

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.” - Mt 10:37-38

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JUNE 28, 2026
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME



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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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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

June 28, 2026/Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTOR'S LETTER

It is good to be back from a wonderful experience at the Carmelite Chapter. It was a great experience of brotherhood and renewing the bonds that tie us together. It reflects the internationality of the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, to which we belong. We had men from around the USA, Canada and Mexico as well as from Peru, Honduras and El Salvador. Let us hold in prayer the leadership that was elected to guide our community for the next term of three years.

Over my years in education a few students, usually the class clowns have chosen to do impersonations of me. Joliet Catholic Academy used to have an improv troupe who would do skits of teachers. I have made an appearance a few times with different students playing me. The kids did a pretty decent job. The students do have to ask in advance and get the teacher's permission if they are going to do a public impersonation of you. I always say yes. Some people have asked me, isn't that disrespectful? Absolutely not! I do believe in the old saying the imitation is the highest form of flattery. They are not like Saturday Night live lampooning political figures. They are generally respectful and keep the humor clean. If the student is imitating me and doing a good job of it. It means that he has taken the time to watch me, to learn my mannerisms, to learn my actions, to learn my speech patterns. This kid has invested considerable time and effort studying and imitating me. That is a real honor. The kid may not even fully realize it, but thank you, wow I am honored that someone thought high enough of me to spend that much time watching and learning. I just hope that what I tried to teach in class sunk in as much as my movements and speech patterns did.

Imitation is the highest form of flattery. Are we imitating Christ? After all that is what our Christian calling is about. We are supposed to be imitators of Christ. The gospel today and the second reading as well both call us to be imitators of Christ. We are called to think of ourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus. We are asked to take up your Cross and follow me, because that is what Christ did. Whoever does not receive you, does not receive me because you are an imitator of Christ.

The fundamental question that we must ask ourselves is are we being good imitators of Christ? Are we spending the time to learn the mannerisms, actions, speech patterns of Christ? Are we reacting to situations and events of life in the way Christ would? If we spent as much time studying Christ as the kid did to learn me, we would all be in good shape. Imitation is the highest form of flattery. We should all be imitators of Christ.



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

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



Readings for the week of June 28, 2026

Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42

Monday: Acts 12:1-11/ Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Ps 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8/Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday: Am 5:14-15, 21-24/Ps 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17/Mt 8:28-34

Thursday: Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 9:1-8

Friday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29

Saturday: Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 9:14-17

03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

June 28, 2026/Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

4:30pm Ellen Nowak (Family)
Clare Kubik (Andrea & Michael)
John Wesley Noble (Mark & Karen Costa)
Thomas H. Snell (Family)
Savon Family-living (Family)

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

8:15am Anthony, Frank, & Lucy Sesto (Nick Rocco)
Marie Andrews (Ann Robertson)
10:00am Jerry Reszel (Family)
Eleonora Niziolek (Family)
John Altobelli (Family)
Noon Ann Margalus (Judy & David Kilinskis)
Rita Martinez (McMahon Family)
Barnabe Ratio (McMahon Family)
Thomas Weber (Mary & Guy Tanney)
Dolores Kozack (Donna Kliniskis)
Gentel Cabrera (Family)
Alberto & Rosario Sanchez-living (Family)

MONDAY, JUNE 29

9:00am Parishoners of OLMC

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

9:00am Arlene Brescia-1st Anniv. (Family)
Bill & Maryann Kaclusicas (Tony & Melanie Ruta)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

9:00am John Barker (Eugene Munin)
Catherine Pennigsdorf (Friends & Family)
Michael Bagasbas (Family)

THURSDAY, JULY 2

9:00am Jenny Laurente (Family)
Edilberto Baradi (Family)
Greg Horeni (Cindy Sevier)

FRIDAY, JULY 3

9:00am Parishoners of OLMC

SATURDAY, JULY 4

9:00am Joe Stockhausen & Jean Taylor (Pat Monahan)



INTO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS
YOUNG ADULT MINI-RETEAT

June 28th, 1:00PM-4:00PM
Join us for a **FREE** young adult mini-retreat at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Darien!
RSVP BY SCANNING THE QR CODE AND JOINING THE GROUPME. WALK-INS ALSO WELCOME.



