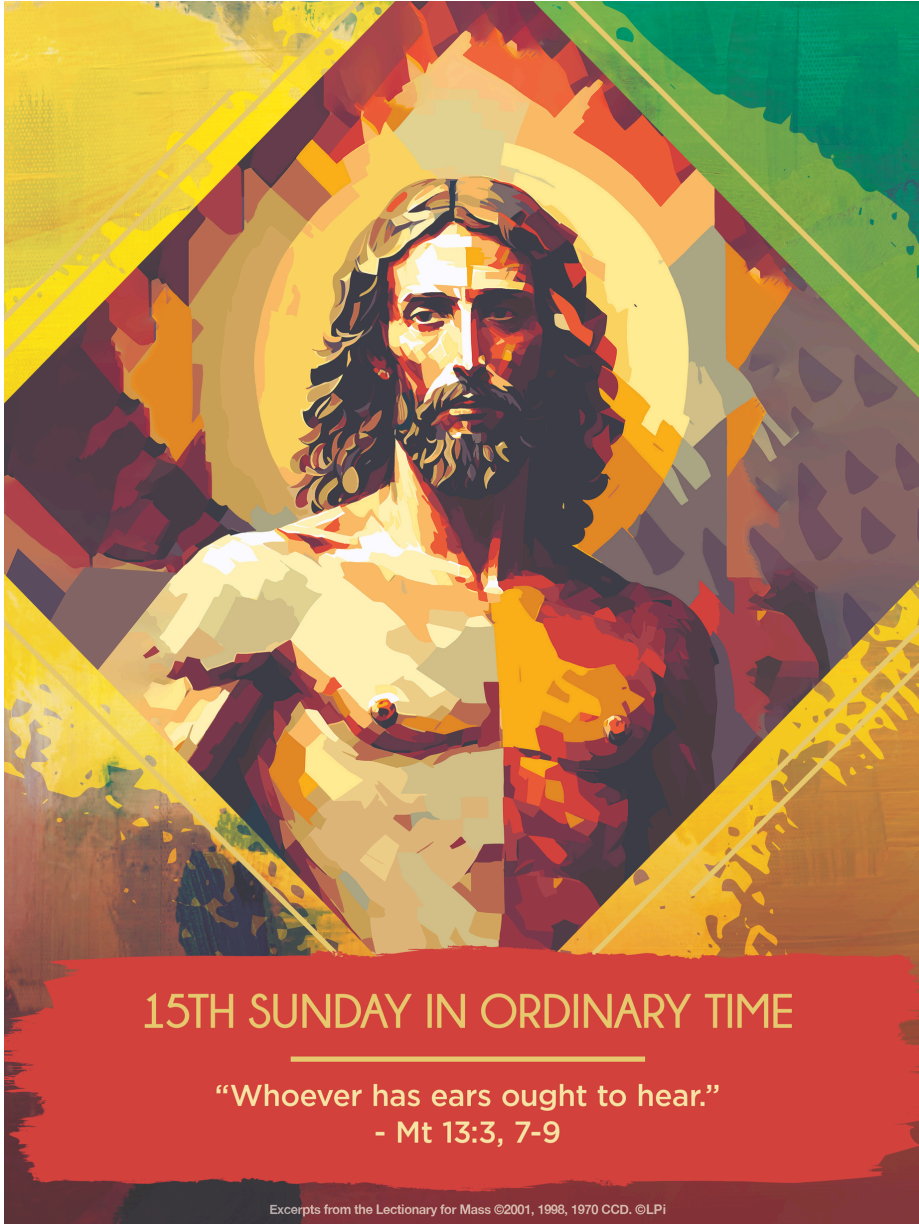


OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever has ears ought to hear."
- Mt 13:3, 7-9

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

JULY 12, 2026
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME



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bulletin emailed to you!
parishesonline.com

CONNECT WITH US



ourladyofmtcarmel.org



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

Rev. Rob Traudt, O.Carm., Parochial Vicar

frrob@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

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02 PASTOR'S LETTER

July 12, 2026/Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTOR'S LETTER

I hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable celebration of Independence Day last weekend, especially as we celebrated the 250th anniversary of our nation. Let us always be grateful for rights and freedoms that we have in our country and desire to protect our liberties for all.

