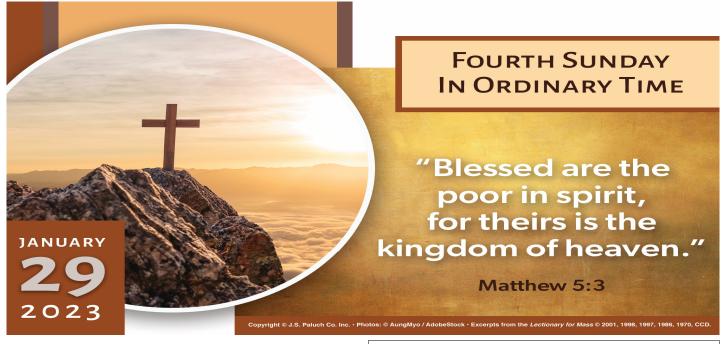
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

January 29, 2023 † Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time





8404 CASS AVENUE DARIEN, ILLINOIS 60561

Parish Phone Number: 630-852-3303 Religious Education Phone Number: 630-963-3053

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday - 4:30 PM Sunday - 8:15 AM - 10 AM - 12 Noon

Weekdays & Saturdays - 9 AM

Holy Day Eve - 7:00 PM Holy Day - 9 AM - 7:00 PM (Call Office to verify Mass times)

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 3:15--4PM

Parish Mission Statement

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.

PARISH STAFF

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January 29, 2023

How fortunate am I that once I again I have to say thank you!!! I don't know what I did to be so blest by God. I just need to drop to me knees and say Thank you to God and to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel community. Last Sunday's Installation Mass was a wonderful occasion. A true testimony to the goodness and faithfulness of this parish. I have so many people to thank and I ask forgiveness if I omit a person. Thank you to our parish staff. They all chipped in and worked so hard in many behind the scenes roles to make the day amazing. Not only that, they work hard everyday in their jobs in order to bring all in this community closer to Christ. I owe a special thanks to Bob Haa, Sue's husband, who volunteered much time to hang the pastors' portraits and name plates. The parish council members are amazing to work with and their passion for this place is inspiring. A very special thanks goes to Karen Flavin and her team of volunteers, who orga-

nized the reception. It was wonderful. Thank you to all who served in liturgical ministries, thank you. Thank you to our Deacons Ed and Lupe, who helped make the day special. Thank you to my brother Carmelites who came out to show their support. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus honor guard, who always make liturgies more special. A super huge and extra special THANK YOU to our choirs. All our various choirs combined to make one glorious melody to praise the Lord. Lastly, thank you to our Bishop, Ronald Hicks, for an inspiring homily and liturgy. It was a true blessing to have our bishop with us at OLMC.

Bishop Hicks reminded all of about the importance of prayer. I continue to ask you to pray for me during my tenure as pastor. I am going to need it. I also promise to pray daily for all the parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We are all in this together and need to support each other through prayer and actions. The picture is of Bishop Hicks and I as I placed my hand on the Book of the Gospel during my oath of fidelity. I will always pray for the grace to be a faithful pastor and shepherd to this community.

Once again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you and God bless,

Fr. Jeff

If you're interested in helping those in need, serving our parish, growing in faith or obtaining exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. Saint John Council 3738 will conduct a membership drive after each Mass on January 28 &29. Please consider joining our council. For more information, visit kofc.org, Saint John Council 3738 or contact Ray Wachowski Membership Director at Ray. Wachowski@gmail.com.

Dear Friends of OLMC

Do you have some time to give during the week? I serve with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps at an underserved elementary school teaching art. My wonderful helper is away for the winter and I am in need of an assistant!

Tuesdays and/or Fridays Please contact me for this fun and rewarding opportunity. Thank you! Sally Bala 630-730-9780



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Young at Heart is a group for men and women age 55+ which meets once a month for fellowship.

