

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

December 17, 2023 † Third Sunday of Advent



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

MASS SCHEDULE

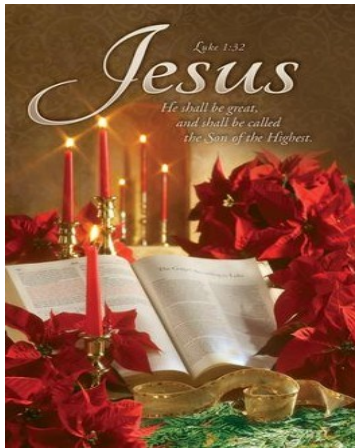
Saturday - 4:30 PM
Sunday - 8:15 AM - 10 AM - 12 Noon
Weekdays & Saturdays - 9 AM
Holy Day Eve - 7:00 PM **Holy Day** - 9 AM - 7:00 PM
(Call Office to verify Mass times)
Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday,
from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
RECONCILIATION: Saturday 3:15--4PM

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
sherry.rochford@ourladyofmtcarmel.org
Stephanie Rawls, Director, Youth Ministry
stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org
Lori Prado, Youth Ministry
lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org
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 17, 2023

We celebrate today Gaudete Sunday, the 3rd Sunday of Advent. The Rose (pink) candle of the wreath is lit. The ministers are in Rose (pink) vestments, one of only two days in the year in which Rose is worn. Gaudete Sunday marks the halfway point of our Advent Journey. It gives a chance to reflect on the first half of the season and to prepare for all that we still need to do in the second half. It is like halftime of a sporting event; it provides a chance for us to take stock of what we have done and figure out what we need to do in the future. The Readings today also take on a tone of more anticipation and joy. The readings of the first half of Advent have a more somber tone to them, now as Christmas draws even closer the readings turn to themes of hope. John the Baptist said during his testimony "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord.'*" That is a good question for us to reflect on? Am I being a voice for Christ in the world today and making straight his

path? In order to truly be a voice of Christ we must first be in good relationship with him. We must discern what is just our own opinion on an issue and what is truly the voice of Christ that we must speak. That is hard to do. It takes a lot of interior work, learning and personal prayer to know God's Divine Truth from an opinion. That is what we are challenged to do in the world is speak truth to power but sometimes to speak truth to that relative or friend who needs to be challenged. John the Baptist had the courage to speak out against injustice. Do we have similar courage?

The Christmas celebrations are rapidly approaching. Monday 12/18 at 7 pm is our parish Advent Reconciliation service. There will be multiple priests available for private confessions. Next weekend, we are in the once every seven years situation of having the 4th Sunday of Advent occurring on Sunday, December 24. The whole 4th week of Advent lasts just a little over 12 hours. It makes little sense to have the full slate of Sunday masses and then go into the full line-up of Christmas masses that afternoon. Therefore, on Sunday December 24, we will only have a 10 am Mass (this will fulfill the obligation for the 4th Sunday. There will still be the 4:30 pm Mass on Saturday 12/13.) Then we begin with the Childrens' Mass of Christmas at 3pm and a mass at 5:30pm on 12/24. The Christmas Midnight mass is at 12 am. On Christmas morning masses are at 8:15 am, 10 am and 12 pm. I hope that you continue to have a blessed Advent journey.

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

Advent blessing and prayers,

Fr. Jeff

Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/

1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Sunday, December 24th Mass at 10 AM Only

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



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

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*



Youth Ministry Christmas Party and Service Opportunity!

All high schoolers are invited to join us Sunday, December 17th to celebrate Christmas with a party and service opportunity. We will have lunch together at **1pm** and then we will head to Burr

Ridge Senior Living from **2pm-3:30pm** to make cookies with the residents. If you would like a ride from OLMC to Burr Ridge, you will need to fill out a permission slip in advance.



Parents, do you need a break or time to finish some last minute Christmas tasks? Our high school youth group is hosting a Parent's Night out on **Friday, December 22nd from 3-6pm**. Sign up on the parish website or contact Stephanie Rawls. Snacks, games, and crafts will be provided for the kids. High schoolers, if you would like to volunteer to help with child-care, please contact Stephanie Rawls.

Cathy's Corner—Following the Light of St. Lucy

Yoke can be defined as “an arched device formerly laid on the neck of a defeated person.” The law expounded by the Pharisees in the Palestine of Jesus’ time was so burdensome as to make the children of Israel stagger and fall under its yoke as they tried faithfully to adhere to its dictates. But yoke is more commonly defined as “a wooden bar or frame by which two draft animals are joined at the heads or necks for working together.” This is the yoke of Jesus. It is a frame of love – God, neighbor, self. Relieving burdens. Bringing rest. Modeling meekness. Being humble of heart. Because being meek like Jesus means knowing and trusting in all that God has to offer. And having a heart that is humble allows the space we need to accept this yoke.

St. Lucy, though by modern standards a mere child, took that yoke upon herself. Because of that she could refuse, even in late third century Sicily, to allow herself to be objectified by her beauty and made to enter into marriage with a pagan suitor. She could refuse to denounce the Good News of Jesus Christ even when she was put to the sword by the Roman authorities during the fierce persecution under the Emperor Diocletian. In the yoke of Jesus that she wore St. Lucy was vindicated in her courage and her faith like waves of a crashing sea that spread almost immediately throughout the Christian world. References to her are found in early Roman sacramentaries as well as in an inscription dating from 400 CE in her home city of Syracuse. By the fifth century she had an expansive following and is mentioned in the First Eucharistic Prayer, which dates back to at least the seventh century. There are many legends of miracles she performed and she is beloved as the bearer of a wreath of candles guiding us with her light to the Light of the World.

