

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter. - Mt 14:30-31

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 9, 2026
NINETEENTH 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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02 PASTOR'S LETTER

August 9, 2026/Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

It is good to be back after a wonderful vacation. Thanks be to God that all my travels were smooth, with no delays or cancellations. Most importantly, it was a wonderful chance to get away and do something different for a while. We all just need to clear our heads and break out of the routine to be refreshed. I got to enjoy two days in Rome which is always a special blessing. I have been to Rome before and have already seen most of the main attractions. This time there were two special places on the list, The Lateran Basilica and the St. Mary Major Basilica. I got to both. I was able to spend a moment and pray at the tomb of Pope Francis. I then caught the cruise ship onto Greece and Turkey. The most enjoyable part of the trip was visiting Ephesus. Walking down the same streets that St. Paul, St John and our Blessed Mother walked was a spiritual experience. Now it is back to work.

In our Gospel today, we have the disciples in a boat. Jesus sends them on ahead of them. The disciples didn't question how Jesus was going to get there, they knew he would manage. Catholics have always used this image of the disciples in the boat as an image of the Church. We are all in the boat together with Christ call to us. Christ never calls us to be mediocre. Christ never calls us to just be average or do just the minimum. Christ always calls us do more. Christ always calls us to do extraordinary things. Christ calls us to get out of the safety of the boat and take a risk, do something new. No wonder so few do. It is easier to stay in the boat and stay safe. Getting out of the boat to do something great is scary. We look around at all the crap in the world, and it scares us. We ask what can do about all that? How can I possibly make a difference against disease, politics, poverty? I can't possibly manage to make a difference. In fact, I look around and see the waves crashing and I get scared and I start to sink. I think that is the situation for many people. The will is there, we have good intentions, we want to do good in the world. However, we see all the problems and get scared and we begin to sink. Peter was no different. He wanted to do something great; he tried to get out of the boat. However, soon he looked around and became discouraged with the problems and he sank. Sadly, it is common for many people. We sink. Jesus however is always there to pull us up, however he is going to remind us of our lack of faith. Why did you doubt? Did the virus get too much? Did politics get too much, did poverty get too much? Did racial injustice get too much? Why did you doubt?

However, we balance off this very challenging Gospel with the first reading. The classic story of Elijah at the Cave. Elijah stands as a central figure in my Carmelite tradition. I and fellow Carmelites look to Elijah for inspiration and example. I think we can all learn an example from him. While we challenged to do something about the problems the world faces, Elijah reminds us of where we encounter God. We encounter God in the whispering wind, not in the raging storm. Good advice as we face the storms of disease and injustice. The small things count more than doing large deeds. Maybe getting out of the boat and walking to Christ is as simple as being a kind person. Say an encouraging word. Stop spreading gossip and spread blessings instead. Hold open the door, help a neighbor. We encounter Christ in the whispering wind not in the raging storm. Do we have the courage to get out of the boat and be kind?

The work on the lobby tile has begun. Thank you for your patients and understanding with the inconvenience, that is the price of progress. It should be done by the end of August, then we can enjoy a beautiful new lobby space. Work on the roof will happen in September. Thank you so much for all the support of the community as we undertake all the renovations needed to our building and grounds.

Please wish Fr. Rob a happy birthday!!!! I won't mention how old he is.

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

Fr. Jeff



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

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



Readings for the week of August 9, 2026

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33

Monday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9/Jn 12:24-26

Tuesday: Ez 2:8-3:4/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wednesday: Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 18:15-20

Thursday: Ez 12:1-12/Ps 78:56-57, 58-59, 61-62/Mt 18:21-19:1

Friday: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Mt 19:3-12

Saturday: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56

03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

August 9, 2026/Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

4:30pm Chuck Swartout (Family)

Dolly Godinez (Raul Godinez)

Delia Tupaz (Family)

Miron Yamanau (Family)

Rose DeGrazia (Granddaughter)

Andrew Joseph Zeh (Family)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

8:15am Margaret & Mario Rocco (Nick Rocco)

Joan Schmidt (KB)

Estrella Dionhzon (Family)

10:00am Eleonora & Wladyslaw Niziolek (Family)

Evelyn Ravina (Pax & Rose Ravina)

Norb Kusta (Wife)

Noon John Reed (McMahon Family)

Arlene Lucente (Sheri)

Marian Wiczorek (Family)

Joseph McCue (McMahon Family)

John Kapovich (Liz & Marianne)

Asuncion Mapysao (Esteban Family)

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

9:00am Tom Dillon-living (Family)

Mary Newell (Minoque Family)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

9:00am Frank Opyt (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Nancy Bauer (Family)

Mary Catherine Gallagher (Mohahan Family)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

9:00am Ida Munin (Eugene Munin)

Millie Wostratzky-living (Karen Flavin)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

9:00am Jim Doddato (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Shirley May (Chris & Vince Donatello)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