Join us for our February Gathering

February 2nd at 10:00 a.m. in the Upper Deck



For more information contact: Barbara Jo Miller

(630) 985-1043

The Operation Support Our Troops-America again thank the parishioners of OLMC for the donations of 202 pounds of food and personal items. These were boxed and sent to troops here and overseas. Your donations help continue this moral boosting mission.

God Bless You Arlene Brescia



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You humble of the land, seek justice and humility, and the Lord will be your protection (Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13).

Psalm — The Lord blesses the humble and gives them the heavenly kingdom (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — God chose the weak of the world, those who count for nothing, so that whoever boasts should boast in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

Gospel — Jesus taught from the mountain: Blessed are the poor in spirit (Matthew 5:1-12a).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20-24; Mk 5:1-20 Heb 12:1-4; Ps 22:26b-28, 30-32;

Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14,

17-18a; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18;

Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

Friday: Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6;

Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5;

Mt 5:13-16

Cathy's Corner—Unclean spirits versus the Kingdom of God

It was without doubt an extremely powerful unclean spirit. Indeed, it was many demons working together, as evidenced by its name, Legion. Perhaps that is why it ran up to Jesus as soon as it caught sight of him from a distance rather than trying to hide among the tombs where the man it was tormenting had been living. The evil spirits had made the man strong – he pulled apart the chains and smashed the shackles with which the people were attempting to subdue him. Constantly he cried out, his voice never tiring, the demons maliciously throwing him against the stones again and again, causing bruise after bruise.

The unclean spirit knew exactly who Jesus was, as had all the demons he had encountered from the very beginning of his ministry. It knew he was the Son of the Most High. It knew that the kingdom of God was now at hand and all that was demonic had met its match. But evil spirits are crafty. So, hidden in the man, it prostrated itself before Jesus, begging not to be tormented. Jesus, however, saw the demons for what they were. Jesus named them. And all the chaos and destruction that had inhabited the man poured out and entered a large herd of swine. It was too much for the creatures. They rushed to their death. The demons had been destroyed. The bruised and bedeviled man was at peace. Yet the people were seized with fear, not gratitude. The man had gained his life, yes. But the district had lost a great deal of livestock and had no idea what had actually just happened. All they wanted was return to the status quo and Jesus to be gone. All the man wanted was to never be without Jesus again.

This is not just a strange story from a long ago time. Unclean spirits exist no less today, lurking in tombs where evil is most comfortable, where they can remain nameless and so immune from being mastered. It is beyond time to do what Jesus did, name them and call them out. White supremacy. Systemic sexism. Derogation of the LGBTQ community. Dismissal of the differently abled. Dehumanization of immigrants and refugees. The list goes on. We can exorcise these unclean spirits from our world if we identify them for what they are, instead of allowing them to hide in what they pretend to be, the acceptable status quo, affecting only people on the margins that we try not to see. Or maybe they do affect us or someone we love, but crafty demons that they are, they make us believe there is nothing we can do about it because unclean spirits can be very strong.

Jesus shows us otherwise. God has foreseen something better for us. Let us not be like the craven people in the territory of the Gerasenes who are intimidated by the prospect of the destruction of widespread evil, rather than overjoyed by it. May we be like the man who was freed from his own demons and wanted nothing more than to never be without Jesus, preaching by his life that the kingdom of God is at hand. In this all that is demonic will meet its match. It starts with calling out evil by its many names. Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31: 20, 21, 22, 23, 24; Mk 5:1-20

Part 2 of Apostle Paul in Corinth is beginning February 14

Bible Study with Fr. Robert Carroll, O.Carm, PHD

In person or via Zoom – Recordings will be available after the presentation as well Questions? Contact Cathy Lentz at 630-852-3303 ext. 5 or catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org



Tuesdays from 9:45 to 11:15 am February 14, 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4 Page Five January 29, 2023



RE News...

We are looking for a few catechists and seasonal helpers. If you would like to share your gifts with our youngest parishioners, please call the RE Office.

Questions of the Week

Question for Children: Choose one of the Beatitudes and share how you will make it part of your life.

