

# Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

August 27, 2023 † Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



## 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I will give you the keys  
to the kingdom of heaven.  
Whatever you bind on  
earth shall be bound in  
heaven; and whatever you  
loose on earth shall be  
loosed in heaven."  
- Mt 16:19

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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**8404 CASS AVENUE  
DARIEN, ILLINOIS 60561**

*Parish Phone Number: 630-852-3303*

*Religious Education Phone Number: 630-963-3053*

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday - 4:30 PM**

**Sunday - 8:15 AM - 10 AM - 12 Noon**

**Weekdays & Saturdays - 9 AM**

**Holy Day Eve - 7:00 PM Holy Day - 9 AM - 7:00 PM**

*(Call Office to verify Mass times)*

**Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday,  
from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**RECONCILIATION: Saturday 3:15--4PM**

### Parish Mission Statement

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.

### PARISH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Smialek, O.Carm., Pastor

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[frgreg@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:frgreg@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

Rev. Robert Carroll, O. Carm., Ph.D.

Priest In residence

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Deacon Guadalupe Villarreal

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[catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

Susan Haa, Parish Receptionist, Bulletin Editor

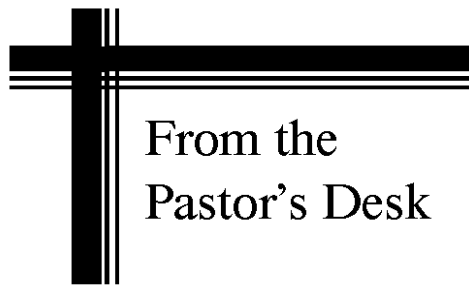
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John Hawkins, Business Manager

[john@jmhawkins.com](mailto:john@jmhawkins.com)

Val Kazich, Admin Asst., Registrar, Religious Education

[val.kazich@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:val.kazich@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)



August 27, 2023

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples the most important question ever, "Who do you say that I am?" This is the most important question in life and will determine the whole course of your life. Who is Jesus Christ to you? There are many misperceptions of Jesus. To some people, He is the great judge before we will stand trial for our lives. While partially true, God is so much more. To some God is the divine accountant who is keeping track of our good deeds and our bad deeds. One day, He will open the ledger book and determine run the tally of each column to determine where we go.

Again, a very simplistic view because God is so much more. For some God is the Maytag repair man in the sky. We only go to him when we need something fixed. To some, God is just Santa clause, who comes once a year to bring us gifts. To some, God is a divine vending machine, we put our dollar in (aka a good deed) and we deserve to get what we want in return. So, when we don't get good things in return, our whole world gets up ended. For some, God is just aloof and on the mountain top with no real presence in our life. The list of examples is endless of the ways that people can view God. So, who do you say that I am? How we choose to relate to God will determine the direction of our life. The early disciples were filled with different views as well. To some a prophet had returned. To some, just another holy man. To some, a troublemaker who needed to be eliminated. Who do you say that I am? Peter got the right answer, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." While we are still trying to figure out what exactly that means, we know God is beyond any of our understandings. Our answer to that question will change as we grow and go through the stages of life and our own experiences. However, the goal is to have the same answer that Peter gave, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Who do you say that I am?

You may have noticed that the private access road along the Stations of the Cross walk leading to Bailey Road is closed during the week. The road is owned by the Carmelite campus, and we pay a rental fee for it. In discussions with the facilities staff of the campus, we have decided that for greater safety the road will be closed during the week. The access road will be open on the weekends to accommodate the larger crowds for Sunday masses. Thank you for your understanding.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Pray for us.

*Fr. Jeff*

### *Readings for the week of August 27, 2023*

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

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mk 6:17-29

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30



*Cathy's Corner— Clearing the Vineyard of Buckthorns*

Buckthorn has been termed “a restricted noxious weed.” It is a large shrub that affords no real shade and spawns forest fires. The noble trees, the olive, the fig, even the vine, refused the honor of reigning over the other trees. But not the buckthorn. It had no problem at all offering the protection that it never intended to give. In Jotham’s fable, Abimelech was that buckthorn. He was the son of Gideon through his concubine and had campaigned to become king. His father had previously refused to accept that title, saying to the Israelites who were begging him to do exactly that, “The Lord must rule over you.” To that end, Abimelech had just murdered all seventy of Gideon’s other sons.

The Israelites, who had once again strayed into worship of false gods, were in the process of acceding to Abimelech’s aspirations of royalty. In an effort to try and stem this treacherous tide, Jotham, Gideon’s nephew, used a parable to illustrate how noxious and dangerous a human king can be. It did not work, and Abimelech ruled for three years before the citizens of Shechem turned on him. Jesus also used a parable, his to illustrate how generous and compassionate the divine ruler always is. Gideon knew that, which is why he refused the entreaty of his fellow Israelites. He knew that we are not meant to rule over one another; we are meant to look out for one another.