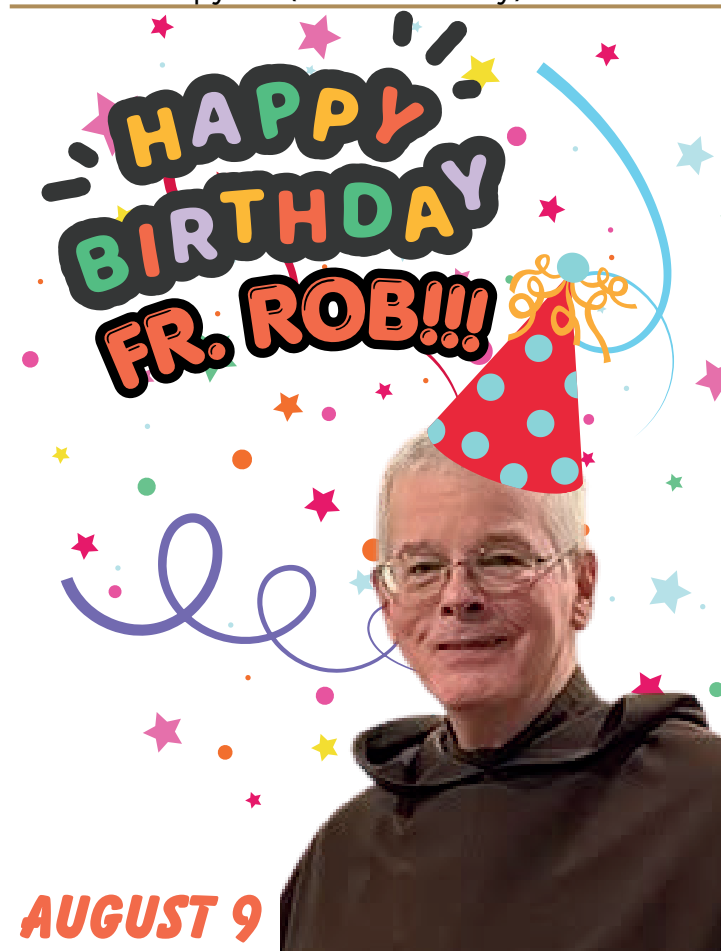
9:00am Charles Antikauskas (Evelyn Antikauskas)

Bernadette Jankowski (Frank & Fran Modelski)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

9:00am Mary Agnes O'Connell (Eugene Munin)

Esteban Family (Family)



AUGUST 9



"COME AND SEE"

**Biblical Institute
in the Diocese of Joliet**

PREVIEW EVENTS

This September, Mayslake Ministries registers for **TWO Biblical Institute sites: The Blanchette Center** in Crest Hill (Year 1) and **St. Michael Parish** in Wheaton (Year 12 ..

If you're interested in learning the Bible, but aren't sure if this is the program for you, join us for a BIDJ Preview Night. You'll learn a lot about this great program—and a few things that will help you with Scripture right now. Jesus invited potential disciples to "come and see." We invite you to "come and see" how BIDJ can help in

- **Learn about** the Catholic approach to Scripture, and how this program uses it.
- **Meet** a BIDJ instructor.
- **Talk to** current BIDJ students.
- **Learn how** this kind of Scripture study can help you grow in your Catholic faith.
- **See** the resources used in this program.
- **Get a feel** for a typical BIDJ class.
- **Ask** your questions about BIDJ and about Bible study in general.

PREVIEW EVENTS

St. Michael's (Wheaton)
August 20 7-8:30 p.m.
September 3 7-8:30 p.m.

The Blanchette Center (Crest Hill)
August 18 7-8:30 p.m.
September 1 7-8:30 p.m.

St. Andrew Parish (Romeoville)
August 15 \$ 16 at Masses

Carlo Acutis Parish (Crest Hill)
August 25 7-8:30 p.m.

St. John the Baptist Parish (Winfield)
August 27 7-8:30 p.m.

Mayslake Ministries
Engaging Catholics in a Modern World
Celebrating 30 Years

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Phone 630-852-9000 OR 630-698-8961
- Email lgorski@mayslakeministries.org
- Web site mayslakeministries.org

04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

August 9, 2026/Nineteenth 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. 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.

As always, we are looking for a few great people willing to share their faith with our young parishioners. If you would like to join our amazing team, we can sure use your gifts and talents. Check our website for updated needs, or call the RE office to find out how you can help. May God bless all of you!

Questions of the Week

Question for Children: What does God's voice sound like when you pray and listen to Jesus?

Question for Youth: In today's Gospel, Peter began to walk on the water when he was focused on Jesus. He began to sink when he got distracted by the storm. What is your life like when you are focused on Jesus and your relationship with God? How is it different when you get caught up in other things?

Question for Adults: Tell about your experiences of hearing God speak in "tiny voices" rather than in the winds and earthquakes of life.

