

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

December 10, 2023 † Second Sunday of Advent



8404 CASS AVENUE
DARIEN, ILLINOIS 60561
Parish Phone Number: 630-852-3303

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

frjeff@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Rev. Rob Traudt, O.Carm., Parochial Vicar

frrob@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

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

Priest In residence

Deacon Ed Ptacek

littlebirdfarm@hotmail.com

Deacon Guadalupe Villarreal

dcnlupe@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Sherry L. Rochford, Director, Children's Faith Formation

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Stephanie Rawls, Director, Youth Ministry

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Lori Prado, Youth Ministry

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Cathy Lentz, Director, Adult Faith Formation

catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Susan Haa, Parish Receptionist, Bulletin Editor

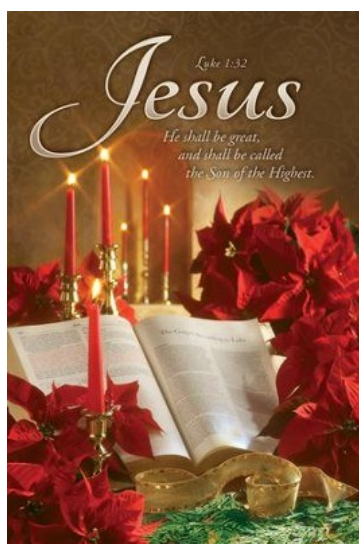
receptionist@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

John Hawkins, Business Manager

john@jmhawkins.com

Val Kazich, Admin Asst., Registrar, Religious Education

val.kazich@ourladyofmtcarmel.org



December 10, 2023

We are now entering into the second week of Advent. This very special time preparing for the coming of the Lord. This time of year, gets very busy with events, decorations, shopping and gatherings that we sometimes forget to recognize the most important reason, Jesus Christ. This time calls us to remember that Jesus came once and has promised to return. Jesus is undoubtedly a man of his word! He will return and we need to be ready. As we all get ready to celebrate with great joy Christmas Day, let's not forget this time of Advent. We need to spend this time in preparation so that we can truly celebrate on Christmas Day and be ready to welcome Christ when he returns. The Gospel today is the story of that voice crying out in the wilderness, "prepare the way of the Lord!" John the Baptist lived with one sole focus in life, preparing the way for Christ. That is how we should live our life too. While we don't need to be eating locusts and wild honey, we do need to be constantly preparing.

Everything we do should be done with an eye towards eternity. As the stress of this time of year mounts, try to remember what matters the most, love of family and our faith in Jesus Christ.

This afternoon, Sunday, December 10 from 2 -4 pm is our parish Advent time of reflection. This is a great way for us to prepare and focus on the real reason for this season. It is a time for us to spend a few hours away from the shopping malls and to just slow down for a moment and be with Christ. Fr. Rob will be giving a presentation to the adults and there will be activities for the children. All are welcome. Our parish reconciliation service will be on Monday, December 18 at 7pm. Please take advantage of these opportunities to prepare the way of the Lord in your life.

Advent blessing and prayers,

Fr. Jeff

Readings for the week of December 10, 2023

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/

Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13



CHRISTMAS MASS

SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve December 24

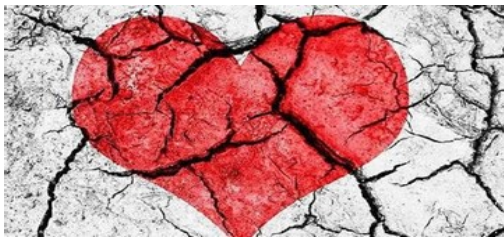
3:00 pm Children's Mass

5:30 pm

Midnight Mass beginning at 12:00 am

Christmas Day December 25: 8:15 am, 10:00 am, Noon

January 1 is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year



Bringing comfort and light through compassionate support

Next meeting December 16

Together in Loss is a ***grief support ministry*** for anyone who has suffered a loss – no need to be a parishioner

**We meet the third SATURDAY
of the month from 10:00 to 11:30 am**

No RSVP necessary and no need to have attended in the past

**Contact Cathy Lentz for more information at catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org
or 630-852-3303 ext 5**

We will be holding our Holiday Food Drive for Christmas on Sunday December 17th. We will only be accepting monetary donations that we then will pass on to people in need to supplement their food. You could give cash, checks or gift cards. Please put any donations in an envelope & mark the outside with "Holiday Food Drive Donation", your name & address then place it in the collection basket. You will get credit for any donation you make. If you pay by check please put "Holiday Food Drive" in the memo. There will be envelopes for you to use in the back of church if needed. You need to make your donations by December 10th for it to go for Christmas.