That is precisely what the landowner did for the laborers in Jesus’ tale, those people who never gave up hope that someone would eventually give them the opportunity to work in order to support themselves and their families. The landowner was not trying to campaign for public office by responding bountifully to the workers that worked for him less than a full day. He was not looking to rule over them with his beneficence. He was just reflecting the divine priority of preferential care for the poor and disenfranchised, overlooked by everyone else, left with no other option but to stand patiently on the sidelines waiting to be seen, waiting to be respected for what they could offer. The last workers were not given a handout by the landowner to ease his conscience; they were given dignity. They were seen as worthy to contribute.

None of that took anything away from those who had worked a full day. But it did make those last workers equal to them in the eyes of the landowner. And that is what had them rankled. Because they wanted him to view them as better, as more dignified, as more worthy of respect. Unlike Gideon who rejected being placed above his fellow Israelites, they wanted to be seen as more. But God sees no one of us as more, no one of us as more deserving. God sees us as equally God’s own children, and thus those that have less should be given the preferential option to have more. And God expects us to look out for one another so that does in fact happen. If our field of vision is the vineyard of the Lord, buckthorns we will not be, offering always to others that protection we fully intend to give.

*Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt 20:1-16*

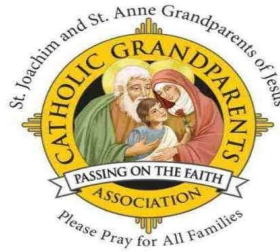


# Got Questions? The Church has the answers!

## Explore with us beginning in September. All are welcome!

Contact Cathy Lentz at [catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org) or 630-852-3303 ext 5 for  
more information





### GRANDPARENTS MASS

**Sunday, September 10**

**10:00 a.m.**

Bring your Grandpa, Grandma, Nana, Papa  
Celebrate Grandparents Day with the OLMC community!

### GRANDPARENTS PILGRIMAGE

**Saturday, September 30**

**HOLY HILL**



The National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians

Transportation to/from OLMC 8:15 am – 4:45 pm

**Register in the parish office: \$44 per person**

Parishioners welcome, limited seating, first come



[catholicgrandparentsolmc@gmail.com](mailto:catholicgrandparentsolmc@gmail.com)

Young at Heart is a group for men and women age 55+ which meets once a month for fellowship.

Join us for our introductory gathering September 7 at 10:00am in the Upper Deck.

For more information contact Barbara Jo Miller at 630-985-1043





## RE NEWS

RE Starts September 10 & 11. If you have not registered yet, please do so ASAP. We are still looking for a few catechists and room parents so we can start the year off! Please see Sherry after all masses this weekend.

### 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

Invite family members to write three sentences which tell something about Jesus. When you gather for family prayer, invite each family member to share one sentence about Jesus.

As a family, discuss the many different names for Jesus, such as Redeemer, Prince of Peace, Good Shepherd, Friend, etc. Which name for Jesus do you like best? Why? Which name for Jesus do you like least? Why?

### Save the Dates

We are going to be hosting a retreat day for People who care for persons with disabilities on Saturday, September 23. While this retreat will be for the caregivers, we will have sessions for your children and adults you are caring for. Call the RE office for more information.

### HELP WANTED

Have you ever thought of being a Catechist? Well, we are looking to train and mentor a few good people to help us with our program.

In addition, we are looking for "Room Moms and Dads" who will start the children off with attendance and a simple work sheet or craft at the beginning of class. This only requires 15-20 minutes of your time. All materials are provided. Please contact the RE office if you are interested.

Right now, what we need is:

Sunday 9 AM: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, & 7<sup>th</sup>

Sunday 11 AM: 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>

Monday 5 PM: 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>

Monday 7PM: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>

We are also looking for a few dedicated individuals who would be interested in helping Children with Special needs through our CHRISTOS program. We have a few families interested, and we need a team to help reorganize this great program. Call Sherry for more info.

### Weekly Prayer

Let us pray in thanksgiving for the gift of the church in our lives, leading and guiding us to ever deeper communion with Christ. Let us pray also, for the members of the church who are suffering from the fires and floods happening in the world today. Please take a moment and remember those in need by praying the Rosary with your family.



