

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God." - Mt 16:15-16

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

AUGUST 23, 2026

TWENTY-FIRST 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

Deacon Ed Ptacek

littlebirdfarm@hotmail.com

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02 PASTOR'S LETTER

August 23, 2026/Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Social media has changed our world, in both good and bad ways. On the positives, it has allowed people to connect in ways like never before. I have been able to reconnect with people that I knew back in childhood, from high school and college once again. I have even been able to keep in touch with casual acquaintances whom I have met from around the world at conferences and meetings. Those connections are great blessings. The ability to share thoughts, news and life events instantly can be a wonderful thing. However, there are also negatives to social media. It can become addictive. Also, many people attach their self-esteem and self-worth to the number of "likes" and comments that a post gets. Social media has also inspired many to share hurtful comments from safety behind a screen. Many don't have the courage to say something to you face to face, but can post it with no shame. What is being said about a person online has caused much harm. Sadly, many allow negative comments to define them and become who they think they are.

In the Gospel today, Jesus asks, who do you say that I am?. I can only imagine if God had a real Facebook or Twitter account. What would people be saying about God and his posts? Good question for us to reflect upon. That is also the most fundamental question that we each need to ask in our relationship with God. What we say about God will define how we view and relate to God.

Some people see God as the big accountant in the sky keeping track of everything in a giant ledger book. At the end of life, God totals up the two columns, and we hope that the good column out numbers the bad column

Some people see God as a police officer. God is constantly watching and the moment we do something bad, wham! We get punished for it.

Some people see the Santa Clause god. We only go to God a few times when we need something.

Some people see God as a vending machine. I put something good in and I should get something good out. When the bag of chips gets stuck on the rung, we get mad and bang on the side of the machine, give me what I deserve.

Some people see God as an aspirin. You only go to God when you need to make it all better so I don't have to be in pain any more.

Who do you say that I am? Wow, that is one of the hardest questions we will ever have to wrestle with in life. Who do you say that I am? Peter responds with none of the above stereotypes. Peter responds with you are the Christ the son of God. Do we do the same, or do we have a false image of God in mind?

The tile continues to progress nicely. The end is in sight. We have the lobby back open and the office corridor and foyer will be completed soon. It will look wonderful when complete. It is already so much brighter. This will probably mean a fresh coat of paint will be needed to liven up the walls now, one thing at a time. We have been able to do the tile project and the looming roof repairs because of our parish savings. We are blessed with donations that have been given in years passed that were allowed to build up. I would guess that many of the parishioners who donated that money are no longer with us. We will always remember their generosity in our prayers. However, we have to make sure that resources are still there into the future so that generations to come can still build and maintain our parish community. I encourage all to consider making specific donations towards the parish building fund. There is a monthly envelope for building and maintenance included in your packets. I especially encourage newer parishioners to donate and support our building fund.



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

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



Readings for the week of August 23, 2026

Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 6 and 8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

Monday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mk 6:17-29

03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

August 23, 2026/Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

4:30pm William Lock (Family)
John Sparks-5th Anniv. (Family)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

8:15am Louis & Theresa Ricci (Nick Rocco)
Susan Nees (Family)

10:00am Marie Arcieri (Fran & Gary Klein)
Michal & Christopher Niziolek (Family)

Noon Gina Corvino-35th Anniv. (Family)

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

9:00am Lexie Painter-living (Betsey Merritt)
Sr. Alamma (Susan)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

9:00am Luis Udarde (Family)
Alan Esteban (John & Lita Diaz Family)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

9:00am John Klemens (Frank & Fran Modelski)
Jack Coffey (Eugene Munin)

Patricia Heery (Family)

Fr. Alexander (Susan)

Mary George (Susan)

K.T. George (Susan)

Antony Elen (Susan)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

9:00am Ronald Siroky (Frank & Fran Modelski)
Apolinar Pacheco (Family)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

9:00am Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

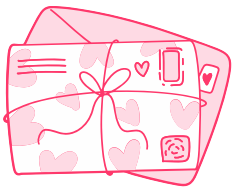
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

9:00am Parishoners of OLMC

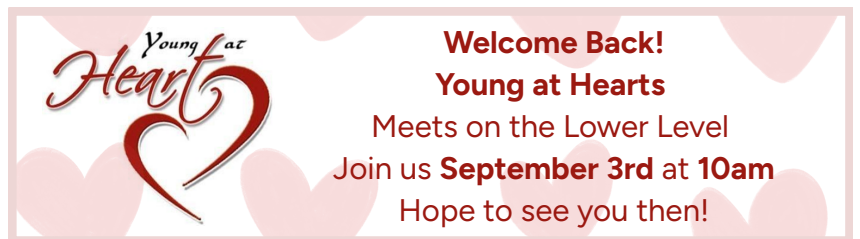
Send cards and well wishes to

Fr. Bob Carroll:

Mother Theresa House
1270 Franciscan Drive
Fr. Robert Carroll, Room 111
Lemont, IL 60439



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Together in Loss



Join our grief support ministry for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one. Our next gathering will be

Saturday, September 19th
10-11:30am

Contact Lori Prado for info

04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

August 23, 2026/Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

RE Updates

Still not registered? That's okay, we are still taking registrations. You may pick up your packets in the RE office, or see one of our RE team members after all masses this weekend. We will be on the upperdeck. Tell a friend about our program

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.

