

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?”
- Mt 18:33-35

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

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME



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bulletin emailed to you!
parishesonline.com

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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

September 13, 2026/Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

There was a time when someone I cared about very much slighted me. Oh I was angry at this hurt. How could he do this to me. We were friends after all. He owed me. If this is the way he was going to treat me, well I will show him. The days and weeks went on. The more I thought about what had happened, the angrier I got. The angrier I got the more I wanted to do something back. You see the sin was wrapping around me. Someone had hurt me, I wanted revenge. I got angry and the chains and cords wrapped me tighter and tighter. After a while it was all I felt. The hurt trapped me. My friend went on with his life, apparently happy. I was the one who got stuck. The funny thing was that getting stuck was my own fault. He was not the one who put the chains on me. I put the chains on myself. It took going on a retreat and some serious reflection to learn what I had to do. I was the one who had to forgive. What! That does not make any sense. Doesn't he owe me an apology? Well yes, he does. It does not get him off the hook for his action, but he was not the one who chained me down. I did this to myself. I had to do something to get myself out. I had to be the better person and I say, you know what, you did hurt me, but I forgive. The amazing thing was that the moment I forgave, slowly but surely, the chains and cords loosened. As the days went by, although still hard at times, the cords became looser and looser, until eventually I could step out of them. The hurt no longer held me back. It was a painful period of my life, but one that was behind me. I could now be free to move on to other things. The cords and chains did not hold me back. That is the power and the mercy and the freedom that comes with forgiveness.

That is perhaps a lesson we all need to learn. We have all been hurt. Anyone who has ever been in relationship has been hurt. We have all had some pain. There is not one person here today who has led a perfect life. There is something in each of our lives that has chained us down. The only way to break the chain is to say I forgive. That is the point of today's Gospel. Jesus warns us that holding that grudge only hurts ourselves. I go back to the line that I used last weekend, Love moves at the speed of forgiveness.

The pain does not just apply to individuals, but to societies as well. We remember this weekend the 25th anniversary of September 11. It was a horrible day for our country. The pain inflict on us was deep and sharp. We still hurt from that day. Life is not the same for any of us. A lot has happened in the last 25 years. We have an entire generation and almost a second generation who have no memory of the events. Let's dedicate ourselves to working toward a more just society where such actions are no long possible. We continue to learn how to love as Christ does.



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

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



Readings for the week of September 13, 2026

Sunday: Sir 27:30-28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35

Monday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14/Lk 8:4-15

MASS INTENTIONS**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12****4:30pm** Kowalski Family-living (Family)**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13****8:15am** Margaret & Marco Rocco (Nick Rocco)
Deceased Members of the Ostrowski & Curley
Families (Family)

Alex & Marie Kolacki (Germaine Moore)

Dominga Marquez (Family)

John Schultz (Family)

John Pope (Family)

Frank & Alice Massi (Family)

Phyllis Zimmerman (Family)

10:00am Vito Caroselli (Friends)**Noon** Parishoners of OLMC**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14****9:00am** Susan Reich (Mike Wagner)**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15****9:00am** Josephine Ryczyn (Family)

Joan Stauder (Family)

Jeffrey Carioto (Sister)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**9:00am** James Karnick (Family)

Carm Benbow (Niece)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**9:00am** Alexandra Kolz (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Eleanor Czachor (Family)

Sandra Szczesniak (Family)

Sean Kenny (Dad)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**9:00am** John Pawlak (Family)

Rosemarie & Ed Kern (Family)

Anastasia Jamir (Family)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**9:00am** Esperanza Sobredo (Family)

Lorenzo Sueide (Family)

Arlene Monahan (Family)

Kevin Terrien-30th Anniv. (Family)

Dennis DeGrazia (Niece)

Thomas Thuruthiyil (Family)

TOOTSIE ROLLS!

The Westmont Knights of Columbus Council #3738 will host their annual Intellectual Disabilities (Tootsie Roll) Drive in the lobby after all Masses on the weekend of September 12th and 13th. As the Knights' largest fundraiser of the year, all donations directly support local programs that assist individuals with special learning and life needs. Please stop by after Mass to show your support and enjoy a Tootsie Roll!