**Mary Anne Trochim**     **James Curley**  
**Julie Ann Lacey**     **Kim Hoover**  
**Jeanette Seebock**     **Nancy Kososki**  
**Bridget Gallmeier Raineri**     **Nancy Jisisju**  
**Kevin & Jenne Gallmeier**  
**Bill Haran**     **Susan Nugent**  
**Evelyn Swartz**     **Abby Grace McCarver**  
**Jean & Mark Boyd**     **Allen Raineri**  
**Jamie Carpenter**     **Diana Clohecy**



Sgt. Ryan Thomas Lavine, Army  
 SPC Jonathan Poynton  
 Joe Barker  
 Sgt. J. Bartlett Pvt.  
 Cpl. Joseph Belgis, USMC  
 Wayne R. Zefeldt, Army  
 S. Sgt. Michael Mullahy  
 Ryan Pertile, Army  
 Major Thomas Bessler  
 Mike Noonan  
 Adam Kowalski, Army  
 Capt. James Lucas US Army  
 Sgt. Greg Burnett  
 Sgt. Meghan Callham, USMC  
 Ron Caruso Jr.  
 Specialist Drew Stocks  
 Christine Christensen, USAF  
 Lt. Joseph A Vacek, USMC  
 Colin Cusack  
 Michael Sklodowski, Army  
 Nick Radziwon, US Navy  
 Gwen Zemaitis Baker  
 James Lucas US Army  
 Capt. Melissa Sprague  
 Capt. Mark Sprague  
 Zach Wallace  
 James Chipman  
 Keith Thomas  
 L.C. David Treadwell  
 Timothy Vaughn, USAF  
 Zachary Bell  
 Christopher Johnson USCG  
 Sgt. Eric Kuchta, Army  
 Pvt. Dylan R. Hagan  
 Danielle Monahan SrA

ENS Allison Early, NAVY  
 CPO Michael Early, USMC  
 Elliot Broccardo, USMC  
 Lindsey Johnson  
 Diahann Bavan  
 Ronan Randy S. BA.SAT-U.S.Navy  
 Derek McCarthy  
 Joe Michalski  
 Steve Baker, Lt  
 Luke Fluder  
 Pfc Drew Hillebold, Army  
 Vincent Napoli, USMC  
 Nikolas Horskey, Army  
 Lt. Col Jason O'Neil, USMC  
 Capt. Tim Wilson  
 Rachael Smith  
 Kevin Pope  
 Dave Rawlings  
 LCpl Daniel Holakovsky, USMC  
 Tom Reiter  
 Nathaniel Rozgo  
 Robert DeMatio  
 Frank Andrew McKenna, Navy  
 Captain Jackson Panice  
 Ryan Snyder  
 Capt. James Lienau  
 Sgt. Kevin Gallmeier Jr.  
 Pat Gill Petty Officer  
 Brian Sheenhan, Army  
 Joseph Higgins  
 Gary Hogan  
 Kevin Hornett  
 Dan Eugene Bavan  
 Dan Welters  
 Alex Erkiens  
 Capt. Michael K. Desmond, Jr., USMC  
 1st Lt. Mark Marten, US Army  
 Ted Cook

### **Mass Intentions for the Week**

#### **Saturday, August 26, 2023**

**4:30PM** Ellen Nowak (Family)  
 Patricia Heery (Family)  
 Nancy Jemenez (Evano Family)  
 Beth Jones (Kitty)

#### **Sunday, August 27, 2023**

**8:15AM** Ronald Siroky (Frank & Fran Modelski)  
 Frank & Cheska's 56th wedding anniversary  
 (Cheska & Family)  
**10:00AM** Apolinar Pacheco (Family)  
 Edward Mueller-9th anniv (Family)  
**NOON** Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)  
 Deacon Ed Ptacek-living-12th anniv as a deacon  
 (Frank & Fran Modelski)

#### **Monday, August 28, 2023**

**9:00AM** Therese Kang-living (Family)

#### **Tuesday, August 29, 2023**

**9:00AM** Theresa Kang-living (Family)  
 Ken Bala (Family)

#### **Wednesday, August 30, 2023**

**9:00AM** Ronald R. Caruso (Family)  
 Elizabeth & Domonic Donatello (Donatello Family)  
 Nelson Tutor (Friends)  
 Ananias Bucio (Andrea Tutor)

#### **Thursday, August 31, 2023**

**9:00AM** Therese Kang-living (Family)

#### **Friday, September 1, 2023**

**9:00AM** Irene Bukowski (Frank & Fran Modelski)  
 Deacon Jim Foody (Balzano Family)  
 Joseph DeMasi (Wife)

Unni Abraham Karodt (Family)  
 Sam Stauder-20th anniv (Family)

#### **Saturday, September 2, 2023**

**9:00AM** Heather Mitchener & Matthew Melland-  
 living (Eleine Mitchener)



**Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital**

**Volunteers Needed**

**Catholic Communion Ministry**

**Good Samaritan Hospital – Downers Grove**

**Contact: Gail Miskowicz-Retz at**

**[Gail.Miskowicz-Retz@aah.org](mailto:Gail.Miskowicz-Retz@aah.org)**

**or**

**630-852-5347**