Question for Youth: Jesus gives us a plan for our happiness in the beatitudes. Do the things that make you happiest also lead you towards God? Do they follow God's plan?

Question for Adults: How do you describe what it means to be "blest" in your own life?

Activities of the Week:

Brainstorm as a family: Happiness is... Talk about ways that your family is happy or blessed. Create a happy corner on your refrigerator. Get out pictures of your good times as a family and post them on the refrigerator door.

As a family, read the Beatitudes together. Have each family member reflect on one of the Beatitudes that he or she finds most meaningful. Invite each person to share his or her Beatitude out loud. After one of the Beatitudes is shared, everyone prays, "Blessed are you!"

Prayer for the Week:

Lord our God, just as the rain comes down to water the earth and make it fruitful, so you send forth your word to do you will in the world. May this wisdom from heaven take root in our hearts and bear fruit in holy words and loving deeds. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Upcoming Dates

4th Grade & Reconciliation Retreat

Saturday, February 4 10:00-12:00 (A-L) 12:30-2:30 (M-Z)

Reconciliation-Grade 2 and 4 Families

Tuesday, February 7 (A-L) or Wednesday, February 15 (M-Z) 6:30 for instruction and sharing 7:00 Service begins

Family Mass-

We are looking for RE students to do the readings, bring up the gifts, and help usher or greet at the 10:00 Mass on Sunday, February 12. Call the RE office if you are interested.

Family Faith Session-

Our Family Faith Session will meet on Ash Wednesday this month, between the 5:00 and 7:00 Masses. The theme -Morality and Lent. Join us in the 3rd grade classrooms at 6:00 pm.

Teaching Mass

Join us at 3:00 on Sunday, February 26 as we learn about the Mass. Fr. Jeff will walk us through the Mass parts, and we will learn about why we do what we do at Mass. This is required for 3rd and 5th grade students as part of their curriculum, but all are invited.

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DIOCESAN FORTY HOURS DEVOTION NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

In celebration of the National Eucharistic Revival year of the Diocese, everyone in Diocese is invited to spend some time in prayer at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet on February 8, 9, 10. There will be silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day and scheduled communal Prayer Services led by various Diocesan Parishes and Groups. Mass times and celebrants are listed below.

Wednesday, February 8

6:30am Very Rev. William Dewan, Celebrant

11am Led by Rev. Jeff Raths, OSA, St. Jude Church, New Lenox

2pm Led by the 8th Graders, Cathedral of St. Raymond School, Joliet

5pm Filipino Communities led by Deacon Gerrie Mempin, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Bolingbrook

8pm Hispanic Communities led by St. Andrew, Romeoville, Rev. Eduardo Flores, Celebrant

Thursday, February 9

8am Rev. John Abulag, Celebrant

11am Led by Rev. Steven Borello, Diocesan Director of Vocations, St. Raphael Parish, Naperville

2pm Led by Very Rev. Christopher Groh, St. Bernard Parish & St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Joliet

5pm Special Needs Communities, led by Rev. John Abulag, Celebrant

8pm Polish Communities, led by Rev. Andrzej Maslajak, S. Chr. Divine Mercy Parish, Lombard and

Rev. Tomasz Sielicki, S. Chr., Holy Cross, Joliet, Celebrants

Friday, February 10

8am Most Reverend Ronald Hicks, Celebrant

11am Led by Diocesan Department of Catechesis & Evangelization, Blanchette Catholic Center, Crest Hill

2pm Led by Rev. Burke Masters, St. Isaac Joques Parish, Hinsdale

5pm African American Community led by Sacred Heart Parish, Joliet Very Rev. William Dewan, Celebrant

8pm Closing of Forty Hours Devotion led by Most Reverend Ronald Hicks, Celebrant, prepared by Our

Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Darien

EVERYONE IN THE DIOCESE IS ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER COMING TO THE CATHEDRAL DURING THESE THREE DAYS TO JOIN WITH OUR DIOCESAN CHURCH TO CELEBRATE A TIME OF SPIRITUAL DEVOTION BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AS WE CELEBRATE THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL. WHEN YOU COME TO THE CATHEDRAL PLEASE ENTER BY WAY OF THE FRONT AND NORTH DOORS.