Together in Loss is a grief support ministry for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one.
Summer Gatherings | Wednesdays
July 15th
August 19th
6:30pm- 8:00pm
For information, contact Lori Prado



"AMERICA IS A TUNE. IT MUST BE SUNG TOGETHER."
- Gerald Stanley Lee

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast Day

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Join us in celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with prayer, song, and Mass on July 16, 2026.

We will start this day in person at 10:15 AM with a procession in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel taking place at the **Meditation Garden, 8419 Bailey Rd, Darien**, followed by our special Feast Day Mass at 11:30 AM taking place at the **National Shrine of St. Thérèse, 8501 Bailey Rd.** If you are not able to attend in person, please join us online (<https://www.littleflower.org/>) on the afternoon of July 16th to watch the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast Day Mass.



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
July 16th



PARISHONERS AROUND THE WORLD
Traveling this summer? Share photos of your family in front of churches you visit. We'll display them on our lobby screens. Email: frjeff@ourladyofmtcarmel.org.



04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

June 28, 2026/Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Questions of the Week

Question for Children: How can you live as a follower of Jesus?

Question for Youth: What does Jesus demand of his followers?

Question for Adults: What does this Gospel teach you about the cost of discipleship and how does it relate to your experience so far?

Activities of the Week

Invite family members to silently think about how they can make Jesus the most important relationship in the lives. Then ask everyone to look around the house for something that can serve as a reminder to focus their life on Jesus. Provide time for each person to explain their choice.

Brainstorm as a family to come up with a service project you can work on together.

Talk about how serving others shows that Jesus is the focus of your lives.



We really need your help! Spotlight: Station Leaders

All of our stations are written with full, step by step instructions. You do not need to come up with any teaching tools, we have it all for you. You stay in your station through 5-6 repeated rotations. Children come to your room to visit your station and get to learn more about God's creation. WOW GOD! Station leaders should be adults with High school helpers. Three of the six Stations we need help in:

Sticky Scripture-The students will learn the bible verse of the day through interactive play. We also show a video that has a game component to it, to help the students learn about the verse and why it gives us a WOW GOD response.

Imagination Station-Do you like science-y things? This is the station for you! This year we will be looking at the gift of God's creation with a scientific lens. Craft activities along with a bit of ingenuity help us learn about the amazing power of nature around us. WOW GOD!

Wild Games-In this station (usually outside) the participant engage with other groups in Rainforest themed games and relay races. This is the hit of our VBS.

If you would like to help, call the RE office for more info.



July 20-24

12-3pm

We still have room for you! Sign up now.

Darien 4th of July Parade

Help us Celebrate 250 Years!

We will once again participate in the 4th of July Parade. Help us celebrate 250 years with Darien.

We will meet at the Jewel Parking lot at 8:30. If you want to help decorate the truck, please join us at 8:00 am.



If you can't walk with us in the parade, you can help by donating candy that we will toss out to the kids in the parade. Leave any donations by the RE office. Thank you so much!

VBS Wish List:

Can you help us with a few supplies? Here are some things we can use: spray foam like Great Stuff, dark green plastic table cloths, sky blue plastic table cloths, wet wipes, paints in shades of green or brown., large canvas fabric for ground cover, Call the RE office, or see us this weekend after Mass, for a full list of needs. Thank-You!

VBS Decorating Days:

Monday-Thursday, July 6-9 12-3pm or 5-8pm
We will also have our training and orientations during the evening hours. All helpers should attend one evening session, based on your availability.

