

# Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

December 31, 2023 † The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



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](mailto:frjeff@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

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

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

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

Priest In residence

Deacon Ed Ptacek

[littlebirdfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:littlebirdfarm@hotmail.com)

Deacon Guadalupe Villarreal

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

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

[sherry.rochford@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:sherry.rochford@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

Stephanie Rawls, Director, Youth Ministry

[stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

Lori Prado, Youth Ministry

[lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

Cathy Lentz, Director, Adult Faith Formation

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

Susan Haa, Parish Receptionist, Bulletin Editor

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

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)



January 1, 2024

Wow!!! It is 2024! I want to wish everyone in the community all the best in this upcoming year. I pray that each of us is blessed with health in the year ahead because that is the most important thing. A new year is a time for us to pause and reflect on the past and prepare for the future. 2022 was a year of change for the parish community. The Gospel for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is the story of the shepherds visit to the manger. It says all were amazed at what the shepherds said, and Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Let us hold our loved ones dear and reflect on all that has happened this past year. 2023 was a wonderful year for our parish community. We had Bishop Hicks with us in January for my official installation as pastor. (Time sure flies!) We got the lobby changed by removing all the old bulletin boards and installing monitors and furniture. It is now a warm and welcoming area. I love to see people sitting there talking with others, catching up and sharing a cup of coffee. That is what community is all about. It has also been a year since we switched to a 4:30 pm Mass on Saturday. This has made a significant difference and attendance has increased. The confessional room in the lobby has been put to beneficial use and is a blessing. It sure beats sitting in the chapel. We had a wonderful celebration of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in July, with a parish picnic afterwards which was a lot of fun. We planted 16 new trees to beautify the grounds and help the environment. The food pantry helps so many in need and the holiday food drives are among the highlights of this community and speaks to our commitment to serve the poor and needy. Our religious education and youth programs have about 500 children and teens involved. This is critical to pass the faith on to the next generation. Sadly, we had to say farewell to Fr. Greg in October. Fortunately, we were blessed to welcome Fr. Rob to our parish, and he has been a wonderful addition. There was so much to be grateful for in 2023.

Here are some interesting facts about our parish from last year. We celebrated 59 baptisms which are always a blessing to the church. We had 59 children receive their First Holy Communion and 72 teens were Confirmed. We witnessed 12 marriages. Sadly, we had to celebrate 76 funerals. 72 hours of Adoration were given and over 30 hours of confession time offered. All this is to the glory of God. We have so much to be grateful for.

We now look ahead to 2024 with much hope. We will seek ways to expand our outreach to the poor and seek what we can do for our community. We are researching ways to evangelize and bring more people into the church, especially those who may have fallen away and not been to church in many years. We will continue our care for creation through planting more trees, adding more LED lighting and pursuing solar energy for the parish. Most of all, we will be working together to building the kingdom of God here in Darien together.



A blessed 2024 to all!!!  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel ... Pray for us.

*Fr. Jeff*

**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or

Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

**Monday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

**Friday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38



Our Lady of Peace with  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
invite you to be *Nourished* in  
your caregiving ministry

**There are now more opportunities to be Nourished  
in caring for a loved one!**

Beginning in January we will be meeting the **second  
Saturday** of the month at 9 am AND the **fourth Friday** of  
the month at 10 am for **information, strength and con-  
nection** during the caregiver journey.

**NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 13  
9:00 to 10:30 am @ Our Lady of Peace**

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

### ***Cathy's Corner—Reflecting on a New Beginning***

Heavy with a child conceived she did not know how, she was far from home in an unknown place, satisfying the census requirements of the despot occupying her land. Without the comfort and care of her mother and female relatives, in a place where the animals were kept, she, little more than a child herself, gave birth to her own child. Yet as she held her tiny son, still warm from her body, she realized he was bathed in the glow of a single brilliant star.

She saw streaming in from all sides the shepherds proclaiming what the angels had told them, that her baby would be, not just for her, but for all the world, a new beginning. The blessing given to Moses by the Lord would be a blessing for all people. The light shining from the face of her newborn infant was the light shining from the face of the Wondrous God. She reflected on all these things in her heart, understanding them more and more as her child grew and she grew with him.

And we too must reflect on the message that amazed those shepherds so many years ago. We too must grow in our faith in the Savior that has been born to set us free. We too must recognize that we have been given a new beginning, a new opportunity to accept the message of the angels, to live as the daughters and sons of God that we are because the Spirit of God's Son has been poured into our hearts. May the Lord bless and keep us all. May the Lord's face shine upon us so that we, in this new year, work tirelessly to bring the peace of our God to all humankind.

*Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21*





### **High School Youth Group New Year Kick-Off Sunday, January 7th**

All high schoolers are invited to join us Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm after the noon mass to ring in the new year. Celebrate the new year with food, friends, games and see how you can set some attainable faith goals for the year.

Contact youth minister, Stephanie Rawls, for more information at [stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)



### **New Year, New Young Adult Ministry!**

Calling all young adults in the parish between the ages of 18-35. Yes, I mean you! Whatever stage of life you're in, please join us as we work to connect and build up our young adult community.