Activities of the Week

Seniors have a wealth of stories about the faith they witnessed in their lives. Interview senior members of your family or parish. Ask them about their lives and how their faith in God helped them through difficult times.

Pray Psalm 139 as your family prayer this week. Talk about your relationship with God. When do you find it difficult to trust in God? When do you feel close to God?

Catechist Corner

Current Catechists and anyone interested in becoming a catechist, are invited for an informational meeting on **Tuesday, August 11.**

We will have a social gathering with a light dinner at 6:30 and begin the meeting at 7:00.

CHRISTOS

We have need for a few catechists who are interested in serving our students with special needs. We offer CHRISTOS in a number of ways-one is through a buddy system in regular classes and the other meets every other Saturday from 3:00-4:00.

Please prayerfully consider becoming part of our team, then come and check us out.
Call the RE office for more information.

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.

Confirmation 2027!

If your student is beginning their 2nd consecutive year of Confirmation preparation start thinking about

- Confirmation Sponsor
- Confirmation Name
- Baptism Certificate - if Baptized at a different church

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE SUCCESS!

OUR SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS. WE WERE ABLE TO FILL 70 BACKPACKS! THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE TEENS WHO HELPED ORGANIZE ALL THE SUPPLIES! WAY TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST!

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 9, 2026/Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

OLMC Giving Report - General Fund			
Date	Church Collection	Online Giving	Total
8/3/2026	\$13,654.00	\$5,234.00	\$18,888.00
Total			\$18,888.00
7/5/26-7/27/16 TOTAL			
\$68,902.10			

PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP FOR AUTOMATED ONLINE GIVING



New tile installation in the lobby will start on Monday, August 3, and take about three weeks. The crew will work from 12 pm to 8 pm to accommodate morning mass and funerals. Morning traffic flow may change, and furniture will be removed from the lobby, with areas sectioned off. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Fr. Jeff

Kinship, Courage and Hope



September 25-27, 2026

Ignatian, Semi-Silent Weekend Retreat for Adults

An interfaith, co-ed weekend to explore how to ease our anxiety and cultivate attitudes and practices to bring peace into our daily lives. We will present teachings on the Spiritual Exercises, mindfulness meditation, explore our common humanity, and foster courage and hope for a way forward in a chaotic world. There will be time for silent reflection, new ways to pray, embodied prayer based on qi-gong and tai chi, and the beauty of nature to refresh your spirit.

Retreat Leaders



Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ



Erin Maiorca



Elizabeth Neubauer

To register for this retreat, scan the QR Code or visit jesuitretreat.org/retreats.



847-381-1261 • jesuitretreat.org • Barrington, IL

The Society of Mount Carmel issued this public statement regarding the Future of the "White House" on the Carmelite Property:

For decades, the building known as the "White House" has stood as a familiar presence on our Carmelite grounds, quietly witnessing the growth and evolution of both our local community and our ministries. We are aware of the structure's significance and the many fond memories it holds for the surrounding community.

In 1959, the Carmelites purchased the building, along with the surrounding ten acres, to become part of the Aylesford Retreat Center of the Carmelite Fathers. The building is now the St. Simon Stock Priory and serves as the home of Carmelite Friars, both active and retired.

For the past eight years, the Society of Mount Carmel has undertaken exhaustive assessments and inspections of this century-old building to address necessary structural repairs. After careful and informed deliberation, we came to the difficult decision to proceed with the demolition of the building.

This conclusion was not reached lightly. Over time, the structure has suffered significant, compounding deterioration. Comprehensive evaluations by facility professionals have revealed that the building requires extensive, systemic repairs to meet basic safety codes and modern operational standards. The scope of these necessary interventions is vast.

As stewards of the resources entrusted to us, we have a profound responsibility to ensure our facilities sustainably serve our mission and the broader community. Unfortunately, the financial reality is that the cost to rehabilitate the "White House" far exceeds what is economically feasible.

Demolition is the most prudent and responsible path forward. It ensures the immediate safety of our grounds and allows us to redirect our focus and resources toward a sustainable future. Although this physical structure will be respectfully removed, the landscape it occupies—including the 400-year-old oak trees—will be preserved and will continue to support the Carmelite mission of prayer, contemplation, and community presence.

The Society of Mount Carmel is currently planning for the site's future use following the completion of the demolition. Prior to the demolition, we are committed to safely removing and preserving key architectural elements. Important historical artifacts—including the Castle Eden entrance gates, stained-glass windows, dining-room wood paneling, and period chandeliers—will be salvaged and integrated into our future plans for the property. A commemorative plaque will be installed at the site to share its rich history.

We appreciate the community's understanding, prayers, and continued support as we undertake this necessary transition.

Anybody with questions should contact the Society of Mount Carmel at 630-971-0050 or email Karen Dempsey at

kdempsey@carmelites.net.