Thank You,
Paul Gangi - *Holiday Food Drive Chairperson*



**Join Fr. Rob as he presents Advent as a season
of wild hopes and dreams in
Advent: A Time to Prepare
December 10 from 2 to 4 pm
Bring the Whole Family - “Preparing for Je-
sus” will be offered for children in the RE
rooms
Stay for hospitality afterwards!**



**Jesus is calling YOU – to minister at Mass
Lector ~ Usher ~ Altar Server ~ Choir Member
*Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion***

No Experience Necessary

We will be training for all ministries

**Contact Cathy Lentz at 630-852-3303 ext 5 or
catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org**

Cathy's Corner—Choosing Our Human Nature

Just a few paragraphs before the verses we have from Genesis today, Adam was exulting that he had at last found the “bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.” Now it seems the honeymoon is over and he is placing full fault for violating the only commandment God had given, not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, on that person he had been clinging to, the woman who thus far does not have a name, attempting to absolve himself of any guilt. She then turns and blames the serpent for tricking her, also attempting to avoid any responsibility for disregarding God’s single demand. Human nature at its worst, selfishly acting in violation of what is a clear directive from God and then compounding the damage by refusing to be accountable for that harmful decision.

The consequence for this pair, created without original sin as we have come to call it, was not death, although the punishment was devastating - expulsion from paradise. The woman was then given a name, Eve, which in Hebrew was to breathe, or to give life. Eve, together with Adam, would give life, would create an existence for the lives they brought into the world outside of the garden from which they had been expelled. Sometimes it seems like that is the end of the story, as we strive to create lives in a world that is a far cry from the garden of Eden, rife with selfish decisions for which no one takes responsibility.

And yet there was another woman born much later, preserved as well from the stain of original sin from the moment she was conceived, who said yes to God’s single request, even as she was but a teenager, poor and confused and greatly troubled. Human nature at its best, selflessly embracing the difficult path of an unwed mother and accepting whatever consequences would ensue. Which is why the tale of Adam and Eve is not the end of the story. St. Paul declares that through that child born of Mary we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavens. Indeed, as much as selfish cruelty exists in the world, selfless sacrifice does as well. Countless examples of generosity and courage, goodness and compassion, are brought to life all around us every day, some bestowed on us by others, some presented to us that we can be the ones who give.

As we strive to create lives amidst so much that pulls us to think of only ourselves, to worry about no one’s interests but our own, to take what we can while we can, let us remember that we have been chosen as well, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before our God. But we must choose to act out of the best of our human nature. As did the patroness of our country, the Blessed Virgin Mary, let our complete trust in our God show us the way.

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1,2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph: 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1: 26-38



Activities of the Week:

Jessie Tree

For Advent, we will be posting a few scripture passages that will help your children learn about the lineage of Jesus through the Jessie Tree. Read about each individual and create an ornament for your tree. You can find the full link on our website.

Jacob: Genesis 28:10-22

Symbol: Ladder

Rechel & Leah: Genesis 29: 16-20

Symbol: Bridal Veil

Joseph (Son of Jacob and Rachel):

Genesis 37:1-45:28

Symbol: Colorful Coat

Moses: Exodus 3:1-5

Symbol: Burning Bush

Rahab: Joshua 2:1-21

Symbol: Horn

Joshua: Joshua 6:1-20

Symbol: Bridal Veil

Deborah: Judges 4:1-16

Symbol: Palm Tree

Gideon: Judges 7:1-8, 15-20

Symbol: Clay Water Picture

Questions of the Week

Question for Children: How do you experience God taking care of you, even in times of trouble?

Question for Youth: John went out to announce the good news of the Messiah's coming. How can you be good news to your friends and family this week?

Question for Adults: When you hear Isaiah comfort the people by promising that God is like a shepherd who gathers the lambs into his arms, what is your response?

RE News...

How can we build a better Christmas? Parents are invited to join us as we "Conspire" to put Jesus at the center of Christmas. We will look at the "Advent Conspiracy" each week before Christmas while your children are in RE. We will meet on the upper deck. For more information, call the RE office or watch the video that was sent in an email prior to Thanksgiving.