PRAYER SERVICE

In Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the
Journeys that Shaped America (USCCB)

Sept. 20, 2026 | 2 PM

Christ the Servant Parish

8700 Havens Dr, Woodridge

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**UPCOMING CLOTHING DRIVE**

Just a reminder: our clothing drive is on Saturday, October 17th, and Sunday, October 18th. Please consider your donations. Our last drive in April was very successful, filling a truck and part of another. All items donated go to those in need. More details will follow. Thank you!

Here I am! Send me!

Isaiah 6:8

Have you been feeling called to serve our parish community? We invite you to prayerfully consider one of our liturgical ministries:

- **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion**
- **Lector**
- **Usher**
- **Greeter**

These ministries are a beautiful way to share your gifts, grow in faith, and help make our parish a welcoming and prayerful community. For more information or to learn how to get involved please contact:

Lori Prado:**lori.prado@owladyofintcarmel.org**

04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

September 13, 2026/Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



RE FAMILIES

WELCOME BACK!

We are so happy to have you back and we are looking forward to another great year.



RE Updates

Still not registered? That's okay, we are still taking registrations!

We are currently looking for a few more people willing to share their faith with our youngest parishioners. Don't worry, you do not need to be a professional teacher. We are looking for faith filled people just like you to bring Christ alive to all our little disciples.

Our current needs are:

Sunday 9:00 AM-Pre School Adult to help the teen leaders, catechists for 1st & 3rd grades

Substitutes and aides-Can also use a parking lot helper

Sunday 11:00 AM-Teen helpers, an Adult Aide for 5th grade, office help & substitutes

Monday 5:00 PM-7th grade Catechist, Substitutes, Aides, and Parking Lot Attendant

Monday, 7:00 PM-Catechist for grades 5 & 6

We are also looking for a few people to help with our Special Needs program

Called CHRISTOS. CHRISTOS meets twice a month on

Saturdays from 3-4 PM-CHRISTOS Begins October 10 with a Catechist Orientation on October 7



SAVE THE DATES:

Family Faith Session-September 15 at 7:00

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

CHRISTOS Catechist Orientation-October 7 at 3:00 PM

CHRISTOS starts on October 17 at 3:00 PM

Question for Children: Jesus says we should forgive from our heart. When did you ask forgiveness of someone you hurt? How did you feel?

Question for Youth: Jesus challenges us to forgive. Who needs your forgiveness? From whom do you need to ask forgiveness?

Question for Adults: Jesus tells us to forgive seventy times seven, which means always and forever. Name a time this past week when you forgave someone. Name, too, a time when you accepted another person's forgiveness.

Activity of the Week

Forgiveness should be a permanent choice. Help family members visualize their decision to forgive. Have each family member write down on a scrap of paper someone they need to forgive and for what they will forgive that person. Then without reading them, find a safe location or container to burn the scraps of paper. Pray the Our Father together as a family at the conclusion of the burn.

YOUTH MINISTRY

September Newsletter

September Youth Group Meeting 9/20

OUR LADY OF
MT CARMELHIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP

BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

GAMES • FOOD • SCRIPTURE

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 1:00- 2:45 PM | OLMC BASEMENT

THERE WILL BE DELICIOUS FOOD, VOLLEYBALL, AND OUR
FIRST BIBLE STUDY LESSON.

SCAN TO RSVP



Service Opportunities!

High Schoolers looking for service opportunities, we have many available.

Scan the QR to sign up for one or multiple events.