The food pantry garden and my personal garden are growing like gangbusters, which is fantastic to see. Although, some critter ate all my lettuce and broccoli!! Deacon Ed is also cursing at the rabbits every day. We are blessed that the crops this year don't require much Miracle Grow, they are doing just fine. However, do we need Miracle Grow in our faith life? You shake some on and the plants grow bigger and stronger. However, all the fertilize in the world is no substitute for hard work. It is the same way with faith, there is no real miracle grow, it requires daily hard work on our part.

Our spiritual life is kind of like that too. We can go to mass all we want, we can say we are leading a good life, but unless hard work is going into a Christian lifestyle every day, not even miracle grow can help you out. We hear in the Gospel today, the parable of the Sower. The seed goes out and lands all over the place. Some of it works and some of it does not do so well. We often use this as reference to a whole society, some people get it and some people do not. However maybe we can also make it more personal as well. There are some areas in our own life in which we are doing great and there are areas in which we struggle. We can try to sprinkle the miracle grow on ourselves, but sometimes that is not even enough to do it. We also must be willing to get into that garden our own spirit and do that weeding. Let's face it, none of us are perfect. Each one of us sits here as a sinner, we rely on the grace of God to help us along, but that old saying is so true. God helps those who help themselves. If we do not get our hands dirty, not much will happen in our life. We sit here Sunday after Sunday; God throws the seeds at us. Individually some fall on rocky soil, but our pride, our own self-interests say nope I am not going to accept that piece yet. I am not going to allow it to grow. I still have some sinning I want to do in the form of that grudge, that old hurt I want to hold onto, whatever it is. That weed in my life will choke it off. Some of the seeds will hit us and bounce right off. We are not even in a position yet to even realize what God is asking us to do. Love our enemy; pull that plank out of your eye, etc... However, thanks be to God, some of that seed will get right to where it needs to be and will grow inside each one me. It will lead us into doing things we never thought we would be able to do and perform great acts of selfless love that we did not know was inside of us. The challenge though is to get into our personal garden and yank out those weeds and till that soil to be as fertile as possible. We can sprinkle all the Miracle Grow we want but it won't do much if the soil our own heart is not ready for it. The challenge of today's gospel is can we be good gardeners? Can we get into the soil that is our own life and pull out those weeds? Can the seed grow in us without any artificial help? Can we truly be open to the will of God?

There is some concern in the Darien community about the Carmelite owned building on the corner of Frontage Road and Baily Road known as the White House. It has been approved for demolition. The house is in no way connected to the parish and the parish has had no input in the planning.

This upcoming week are blest to celebrate the great Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the patroness of our parish. The real Feast Day is Thursday, July 16. We will celebrate all the masses on the weekend of July 18 & 19 in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel ... Pray for us!

Fr. Jeff

HAPPY!!
BIRTHDAY,
FR. JEFF!
JULY 12



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

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



Readings for the week of July 12, 2026

Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15/Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21/Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 12abcd, 16/Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14/Mt 12:14-21

03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

July 12, 2026/Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JULY 11

4:30pm Leona Zelnis (Rosemarie Pilipowski)

Fred Ryczyn (Family)

Margaret McCarthy (Family)

Lynda Krouse (Evano Family)

SUNDAY, JULY 12

8:15am Maria, Nick, & Jerry Rocco (Nick Rocco)

10:00am John Kapovich (Larson Family)

Noon Daniel Mulcahy (McMahon Family)

Marlene, Phillip, & Jeff Carioto (Sheri)

Felix Wydra (Sara Toribio)

MONDAY, JULY 13

9:00am Frank & Fran Modelski-living (Friends)

TUESDAY, JULY 14

9:00am Georgia Rosete-19th Anniv. (Josie)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

9:00am Jospeh Jude-living (Family)

THURSDAY, JULY 16

9:00am Andy Smrz-18th Anniv. (Wife)

Fr. Gavin Quinn (Friend)

FRIDAY, JULY 17

9:00am Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

SATURDAY, JULY 18

9:00am Peg & Bob Grimes & Don DeFranza (Pat Monahan)

OLMC YOUTH GROUP

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

HELP FILL THE BACKPACKS!