May we, like St. Lucy, take upon ourselves the yoke of Jesus Christ, light as a feather in a world heavy with heartache. May we live that framework of love every day, with every person we encounter. Because in truth it is Jesus Christ that is in each of our neighbors, and when we act in love toward them, we act in love toward him. And within that yoke we ourselves will thrive. Every ray of hope we inspire in someone else is our confidence in the Lord that renews our strength. Every weight we lift from another is a burden that is light because it is shared with Jesus. Every support for a person weary or weak lifts us up as if on eagle’s wings that soar to the heavens. In a world that is difficult and dark, it is wise to accept the yoke that makes all things easy and every pathway light.

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



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.

Samson: Judges 13:1-5; 15:14-17

Symbol: Broken Pillars

Ruth: Ruth Chapters 1-4

Symbol: Wheat

Hannah (Mother of Samuel):

1st Samuel 1:20-2:11

Symbol: Praying hands

Samuel: 1st Samuel 3:1-19; 16:1-13

Symbol: Oil Lamp

David: 1st Samuel 16:1-6

Symbol: Harp

Solomon: 1 Kings 3:4-15

Symbol: Scales of Justice

Elijah: 1 Kings 19:3-13; 2 Kings 2:1-5, 9-13

Symbol: Chariot

Daniel: Daniel (Book of)

Symbol: Lions

Questions of the Week

Question for Children: As we get closer to Christmas, name one thing you really want for your home or the world, such as peace, friendship, or food for the poor.

Question for Youth: John tried to help people prepare their lives for the coming of the Messiah. What do you need to change about your life to be ready for Jesus' coming?

Question for Adults: If you were to write three suggestions for those who follow Jesus, to keep them strong in their faith, what would you write?

RE News...

There will be No RE for our 7:00 class on Monday, December 18 due to the Parish Advent Reconciliation Service. All other RE classes will meet as usual. Please consider having your family join us to renew your hearts right before Christmas, by celebrating with us.

Upcoming Dates

Christmas Eve Children's Mass:

We are looking for a few adults to help us with our Jr. Ushers, as well as a few adults to serve as Eucharistic Ministers. If you are interested contact Sherry ASAP.

All child participants should be at practice on Tuesday, December 19. Readers and Choir Member will start at 6:00. All others join us at 6:30.

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!

NO RE Christmas Break:

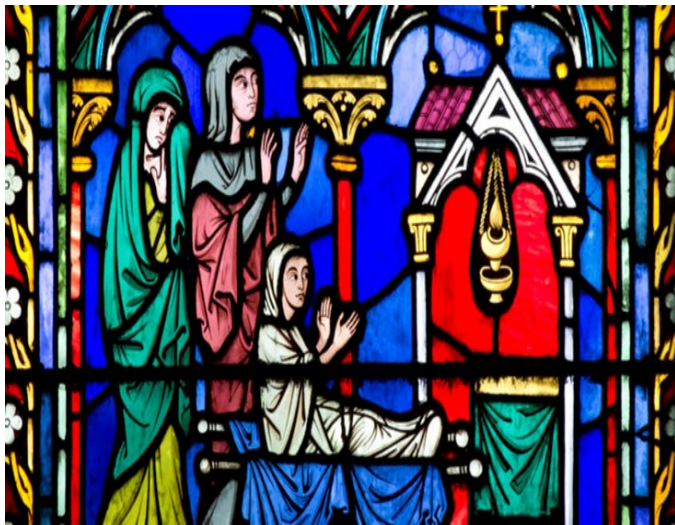
There will be no RE on Sunday/Monday, December 24/25 nor Sunday/Monday, December 31/January 1.

We will return to RE on Sunday/Monday, January 7/8, 2024.

CORE Catechist Meeting

We have many catechists that serve as team leaders for each grade level. We are presently looking for assistant team leaders for the following grades: 1, 4, 5, & 6. Our CORE team meets three times a year to help plan out the upcoming season in RE. If you are on the CORE Team now, or would like to consider joining us, please attend our winter meeting on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 for dinner, followed by the meeting at 7:00 Contact Sherry Rochford if you are interested.





**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 16, 2023**

4:30PM Michael & Lloyd Szkwarko (Family)
Wes Wade (Family)
Nancy Jemenez (Family)
Timothy Arnold-20th anniv (Arnold Family)

Sunday, December 17, 2023

8:15AM Virginia & George Bohaboy (Nick Rocco)
Ralph Moore-3rd anniv (Germaine)
Lisiamma Abraham (Family)
10:00AM Agustina Acosta (Family)
Frank Gregorio (Family)
NOON Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

Monday, December 18, 2023

9:00AM Chester Czachor (Donatello Family)
Lisiamma Abraham (Family)
John Phillips (Family)

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

9:00AM Lisiamma Abraham (Family)
Dolores Kwain-14th anniv (Judy & Bill Tamkevic)

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

9:00AM Lorraine King (Sister)
Lisiamma Abraham (Family)
Bart Ribando (Niece)

Thursday, December 21, 2023

9:00AM Lisiamma Abraham
(Family)

Friday, December 22, 2023

9:00AM Lisiamma Abraham (Family)

Saturday, December 23, 2023

9:00AM Lisiamma Abraham (Family)
Victoria Borucki (Daughter Evelyn)



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