Upcoming Dates

Christmas Eve Children's Mass:

Can you believe it's time to look at Christmas schedules already? We are so busy this time of year, so I wanted to put out a reminder to save the dates for practice. We have had to change the day for practice as we have a few conflicting events on Monday, so our practices will be on Tuesdays from 6-7 PM.

We will also have a full rehearsal on Saturday, December 23 at 12:30 PM. We ask that the children wear their shoes they will wear for Christmas Eve.

There is still time to have your child join us!

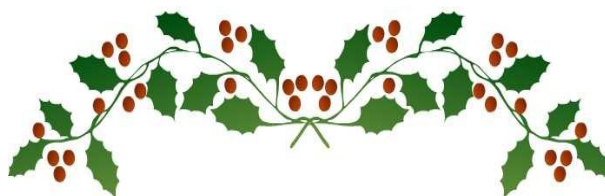
Advent Retreat/Celebration:

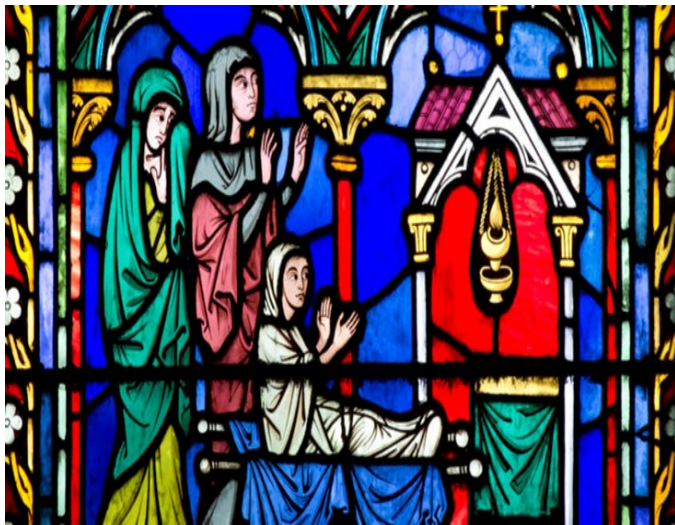
Sunday, December 10 from 2:00-4:00. Please call the RE office if you are joining us so we have enough supplies.

Family Mass:

Our next Family Mass is Sunday, December 17 at 10:00. Sign up now to read, greet, or bring up gifts. We will have Reader practice on Monday, December 11 at 6:30 PM and/or Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 PM.

We are also looking for a few families to help usher. If your family would like to help in any way, please contact Sherry ASAP so we can get you the readings or other info right away.





**Are you or is someone you love
homebound and unable to attend
Mass?**

Ministers of Care from the community of *Our Lady of Mount Carmel* are here to visit with you, to pray with you, to offer you the **Body of Christ**.

Contact Cathy Lentz at 630-852-3303 ext 5 or catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org for a visit.

ENS Allison Early, NAVY
CPO Michael Early, USMC
Elliot Broccardo, USMC

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



Sgt. Ryan Thomas
Diahan 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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 9, 2023

4:30PM Michael Pappas (Kitty)
Frances Brownlee (Family)

Sunday, December 10, 2023

8:15AM Mary & Andrew Plock (Nick Rocco)
Diann Sennett (Dennis & Annette Bannon)
Lisiamma Abraham (Family)
Aleyamma Thomas (Family)
10:00AM Bradley Stock (Family)
Concepcion Rodriguez (Family)
NOON Max Zostautas (Denise Guardino)
Philip Rizza (Caruso Family)
Henry Pontarelli (Nancy Cahill)

Monday, December 11, 2023

9:00AM Lisiamma Abraham (Family)
John Brom (Family)
Aleyamma Thomas (Family)

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

9:00AM Lisiamma Abraham (Family)
Reynaldo & Simone-living (Family)
Smitty DeGrazia (Granddaughter)
Rosela Mendoza (Remy)

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

9:00AM Jose Macairan (Wife)
Margaret Lombardi-15th anniv (Pat & Family)
Lisiamma Abraham (Family)

Thursday, December 14, 2023

9:00AM Lisiamma Abraham (Family)

Friday, December 15, 2023

9:00AM Lisiamma Abraham (Family)
Mercedes Ignacio Lim (Ampy)

Saturday, December 16, 2023

9:00AM Cindy Cleary (Pat Monahan)
Colin Cleary (Minogue Family)

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

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