October:

- 10/17 & 10/18 - Fall Clothing Drive
- 10/25 - Burr Ridge Senior Living visit

November:

- 11/1 - Trunk or Treat with the Saints
- 11/8 - Burr Ridge Senior Living visit
- 11/21 - Thanksgiving Food Drive

December:

- 12/13 - Burr Ridge Senior Center visit
- 12/18 - Parent's Night Out
- 12/19 - Christmas Food Drive



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

OLMC Giving Report - General Fund

Date	Church Collection	Online Giving	Total
9/8/2026	\$18,430.05	\$5,569.00	\$23,999.05
8/31/2026	\$14,151.00	\$4,108.00	\$18,259.00
Total			\$42,258.05

8/3/26-8/24/26
TOTAL

\$67,000.51

PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING
UP FOR AUTOMATED ONLINE
GIVING

No matter how much
you're hurting

No Marriage is Beyond Hope

RETROUVAILLE
OF JOLIET ILLINOIS

There is a light at the
end of the tunnel.

#blessedinRETROspect
#RetrouvailleJoliet

Retrouvaille is a program designed to help married couples who are struggling.
We will help you learn to communicate on a deeper level, approach conflict
constructively, build a stronger marriage, and rediscover the love you once had.

Our next weekend is coming
September 18 – 20, 2026
at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, IL

For more information call us at (815) 246-2080, email us at
JolietRegistration@HelpOurMarriage.org, or visit us online at
www.HelpOurMarriage.org/Joliet



Knights of Columbus Council 3738 Reverse Raffle \$5,000 Grand Prize

Link to purchase online [Reverse Raffle - KofC Reverse Raffle](#)
Or see a member of KOC #3737 St. John Council

Saturday, September 26th, 2026; 6pm-10pm
6pm-7pm: cocktails/appetizer
7pm-7:50pm: Dinner
8pm-9ishpm: Reverse Raffle ~ \$5000 to a single winner
\$100 ticket includes food & open bar for 1 person.
Additional person for food & open bar at \$25.00
Consolation prizes drawing to win \$50 for every 10
tickets selected
Minimum 100/Maximum 175 tickets will be sold.
Winners need not be present.
Tickets will be available at Cruisin' Nights or you can also
reach out to Steve Conklin (steve.conklin@marriott.com)

Where can you go these days that guarantees you four hours of
great company, delicious food and beverages for you and a
guest for \$125. And then have a chance to win \$5,000!!



HAPPY GRANDPARENTS' DAY PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Virgin Mary, Mother of faith and hope,
an example for this humanity
bent by indifference,
make me as willing as You
to accept the will of God,
to magnify and praise His Mercy.

Mary, Mother of fortitude,
you who knows my heart,
do not allow me
to become discouraged.
I confidently surrender my life
into your hands.
Heal my wounds.
May your tenderness
accompany me on the way.

Your presence, Mother of love,
brings us to experience the joy
of seeing our families united.
Help me to transmit
the tenderness and Love of God
to the grandchildren and youth
so that, in addition to praying for them,
we can pray with them.

Mary, may the gift of the Holy Spirit
intercede for me:
sustain my weakness;
breathe into my heart the consolation
that I may leave traces of faith
among the young,
bearing witness to the beauty of life,
knowing that life has a limit
and that beyond it lies before us our
Father's embrace. Amen.



DOMINUS EST

TMIY THAT MAN IS YOU! Revelation of the Father Fall Semester

September 19, 2026 to December 19, 2026

The **Revelation of the Father** calls men to take the next step in
their leadership by discovering that the heart of God the Father is
reflected in their own hearts. Men are made for heroic love,
faithful commitment, and enduring spiritual fatherhood. Their
hearts are designed for sacrifice, and their strength is meant to be
lived through covenant.

This is more than formation—it is a renewal that restores men,
strengthens marriages, builds families, and forms not spectators,
but builders: men prepared to become architects of an
authentically Christian civilization and the foundation of a new
springtime of Christianity.

Join us for food, fellowship, and faith as we explore **The
Revelation of the Father.**

Date: September 19, 2026 **Time:** 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Location: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church 8404 Cass Ave
Darien, IL

All men are welcome. For questions, contact;

Peter Beronio (630) 596-7850 pbberonio@gmail.com

Joe Kenny (630) 334-2858 crusaderjoe87@gmail.com

Gerry Leganski (630) 312-391-8446 gerry.leganski@gmail.com