

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

December 14, 2025 † Third Sunday of Advent



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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

Reconciliation on Saturdays 3:15-4:00PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: To register call The Religious Education Office at 630-963-3053

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 630-852-3303 phone number



All Lectors, EHMC, and Altar Servers who would like to access their account in our scheduling system "MSP" can scan this QR code to log in. Please enter your unavailable to serve dates prior to December 12, 2026. The schedule will run on or about December 15.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Smialek, O.Carm., Pastor

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

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

Priest In residence

Deacon Ed Ptacek

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*From the
Pastor*



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. Jesus asks the crowds that were following John the Baptist, "What did you come to see?" I think that is an important question for us to reflect upon on the Gaudete Sunday. What are you coming to see? What are your hopes and desires during this Advent season? We are filled with many expectations of Jesus, some of our own design, some taught to us by others. Are you waiting for someone to heal us from physical illnesses? Are we waiting for someone to heal us from spiritual suffering? Are we waiting for someone to make everything right again in our life? Are we waiting for someone to mend broken relationship? What did we come to see? Do we want a savior in our life? Jesus' asks the crowd "did you come to see a prophet." A prophet is going to challenge us and tell us some things that we may not want to hear. Are we willing to listen to a prophet? Advent is a time for us to face up to things and make some changes in life to be better prepared to welcome Christ. As we continue the second half of our Advent journey, I hope that we all have the courage to make those changes so that we can truly welcome the coming of Christ with joy.

Tomorrow, Monday, December 15 at 7pm we will have our Advent parish reconciliation service. Sharing in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the best way to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. There will be multiple priests available for individual confession.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel...Pray for Us!!

Fr. Jeff

Readings for the week of December 14, 2025

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

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

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

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



OLMC High School Youth Group

December Meetings

Our meetings take place in the church basement from 1 – 3 pm.
Email Jen Emanuele, Director of Youth Ministry, with questions or suggestions!

Jennifer.emanuele@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

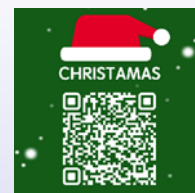
December

14th: Youth Group Christmas Party
High Schoolers please join us at our annual Christmas Party. Bring a \$5 or less white elephant gift.

19th : Parent Night Out- Service Opportunity:
In need of service hours or a Confirmation Service Opportunity? We are in need of help from 4:30 – 8:30 pm on 12/19. Sign up to help our Youth Group make this night a success!



20th : Christmas Food Drive:
In need of service hours or a Confirmation Service Opportunity? We are in need of help from 10:45- 11:30. Sign up to help our Service Ministry!



Upcoming Retreats

January 10, 2026: Recharge Retreat



Tickets are limited to this Teen Diocesan event. Please RSVP by Dec 14th.

Darien Lions Foundation

HOLIDAY FOOD AND TOY BASKET PROGRAM

Making a Difference Together

For nearly 50 years, the Darien Lions Club has brought hope and holiday cheer to families in need throughout our community. What started in 1976 with 14 families has grown to serve over 250 families—nearly 1,000 individuals—each December.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, we provide complete holiday food baskets to local families. Each family received multiple bags of food, including a large turkey, fresh dairy products and produce, canned and non-perishable foods, and several wrapped gifts for children.

How You Can Help:

Full Family Sponsorship: \$100

Food Product Sponsorship: \$75

Family Toy Sponsorship: \$50

A donation of any amount is greatly appreciated and tax-deductible as we are a 501(c)(3) foundation!

Your donation provides holiday support for a family in need. Every contribution—large or small—makes a meaningful difference.

Large-scale humanitarian efforts like this are only possible through the generosity of caring people who donate. Together, we can ensure no family goes without during the holidays.

Donations By Mail:
Darien Lions Club Foundation
1702 Plainfield Rd.
Darien, IL 60561

Donations Digitally:
Paypal: @DLCFoundation



Together we give. Together we serve.

OLMC YOUTH GROUP

Parents Night Out

Looking to finish up your Christmas shopping or just need a
some time to catch up?

Let our Youth Group help you out on

Friday, December 19th!

Drop off your children aged 3 - 11 at OLMC for some

Christmas fun!

Drop off between 5:15 - 5:30

Pick up by 8:00 pm

Hot Cocoa & Pizza

"King of Kings" Movie (starting at 6:15)

Games

Christmas Crafts



RSVP Here!



KNOWN

JN. 4: 26-29

Middle School Youth Rally (grades 6-8)

Featuring:



Kris Frank
Emcee



Jadin O'Brien
Guest Speaker
Olympic Athlete and
3x National Champion



John Paul
Von Arx
Musician

Closing Mass
with Bishop
Hicks!