Plastic Folders (red, yellow, blue)	1 each
crayons (24)	1 box
#2 pencils (sharpened)	24
elmers glue sticks	4
highlighters - (yellow)	3
markers broad tip (8-10 count)	1 box
box of tissue	1
colored pencils (12 count)	1 box
dry erase markers - black	4

- WE HAVE 30 BACKPACKS TO FILL.
- BACKPACKS CAN BE PICKED UP AFTER MASS ON JULY 26 OR FROM JEN'S OFFICE.
- PLEASE FILL A BACKPACK WITH THE REQUESTED SUPPLIES.
- RETURN FILLED BACKPACKS TO OLMC BY AUGUST 2ND.
- YOU CAN ADD AN ENCOURAGEMENT CARD IF YOU WISH.
- DONATIONS WILL GO TO OUR FOOD PANTRY THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

ALTERNATIVELY, DONATE SUPPLIES BY SCANNING THE QR CODE ABOVE FOR OUR AMAZON WISHLIST.



Backpacks will be given to those in need at our Food Pantry



Basement Flood Damage



Dear Parishioners,

As for many in our community, the storms on the 4th of July caused damage to the parish. The basement flooded. There was a fair bit of water that came in, the carpet was soaked and ruined.

We are working with Servpro to mitigate the damage and get a functional basement again. They will also drill a series of holes in the baseboards of the walls to assess damage and mold. The initial estimate is \$10,000 for repairs. However, that could be more depending on the mold issues. We are working with our diocesan property insurance company to file a claim. Hopefully, most of the repairs will be covered by insurance. The basement will be closed and off limits until repairs are completed. Thank you for all your support and keep our parish in your prayers.

Fr. Jeff



Join us for an outdoor

LIVING ROSARY

Prayer offering to our Blessed Mother on the Vigil of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Feast Day

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 5:00 PM

Meet us at the Parish Prayer Garden by the front entrance of Church

We await you with unwavering faith!



04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

July 12, 2026/Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Questions of the Week

Question for Children: Who helps you to grow deeper in your faith?

Question for Youth: When the sower, in this week's Gospel, sowed his seed, not all of it fell in "good soil." What can you do in the coming week to make sure that you are open to God in your life? What is getting in the way of your being "good soil?"

Question for Adults: Using the parable of Jesus in this reading, describe how faith has been planted in your life? How long did it take for that seed to land "on good soil?"

Activities of the Week

Gather for family prayer around a small bowl of soil. Use this week's responsorial psalm for the refrain. "The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest." Ask each family member to name one action he or she has done or has seen another family member do during the week that proclaimed God's word of love, justice, and peace.

Do yard work together as a family, or have children help water houseplants. Discuss what your family can do to help seeds of faith grow in your household.



VBS is NEXT WEEK-July 20-24 from 12-3.

We still have some room left so please sign up asap

We still can use 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:

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.



RE Updates

Still not registered? That's okay, we are still taking registrations. You may pick up your packets in the RE office.

Join us Sunday, August 23 after the noon Mass for a celebration and open house for the new RE year. We will provide Hotdogs, chips, and drinks. Please feel free to bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will have games and activities for all families.

RE officially begins on August 30-31.

Call the RE office for more information.

VBS Wish List:

Thanks to everyone who has donated supplies for our Rainforest Adventure! Please join us in praying for our program. Prayer cards can be picked up in the back of the Church this weekend. May God bless all those who have helped us put this program together.

VBS Decorating Days:

Our final set up will be Thursday and Friday, July 17-18. We will be finalizing our set and going over all last minute details from 3:00-8:00 PM

YOUTH MINISTRY

July Newsletter

Upcoming Youth Group Meetings

July 15th VBS Set Up - come help set up for VBS! **2:00 - 3:30 - Upper deck**

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



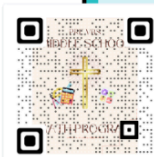
Pre-VBS Tutoring

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!



YOUTH MINISTRY JULY PHOTOS



Steubenville Joliet



Middle School Mission Trip

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

July 12, 2026/Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

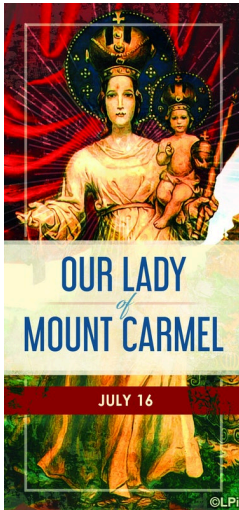
OLMC Giving Report - General Fund

Date	Church Collection	Online Giving	Total
7/6/2026	\$11,759.60	\$6,822.00	\$18,581.60
Total			\$18,581.60