Our kickoff event will be on **Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30.** Join us for dinner and close the night with Adoration. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let me know.

Contact youth minister, Stephanie Rawls, for more information at [stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)



## *RE News...*

As we welcome the New Year, our prayers are with our families! Peace be to all, as we continue to live Christmas in our hearts throughout the year.

### *Questions of the Week*

**Question for Children:** Why is it important for you to obey your parents or guardians?

**Question for Youth:** God chose to be among us in the person of Jesus. How does having a God who knows what it means to be human affect the way you pray or think about God?

**Question for Adults:** Whether single, married, or divorced, how does Paul's advice ring true in your own life? Choose one of his suggestions and share how it touches your life.

### *Activity of the Week*

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The Church calls the family "Domestic Church" as the family serves as an outward sign to the world of God's love and mercy through their interaction with each other.

Find a picture of the Holy Family. You can look in your child's textbook or on the internet. While reflecting on the picture:

- Talk about how the Holy Family showed their love for one another.
- Give examples of how your family is like the Holy Family.

Explain how your own family is holy.

### *Prayer for the Week*

Gather your family around the table and pray to Jesus, giving thanks for your family and the love you share:

Dear Jesus, thank you for letting me be a part of a special community of love and prayer with my family. Thank you for putting others in my life so that together we may grow closer to you. Amen.

From *52 Simple Ways to Talk with your kids about Faith* by Jim Campbell.

### *NO RE Christmas Break:*

Sunday/Monday, December 31/January 1.

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

### *Upcoming Dates*

#### *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.

#### *Family Faith-The Church*

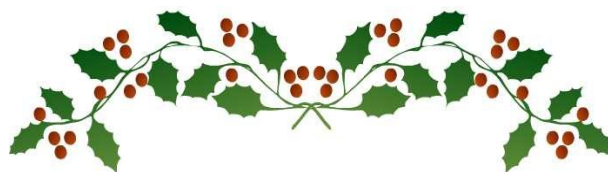
Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00 PM

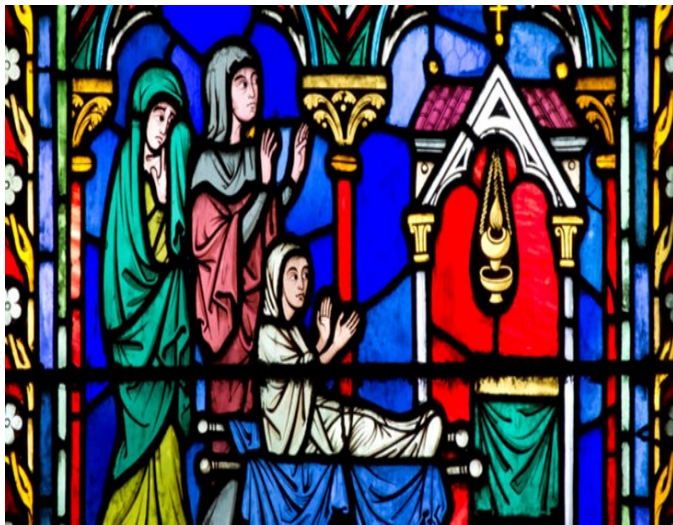
#### *Family Mass-Grades 7 & 2*

Our next Family Mass on Sunday, January 21 at 10:00 will be presented by our 7<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. We are looking for students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade to serve as readers and jr. ushers, while 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will serve as greeters and gift bearers. Contact Sherry Rochford for more information.

#### *2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Reconciliation Retreat*

For Parents and children Saturday, January 27-10:30-Noon OR 12:30-2:00





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

**Ministers of Care** from the com-  
munity 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 [cath-  
arine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto: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  
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

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

#### **Saturday, December 30, 2023**

**4:30PM** Ken Arndt-10th anniv (Family)

#### **Sunday, December 31, 2023**

**8:15AM** Theodore Yakas

(Frank & Fran Modelski)

Lisiamma Abraham (Family)

**10:00AM** Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

**Noon** Dominick DeMasi (Mom)

Pietro, Archangela, Rose, Henry & Lorraine

(Storino Family)

Marlene, Jeff & Phillip Carioto (Sheri)

#### **Monday, January 1, 2024**

**9:00AM** Michael Kenny (Son)

Lisiamma Abraham (Family)

#### **Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

**9:00AM** Lisiamma Abraham (Family)

Elizabeth & Domonic Donatello

(Donatello Family)

#### **Wednesday, January 3, 2024**

**9:00AM** Maya Steffens (Sheri)

Rita Piotrowski & Margaret Lombardi

(Pat Monahan)

#### **Thursday, January 4, 2024**

**9:00AM** Jim Moles (Donatello Family)

#### **Friday, January 5, 2024**

**9:00AM** Sr. Primitiva Sobredo C.M. (Family)

#### **Saturday, January 6, 2024**

**9:00AM** Luis Udarbe (Wife)

Lisiamma Abraham (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