

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH

8404 S. CASS AVE. DARIEN. IL 60561



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 20, 2026
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME



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bulletin emailed to you!
parishesonline.com

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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
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02 PASTOR'S LETTER

September 20, 2026/Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

I have good news and I have bad news for all of you. Which do you want first? The good news is that God loves us!!!! How wonderful. The bad news is that God loves us!!! How can this be both good and bad? Isn't that always a good thing? What could possibly be better? Well take a look at today's gospel. The people who were hired first, we not too happy. The love of God was bad news for them. Those who came later, the love of God was wonderful for them. You know God is weird, there is no use trying to figure him out, it can't be done. That is the incredibly frustrating thing for me and for just about everyone. We ask at times, where is the fairness in life. Dang it God, why can't things make sense! Why do good people suffer? Why do bad things happen? Why do people get sick? Especially people who have good lives, why would a just God allow a good person to suffer with some illness? Those have been the questions that have plagued our minds from the beginning of time. The short answer is that there is no explanation for it. Just like there is no explaining today's Gospel. Our ways are not God's ways. We humans like things neat and tidy. We like fairness, we like justice. We want to see those who work hard and follow the rules prosper and those who choose to cheat and lie get punished. We demand fair and equal treatment for all people in all situations. However, that is clearly not God's method of operation. We see hurricanes and floods, and wars. We see senseless violence. We see those who are giving in to bad lifestyles prospering. We at times feel like crying out like those first people hired in the morning did. This is not fair!!!! Now wait a cotton-picking minute here God, I am going to tell you just how things should be. This of course makes God laugh.

St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower, certainly led one of the most holy lives ever. She did everything right and loved with her whole heart. She also experienced a suffering death from tuberculosis. Her final days were painful. She would have had every right to wonder about the fairness of God. Through it all she continued to exclaim, "All is grace!" The good and the bad, the pain and the pleasures. All is Grace! We'll never know what God is thinking, but we continue to have faith and say, All is grace!

It is wonderful to have all the RE students back in classes. Last weekend was energetic. I pray that the children have a wonderful year. We look forward to the celebrations of First Communion and Confirmation that many will celebrate and the growth that will occur this year. All is grace! Hopefully we will get the final details on the lobby done soon. Roof replacement will begin soon. Even when things break, I try to remind myself, All is grace.



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

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



Readings for the week of September 20, 2026

Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163/Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc/Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Eccl 11:9-12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17/Lk 9:43b-45

03 INTENTIONS & EVENTS

September 20, 2026/Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

4:30pm Jose Mendoza (Family)

Victoria Villaluz (Family)

Cecelia Fisher-19th Anniv. (Family)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:15am Arlene Brescia (Family)

10:00am Dan Belford-18th Anniv. (Family)

John Kapovich (Larson Family)

Lucy Carioscio-10th Anniv. (Family)

Noon Ann Pond (McMahon Family)

Mary Ann Brosowski-1st Anniv. (Family)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

9:00am Sandra Covelli (Niece)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:00am Kathy Marino (Candy O'Connell)

Frances Carioto (Granddaughter)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

9:00am Dale Brunsen (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Brian Monahan (Family)

Shirley May (Chris & Vince Donatello)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:00am Mary O'Connor (Family)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9:00am Leon Sy (Family)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

9:00am Chad Marchigiani-13th Anniv. (Family)

Pablo Rosete-24th Anniv. (Josie)



THANK YOU FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS!



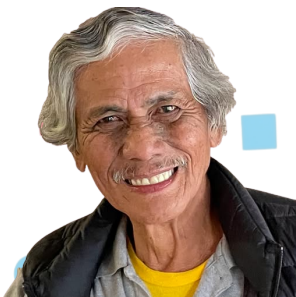
On behalf of Council #3738, thank you to Fr. Jeff and OLMC parishioners for your incredible generosity—we raised over \$2,000.00 during our parish drive!

If you missed us at Mass, our street drive continues this weekend at 75th & Cass (Darien), and 63rd & Cass and Ogden & Cass (Westmont). You can also scan the QR code to donate. Thank you for supporting individuals with special needs!