6/15/26-6/29/16
TOTAL

\$48,393.15

**PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING
UP FOR AUTOMATED ONLINE
GIVING**



The origins of this feast reach all the way back to the Old Testament. In the book of Kings, we read the story of the prophet Elijah. Much of his prayer, fasting, and public ministry occurred from Carmel, a mountain in Israel. Christian hermits -- seeking solitude -- made their homes on the mountain during the first millennium. Over time, the hermits assembled into a community and were given a Rule of Life. They named their church after Mary -- Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Political upheaval forced the Carmelite order out of the Holy Land and into Europe, where they established monasteries for both men and women across the continent. Many great saints and doctors of the Church have come from the Carmelite order, including St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Therese of Lisieux, and St. Edith Stein. Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Pray for us!

Breakfast Speaker Series Featuring

Fr John Merkelis, O.S.A.

President, Pastoral Director

Friday July 17, 8—10a.m. Maggiano's Little Italy, Oak Brook \$40

"My Lunch with Pope Leo!"

Father John Merkelis, O.S.A., was ordained 41 years ago and has served at Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox, Illinois, since 1988 in a variety of educational and leadership roles. He has also held numerous leadership positions within the Midwest Augustinians, impacting generations of students, educators, priests, and alumni through his ministry in Catholic education.

Over the past year, Father John has gained unexpected attention as a longtime friend of Pope Leo XIV. Growing up in Chicago, Father John and the future pope attended Villanova University, entered the Augustinian Order, and studied in seminary together before their ordinations. Their friendship has endured for more than four decades through shared ministry, education, and Augustinian leadership.

In March 2026, Father John was honored to share a private lunch with Pope Leo at the Vatican. Join us on Friday, July 17, as Father John reflects on his recent "Lunch with Leo" and offers personal insights into the intellect, spirituality, leadership, and heart of his longtime friend. It promises to be an inspiring, engaging, and faith-filled morning.



July Sponsors

To Register scan
the QR Code



**CATHOLIC IMPACT
NETWORKING GROUP**

Bringing Catholic Values to Business Networking

Contact Parishioner Joe Kenny at crusaderjoe87@gmail.com or 630-334-2858 for more info.



Knights Bingo returns to Westmont!

BINGO

Knights of Columbus

SUNDAYS BINGO

BEGINNING JULY 12

TECO Taiwan Cultural Center, 55 E 63rd St. (near McDonalds)

ALL ABOUT FUN, NO COMPUTERS!

9 BINGO CARDS FOR \$20
or
\$25 FOR 18 CARDS

SCHEDULE
Doors open at 11am,
Bingo starts at Noon,
usually done before 3pm.

- 10 Games each pay \$100 (single winner)
- Each pack has 3 cards for a \$300 Progressive Game (as listed, single winner)
- Also, other games are played!

For more info:
Hank3738knights@aol.com

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE: A LIFELINE FOR ALL

Our blood is the lifeline of our families, community, and the world. Despite all human research, it cannot be manufactured. It is a special gift given by one human to another in need.

JOIN US & HELP PREVENT A SHORTAGE!
Each day, 900 donors are needed for our region's patients. Accidents, illness, and injuries do not wait, especially during the challenging summer and holiday seasons. **YOU CAN HELP!**

WHEN: SATURDAY, JULY 18th
TIME: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
WHERE: INDIAN PRAIRIE LIBRARY
(401 Plainfield Rd, Darien, IL)

WHO CAN DONATE: Any Healthy Adult (17+ years)
• Weight: 110 lbs minimum • Time: approx 1 Hour
• Bring Photo ID • Eat & Drink before donating

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT!
CALL: 877-258-4825 VISIT: VITALANT.ORG
USE SPONSOR CODE: CODE

Walk-ins Welcome!

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:
Rosemarie Courtney | 630-542-8415 | rdcourtney1940@gmail.com

vitalant.
Vitalant: Because We Care

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast Day

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

The day begins at 10:15 AM with a procession for Our Lady of Mount Carmel at the Meditation Garden, 8419 Bailey Rd, Darien, followed by a Feast Day Mass at 11:30 AM at the National Shrine of St. Thérèse, 8501 Bailey Rd. For those unable to attend in person, the Mass will be available online on the afternoon of July 16th at <https://www.littleflower.org/>.