	January 23, 2023 Collection		
General Fund	Church 10,729.25	Online 2,434.22	Total 13,163.47
Building Operation & Maint	30.00	20.00	50.00
Needy	110.00	40.00	150.00
Church in Latin America	2,237.00	448.00	2,685.00



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Bishop Hicks' Monthly Column

Recently, while visiting a parish, I noticed a "peace pole" on the property, surrounded by beautiful landscaping and benches. The pole had four sides, with each side displaying an inscription about peace. The expressions of peace moved from the general to the specific:

Peace on Earth, Peace for our Nation, Peace within our Church, Peace in our Hearts

As I contemplated that simple yet beautiful peace pole, I realized that peace is something we all long for, and yet can seem so unattainable. St. Augustine captured the unreachable nature of peace when he said, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O Lord." Even though peace may be elusive, we know the source of true peace. It is therefore with great faith and hope that we as a Church never stop seeking it through Mary, the Queen of Peace, and her son, Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

As we begin 2023, we remember that St. Paul VI in 1967 established the World Day of Peace to be celebrated on January 1, which is also the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. In 1972, Pope Paul VI coined his famous phrase, "If you want peace, work for justice."

Popes since then have carried on this tradition of issuing messages of peace on this day, with their communications usually associated with the social doctrine of the Church. Hence, popes have made declarations on January 1 regarding the United Nations, human rights, the right to life, economic development, international diplomacy, wars, peace in the Holy Land, globalization, terrorism, etc.

For 2023, Pope Francis writes about our current global condition, as we cope with the long-term effects of the coronavirus pandemic and the impact of the war in Ukraine. He stresses the need for an all-inclusive approach to peace: "We can no longer think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests; instead, we must think in terms of the common good, recognizing that we belong to a greater community, and opening our minds and hearts to universal human fraternity. We cannot continue to focus simply on preserving ourselves; rather, the time has come for all of us to endeavour to heal our society and our planet, to lay the foundations for a more just and peaceful world, and to commit ourselves seriously to pursuing a good that is truly common."

Peace is not just something that we should all work for; it is also something we should constantly be praying for. The next time you are at Mass, I invite you to listen to just how many times the word "peace" is used. Specifically in the Communion rite, immediately after the "Our Father," the priest prays that the peace of Christ will fill our hearts, our families, our Church, our communities, and our world as we extend a sign of peace to those around us. These prayers explicitly follow Jesus' message throughout the Gospels, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14: 27)

As we begin this new year, I urge you to pray for peace every Sunday when you attend Mass, and to also try to do so daily. If we get into the habit of praying for peace each day, it becomes even more important to disconnect from the noise and busyness of our world and intentionally to find a "peaceful" place to reflect and contemplate.

During this initial year of the National Eucharistic Revival, I encourage you to take some time before the eucharistic Lord in adoration. It is a beautiful and powerful way to connect our minds, hearts and souls to the peace of Christ. Another possibility is to find a consistent, quiet spot in your home or a sacred space to sit, be still and pray. It is in these serene moments that the Holy Spirit may gently whisper into our ears the ways that God may want us to be an instrument of peace.

As a people of peace, let's begin this new year by praying for and working for peace on Earth, peace for our nation, peace within our Church, peace in our hearts and wherever it is needed most. For ultimately, at the very end of every Catholic Mass throughout the world, we are mandated to "go in peace." And to that, we boldly affirm by responding, "Thanks be to God!"