Thank you, Ishmael!

Join us in celebrating Ishmael on his retirement! We extend our heartfelt thanks for his many years of faithful service, keeping our church clean, welcoming, and running smoothly.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication behind the scenes, Ishmael. May God richly bless you in this next chapter!



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@ourladyofintcarmel.org



04 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

September 20, 2026/Twenty-Fifth 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 leader

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 and 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:

6th Grade Retreat-Saturday, September 26, 9:00

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

CHRISTOS Catechist Orientation-October 10 at 3:00 PM

CHRISTOS starts on October 17 at 3:00 PM

Question for Children: How do you experience God being generous to you: through your family, friends, school, or parish?

Question for Youth: This Gospel reminds us that God is always seeking us out and welcoming us into his generous love. Through whom has God reached out to you? Who is always encouraging you to say "yes" to God?

Question for Adults: Using Jesus' parable as your starting point, describe in your own words how God will treat those who come to be part of the church, even those who come late.

Activities of the Week

As a game, count your family blessings. Sit in a circle and take turns naming one blessing you have from God. For an additional challenge, use the alphabet; begin with a gift that begins with "A," then "B," and so forth. See how long you can keep going.

Practice generosity in your family. Take time to name and celebrate the gifts of each person in the family. What are ways we can encourage one another to develop our gifts?

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, VOLEYBALL, 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



Our OCIA classes started last week. September 20th through October 4th our OCIA group will meet Sundays at 11:00am. We have an exciting year ahead. Please keep the participants in our OCIA Program in your prayers!

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

September 20, 2026/Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

OLMC Giving Report - General Fund			
Date	Church Collection	Online Giving	Total
9/14/2026	\$13,363.75	\$4,638.00	\$18,001.75
9/7/2026	\$18,430.05	\$5,569.00	\$23,999.05
8/31/2026	\$14,151.00	\$4,108.00	\$18,259.00
Total			\$60,259.80
8/3/26-8/24/26 TOTAL			
\$67,000.51			

PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP FOR AUTOMATED ONLINE GIVING





SUN OCT 25
THU NOV 05

OPEN HOUSE

Register at: montini.org/admissions/visit-montini
 Montini Catholic, A Lasallian College Preparatory High School
 19W070 16th Street, Lombard • www.montini.org
 Placement Test Date - Saturday, December 5, 2026 - 8:30AM
 (Practice Test - Wednesday, December 2nd at 7PM)



WELCOME TO THE PARISH!

Michael & Randi Pagonis

Robert & Amanda Wehrle

Jayant Malhotra

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)

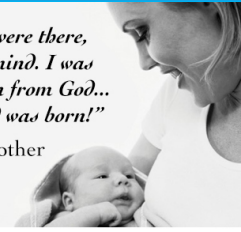
Where can you go these days that guarantees you four hours of great company, delicious food and beverages for you and a guest for \$125. And then have a chance to win \$5,000!!



September 23rd - November 1st 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

*"Because you were there,
I changed my mind. I was
looking for a sign from God...
and Baby David was born!"*

— David's mother



YOU can be that sign from God. Join us to pray for moms and their babies at this international 40 day prayer vigil in front of Access Health abortion clinic, 1700 W. 75th St. in Downers Grove. Select the same hour to pray each week or whenever you can. 8AM to 6PM daily. Another option would be to sign up your church for an entire day or even half a day to pray.

40 Days for Life is a peaceful, community-based prayer vigil that asks our loving God to help bring about an end to abortion through:

**Prayer and Fasting
Constant Vigil
Community Outreach**

Over 26,546 babies lives have been saved through the prayers of people praying at a 40 Days for Life vigil. Please consider joining us for an hour of prayer this year.

The vigil starts September 23rd. To learn more and to sign up for an hour, please visit:
www.40daysforlife.com/downersgrove

*We need your prayerful presence...
and so do the moms and babies!*

PRAY TO END ABORTION

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