SAVE THE DATES:

1st RE Session-August 30 & 31-

NO RE-September 6-7 Labor Day

Family Faith Session-September 15 at 7:00

1st Communion Parent Meeting-September 29 at 7:00



Questions of the Week

Question for Children: What are three things you know about Jesus?

Question for Youth: Today's Gospel is about identity – the revealing of Jesus' true self. How difficult is it to you to reveal your true self? What holds you back from being who God created you to be?

Question for Adults: If Jesus turned and asked you the same question, who would you say he is? How would you describe Jesus to someone who did not know him?

Activities of the Week

Create a collage that tells about Jesus. Cut pictures, words, or symbols out of magazines or newspapers and paste them on a paper plate. Display the collage in your home as a reminder of who Jesus is for your family.

Each day this week pray especially for those who minister in the Church: our Pope, our bishop, our pastor, our deacons, our lay ministers, and all who serve our parish community.

Catechist Corner

RE starts on August 30 & 31 and we are still looking for a few catechists!

Would you prayerfully consider joining our team? You do not need to be a professional teacher, and our lesson plans are written out for you. You just need to have a desire to share your call with our younger parishioners. And we have a lot of fun!

You will need to have a VIRTUS account and be compliant with Diocesan Safe Environment Policies. Please see Sherry Rochford to get help in creating or updating your account.

If you would like to be part of our team, or are discerning the invitation, please see one of our Faith Formation team members on the upper deck after all Masses this weekend.

Thank you so much for sharing your faith. Please continue to prayer for our Program! God Bless!



YOUTH MINISTRY

August Newsletter

Upcoming Youth Group Meetings**August 25th: Youth Group Leadership Meeting.**

If you have a teen who is interested in joining our Youth Group Leadership team, join us on August 25th from 6:30 – 7:30. Dinner will be served.



High School Teens: Mark your calendar!!

September 20th is our first Youth Group Meeting!

Confirmation 2027!

Year 1 Students are 7th grade or older who are on their **first year** of Confirmation Prep.

Year 2 Students are 8th grade or older who are on their **2nd consecutive year** of Confirmation Prep.

Upcoming Parent Meetings

Year 1 parents are invited to their student's RE class the week of **September 13 or 14th**. Please plan to stay the entire session.

Year 2 students and parents are asked to attend our Confirmation Meeting on **Tuesday, September 8th, 7:00 – 8:00 pm.**

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. **Classes start on September 13th at 11:00 am.**

I look forward to meeting with you all then!

If you are or know someone who is interested in becoming Catholic or completing initiation, don't hesitate to get in touch with Jen Emanuele:

jennifer.emanuele@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

06 SPECIAL EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 23, 2026/Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

OLMC Giving Report - General Fund			
Date	Church Collection	Online Giving	Total
8/17/2026	\$11,704.51	\$3,707.00	\$15,411.51
8/10/2026	\$12,013.00	\$5,387.00	\$17,400.00
8/3/2026	\$13,654.00	\$5,234.00	\$18,888.00
Total			\$51,699.51

7/5/26-7/27/16 TOTAL	PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP FOR AUTOMATED ONLINE GIVING	
\$68,902.10		

HAPPY 15TH DIACONATE ANNIVERSARY, DEACON ED!

Happy Anniversary to Deacon Ed! Thank you for your devoted service, guidance, and faithful presence in our parish. May God bless you abundantly for all you do for our community!



AUGUST 27



BLOOD DRIVE

Proudly sponsored by The Darien Woman's Club and the Indian Prairie Public Library

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

 **12:30 PM to 6 PM**

 **Indian Prairie Public Library**
401 Plainfield Rd. Darien, Illinois

 **Appointments recommended**

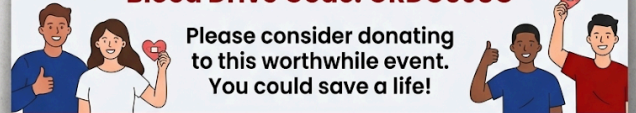
HOW TO DONATE:

 **Call 877-258-4825**

 **Visit vitalant.org**

Walk-ins are also accepted.

Blood Drive Code: ORDO398G



JOIN BISHOP SPIES, PRIESTS & DEACONS
ACROSS THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET FOR

A Night of Prayer, Music, & Adoration



This will be
outside.
Please bring
your own
blanket or
chair

Wednesday, September 23rd

7:00PM

Dupage County Campus
503 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton

As our nation marks its 250th anniversary, people across the Diocese of Joliet are invited to gather for a historic public Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Join Bishop Spies, priests, deacons, and people across the Diocese for an hour of candlelit Eucharistic Adoration as we pray for our nation.



MORE INFO