YOUTH MINISTRY

June Newsletter

Upcoming Youth Group Meetings

June 26 - 28 : Steubenville Conference

July 15th VBS Set Up - come help set up for VBS!

July 20 - 24 VBS! We need your help!
Come help run our VBS groups!

Pre-VBS Tutoring

One of our newly Confirmed Confirmandi is offering **Middle School Math Tutoring** (grades 4-6) before VBS, July 20 - 24th from 10:45 - 12:00!

Interested parents should email: avalizasoyeh@gmail.com

to sign their child up. Scan the QR for more information!



MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP



All **rising 5th - 8th graders** are invited **July 2nd** to participate in our Middle School Mission Trip. We will go to Feed My Starving Children, Northern IL Food Bank, then back to OLMC . Scan the QR to RSVP. **There are a few spots still available!**



OCIA CORNER



For those who may be interested in beginning their journey towards receiving and those planning to receive their Initiation Sacraments next Easter Vigil, please know we will begin to meet in the Fall. The start date will be in September. More specific information will be shared in July. I look forward to meeting with you all then!

If you are or know someone who is interested in becoming Catholic or completing initiation, please contact Jen Emanuele:
jennifer.emanuele@ourladyofmtcarmel.org.

06 SPECIAL EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 28, 2026/Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

OLMC GIVING REPORT

6/15/2026 - 6/22/2026



| | |
|------------------|------------|
| General Offering | \$7,111.00 |
| Retirement Fund | \$330.00 |
| Religious | |
| Food Pantry | \$195.00 |
| Other | \$288.00 |

TOTAL \$7924



PLEASE CONSIDER
SIGNING UP FOR
AUTOMATED
ONLINE GIVING

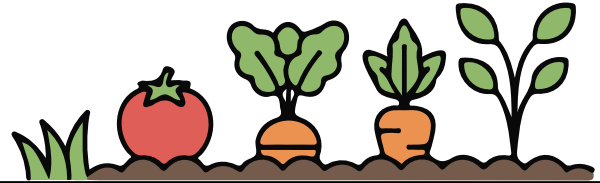


HELP NEEDED

The harvest is great; the laborers are few.

1. We needed help to water the garden on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
2. We also need anyone to pull weeds any day of the week.
3. Lastly, we need harvesters on Mondays and Thursday for the food pantry.

Contact Deacon Ed at 630-254-6934



A Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

Join Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet for A Swing and a Prayer, our annual golf outing benefiting programs and services that provide hope, help, and support to individuals and families throughout the Diocese of Joliet.



Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, Lemont.

Enjoy a day of golf, fellowship, and fun while supporting the important programs and services provided by Catholic Charities. Golfers will receive 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch at the turn, drinks on the course, cocktail hour, buffet dinner, and the opportunity to participate in contests and win prizes.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses, organizations, and individuals who wish to support the event and the mission of Catholic Charities.

To register or learn more, visit <https://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org/event/swing/> or call 815-724-1140.

A Note from Fr. Rob

Lately, some of you have noticed that I've left the altar during Mass. A few years ago, I developed irritated bowel syndrome. There are times when there is an urgent need to use a bathroom followed by cramping and bloating. My doctor has given me medicine to take three to four times a day. That has kept the irritated bowel syndrome under control for 95% of the time. For some reason, the medicine has not been working as effectively. As a result, I must leave Mass for couple of minutes. To be honest, it's embarrassing and frustrating to interrupt the Mass because of the syndrome. I have an upcoming doctor's appointment to see what can be done to have better control over it. I appreciate the prayers, understanding and patience all you have shown.



Prayer for America's 250th Anniversary

God of liberty and justice, we thank You for the blessings of freedom and the diverse people who have shaped our nation over these 250 years.

On this historic milestone, we entrust our country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Grant our nation the grace of healing, unity, and peace. Inspire our leaders with wisdom, and fill our citizens with a deep respect for the dignity of every human person. May we always remain "one nation under God," dedicated to truth and charity.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us.