Central Athletic Complex
500 S Naperville Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187

Register here by **January 5th**



MAKE

A Pastoral Letter for the People
of the Diocese of Joliet





RE News-

Christmas Break-There will be No RE from Sunday, December 21-Monday, December 29. We will return to RE on Sunday & Monday, January 4-5, 2026

Upcoming Dates

Christmas Eve Children's Mass Practices:

Our next practice will be

Monday, December 15:

Everyone will practice from 6:00-6:30 as we have a Parish Reconciliation at 7:00 PM

Dress rehearsal for all participants-Monday, December 22 at 6:00 PM. Please have your children wear the shoes they will wear for Christmas Eve Mass.

The "O" Antiphons

Seven days before Christmas, we sing the O Antiphons to remember different names for Jesus. An Antiphon is a short prayer that is sung during evening prayer (or Vespers). Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. You may use these to add to your evening prayers from December 17-23:

O Wisdom-of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

O Leader- of the House of Israel. Giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

O Root of Jesse's stem-sign of God's love for all his people: Come to save us without delay!

O Key of David-opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

O Radiant Dawn-splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O King- of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

O Emmanuel-our king and giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

Questions of the Week:

Question for Children: Why is Christmas such a time of happiness for people?

Question for Youth: God speaks to you every day: Isaiah tells us our ears and eyes will be opened in Christ to hear God's voice. What do you hear God saying to you?

Question for Adults: What is there in this promise from the Prophet Isaiah that gives you hope? How have you seen this promise fulfilled in Christ?

Activities of the Week

Take an amaryllis bulb to a homebound person or a nursing home resident. Visit the person often during the Advent season, and together watch the plant grow and bloom for Christmas. You and the flower will both be signs of God's reign of love in our midst.

Prepare for Christmas by talking together about family members who have been influential in your lives. Go through the family album and point out pictures of people who are good role models of Christian living. Tell their stories to your family. Discuss which of them has brought the light of Christ into your lives this year.

This is the Third Sunday of Advent, a day to rejoice. Do a fun activity with the family, such as sledding, making cookies, or driving together to see the holiday lights.

Thank You!

To all the families who participated in our food drive for our service day! The food pantry is still in need of paper goods, personal hygiene items, and disinfectant wipes. Please drop any donations on our table on the upper deck. Thank you again!

Our Holiday Food Drive for Christmas will be held on Saturday December 20th. We will only be accepting monetary donations that we then will pass on to people in need to supplement their food needs. Please take an envelope home with you, put in any donation you want, write your name & address on it then place it in the collection basket next week. You could give gift cards, checks or cash. If you are giving a large amount in gift cards, please get them in \$25's instead of 1 large amount. If you pay by check please put "Holiday Food Drive" in the memo. You will get credit for any donation you make. Please return your envelopes by Sunday, December 14th at the latest.

Thank You,

Paul Gangi - *Holiday Food Drive Chairperson*

Saturday, December 13, 4:30PM

Arlene Brescia (Donatello Family)

Carl Tork (Mazzolini Family)

Sunday, December 14

8:15AM Marcia & Robert Lyba-living (Nick Rocco)

Jack Schultz (Helen Brassil)

10:00AM Agustina Acosta (Family)

Frank Gregoria (Bernice & Family)

Noon Philip Rizzo (Family)

John Norbut (Family)

Marten & Mercedes Zicarelli (Family)

Kowalski Family-living (Family)

Also Costabile (Family)

Monday, December 15, 9:00AM

Marie Gancarz (Judy)

Robert E. Chandler (Family)

Guido Jannetta (Grandchildren)

Tuesday, December 16, 9:00AM

Michael & Lloyd Szkwarko (Family)

Donald Nilles (Rich & Maria)

Oommen Joseph (Family)

Wednesday, December 17, 9:00AM

Ralph Moore-5th anniv (Germaine)

Georgia Benish (Family)

Thursday, December 18, 9:00AM

Chester Czachor (Donatello Family)

Mike Venetis (Delores Gurgone)

Mike Pila (Delores Gurgone)

Friday, December 19, 9:00AM

Smitty DeGrazia (Granddaughter)

Saturday, December 20, 9:00AM

Lorraine King-5th anniv (Sister)

New Year's Day Parish Brunch

To celebrate 2026, a parish brunch will be held at Alpine Banquets on January 1 after the 10 a.m. Mass. It begins at 11:30 and continues until 3:30. Enjoy breakfast potatoes, scrambled eggs, crispy **bacon**, suage links, toast, mini pancakes with **maple** syrup, assorted fresh fruit and cheese **crepes**. There will be coffee, tea and water stations, along with apple and orange juice. There will also be a mimosa bar. There will be more information in the coming weeks. Please plan on celebrating a new year with fellow parishioners, family and friends!

Please contact Fr. Rob if you can volunteer with ticket sales.