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Mary Anne Trochim Julie Ann Lacey John Guzior Jeanette Seebock Donald W. Pecor Nancy Jisisju Bill Haran Evelyn Swartz Jean & Mark Boyd James Curley
Barb Schunk
Frank Jasek
Nancy Kososki
Bridget Gallmeier Raineri
Kevin & Jenne Gallmeier
Susan Nugent
Abby Grace McCarver
Allen Raineri

Diana Clohecy



Jamie Carpenter

PFC Jonathan Poynton Joe Barker Sgt. J. Bartlett Pvt. Cpl. Joseph Belgis, USMC Wayne R. Zefeldt, Army S. Sgt. Michael Mullahy Ryan Pertile, Army Major Thomas Bessler Mike Noonan Adam Kowalski, Army Capt. James Lucas US Army Sgt. Greg Burnett Sgt. Meghan Callham, USMC Ron Caruso Jr. Specialist Drew Stocks Christine Christensen, USAF Lt. Joseph A Vacek, USMC Colin Cusack Michael Sklodowski, Army Nick Radziwon, US Navy Gwen Zemaitis Baker James Lucas US Army Capt. Melissa Sprague Capt. Mark Sprague Zach Wallace James Chipman

L.C. David Treadwell
Timothy Vaughn, USAF
Zachary Bell
Christopher Johnson USCG
Sgt. Eric Kuchta, Army
Pvt Dylan R. Hagan
Danielle Monahan SrA

Keith Thomas

Lindsey Johnson Diahann Bavan Ronan Randy S. BA.SAT-U.S.Navy

> Derek McCarthy Joe Michalski Steve Baker, Lt Luke Fluder

Luke Fluder
Pfc Drew Hillebold, Army
Vincent Napoli, USMC
Nikolas Horskey, Army
Lt. Col Jason O'Neil, USMC
Capt. Tim Wilson
Rachael Smith
Kevin Pope
Dave Rawlings
LCpl Daniel Holakovsky, USMC
Tom Reiter
Nathaniel Rozgo

Robert DeMatio
Frank Andrew McKenna, Navy
Captain Jackson Panice

Captain Jackson Panice
Ryan Snyder
Capt. James Lienau
Sgt. Kevin Gallmeier Jr.
Pat Gill Petty Officer
Brian Sheenhan, Army
Joseph Higgins
Gary Hogan

Kevin Hornett Dan Eugene Bavan Dan Welters

Alex Erkiens Capt. Michael K. Desmond, Jr., USMC 1st Lt. Mark Marten, US Army

Ted Cook

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, January 28, 2023

4:30PM Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

Mario Bilbao (Family)

Sunday, January 29, 2023

8:15AM Lee, Jerry & Joe Poli (Nick Rocco)

Rose Pilipowski (Daughter)

10:00AM Isidoro Ravina (Pax & Rose Ravina)

Josefa Villarreal-2nd anniv (Family)
Nelley Hernandez-4th anniv (Family) **NOON** Nora Meehan-living (Family)

Monday, January 30, 2023

9:00AM Kathleen Minardi (Klein Family)

Vesta Calucin (Sisters)

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

9:00AM Donald Antikauskas (Wife Evelyn)

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

9:00AM Jack Barnes & Jimmy McHale

(Martin & Margaret Minogue)

Thursday, February 2, 2023

9:00AM Alan Cholewa (Family)

Friday, February 3, 2023

9:00AM John H. Smyth (Nancy)

Chacko John (Family)

Kathy Gearhart (Sheri)

Saturday, February 4, 2023

9:00AM Lay Carmelite Community of the Holy Face Ralph (Mitch) Mitchener (Elaine Mitchener)

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Malachi 3:1-4. Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10. Hebrews 2:14-8. Luke 2:22-40.

Christ Is Present. Hebrews announces what we know: Jesus Christ had to become like us in every way (be human) in order to be high priest (like us in all things but sin). We light and bless candles today to remember that Christ our Light illumines everything and everyone. We listen to Simeon and Anna sing his praise.

- ⇒ How will I carry the Light who is Christ with me from Mass today?
- ⇒ To whom will I let it shine?
- ⇒ How will I sing his praise?

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