gives direction to our lives. Conclude with a family prayer expressing faith in Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life.

Talk to your family about someone who works for your parish or someone who volunteers time to serve the poor in your community. Write a letter of support to this person thanking him or her for living a way of life that Jesus calls us to follow.



**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!



### Last Days for RE:

Our last session of RE will be on Monday, May 11 at 6:00 PM. We will celebrate with Mass and May Crowning followed with recognition of the students and hospitality. Please bring a snack to share with all! ALL RE families are invited to join us.

We would like to give a big shout out to all the volunteers, catechists, prayer partners, and parents who helped this program come alive for the children. We continue to grow because of all the wonderful help we receive every year! Thank you all and God bless your summer “Fun in the Son” time.

### First Communion Info:

First Communion will be on Saturday, May 16 at 11:00 PM. Karen Kruger is looking for any children who have received Communion here, and know the songs, to help celebrate the Mass by joining the First Communion Choir. Contact the RE office for more info.

## **May God Bless Our Newly Confirmed Students!**

**Congratulations to all the students who worked hard and were  
Confirmed on April 30th.**

**May the Lord continue to deepen their faith.**

Luz Maria Alvarado	Kayla Gemma Murphy
Salvador Nicholas Alvarado	Parker Carlo Musil
Geno Luigi Arnold	Aubrie Marcella Orona
Payton Anthony Balsamo	Paul Joseph Blaise Paljetak
Brady Patrick Bobinski	John Vance Sebastian Pearson
Simon Anthony Boeselager	Caleb Carlo Perez
Arabella Elizabeth Chavez	Alondra Teresa Plata
Luca Patrick Coletta	Stanley Joseph Potocki
Miranda Rose Cortez	Alba Joseph Quercia
Isabella Joan Delara	Kayla Francis Quillin
Andrew Peter Downes	Joseph Francis Raffenetti
Michaela Angela Emanuele	Nicholas Christopher Reilly
Jessica Mary Escobedo	Alexandro Sebastian Reyes
Brian Dominic Gibbs	Aaron Joseph Rodriguez
Alejandro Lawrence Gonzalez-Ruiz	Matthew Francis Sabuga-a
Naomi Elizabeth Gronko	Jake Lawrence Scheirer
Samantha Veronica Gruberman	Max Michael Schmidt
Maya Monica Herrada	Spencer Thomas Schmidt
Jaxon Anthony Jacobs	Dylan Peter Schuster
William John Johnson	Cameron Michael Shramovich
Aliya Philomena Kalathiveetil	Luke Nicholas Silvestri
Sebastian Francis Kazee	Cameron Cecilia Stortz
Quinn Josephine Klikuszowian	Katherine Cecilia Susmarski
Vincent Michael Logan	Natalie Catherine Tan
Liliana Teresa Maldonado	Jayden Michael Vargas
Lauren Elizabeth Marsiglio	Matteo Jerome Vitagliano
Adriana Theodosius McMahan	Addison Teresa Wells
Kyle Nicholas Merkle	Ava Francis Yeh

# 06 SPECIAL EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 3, 2026/Fifth Sunday of Easter



## 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal - GOAL MET!



Our OLMC Parish goal is \$88,000, and we have raised \$96,000 through 4/26/26. 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>

**D**  
**DuPagePads**  
 The Solution to End Homelessness.  
 Ellen Marquez, OLMC  
 Pads Coordinator  
 Elmarquez@sbglobal.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.**

Spring has been busy for the pantry! Client visits are up and our volunteers are very busy. As always we appreciate the support of the Our Lady of Mt Carmel community. We could not provide our clients with the help they need if it wasn't for your support!

We want to give a huge thank you to the Religious Education Department for the donation of over 30 buckets filled with cleaning supplies!

We allow our clients to "shop" with a list of the items we stock. Recently, we have had requests for healthier items, less canned goods and more fresh foods. This has resulted in the pantry being overstocked in canned goods and we are not able to provide the fresh foods requested.

Currently, we need no canned goods! The exception is canned chicken, Spam and tuna. We also do not need peanut butter or Mac and Cheese. **Please consider donating fresh foods: vegetables, fruit, eggs, milk, butter and cheese.** I do acknowledge that these items are more expensive and appreciate any donations of these items.

A full list of items needed is on the website. As always, please feel free to contact us at [foodpantry@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:foodpantry@ourladyofmtcarmel.org).

FOOD PANTRY UPDATES

**Join Us in Planting a Vegetable Garden!**  
 We will be planting a vegetable garden behind the church to support the food pantry.  
 Please join us on:  
 Saturday, May 9 at 10 am  
 Saturday, May 16 at 10 am  
 If those dates or times do not work for you, feel free to call Deacon Ed at 630-254-6934.  
 We always welcome extra hands in the garden!

**DONATE FOR MOTHERS**

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
 Indian Prairie Public Library



**Tuesday, May 12, 2026**  
**12:30-6:30pm**  
**Keshav Sanghani Meeting Room**  
**401 Plainfield Road, Darien**  
**Blood Drive Code: ORD0398G**

**Co-sponsor: Darien Woman's Club**  
**Scan QR code or call Vitalant at 877-258-4825 for an appointment.**  
**Prepare: Eat well, hydrate, Photo ID required**  
**Learn more at**  
[vitalant.org/donateformothers](https://vitalant.org/donateformothers)

**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)

**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/>



**Blessing of Peace**  
 Dear Lord,  
 You have said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled."  
 Bless me with Your peace.  
 Fill my heart with trust in You,  
 and hope in Your promises.  
 Be my rock in times of distress,  
 my light in times of darkness,  
 and my rest in the storm. Amen.