

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

December 28, 2025 † The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



THE HOLY FAMILY

"Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." - Mt 2:20

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

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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



The 1st Quarter 2026 Ministry Schedule is now loaded in MSP. Use the QR code or your MSP app to access.

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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I hope that everyone had a blessed and joyous Christmas. I pray that was quality time spent with family and loved ones. We spent the Advent season preparing for the coming of Christ and indeed he did! Our parish celebrations were wonderful expressions of our faith in the mystery of the Incarnation, God made man. I want to thank everyone who contributed to our liturgies. It takes many hands to make the masses so beautiful. Thank you to our choirs for their hard work and talent. They have been practicing for many weeks. Thanks

to those who helped prepare the children for their Christmas eve mass. Thank you to our lectors, ushers and extraordinary ministers of communion and mass coordinators. Thank you to our altar servers. Thank you to our decorating committee, the church is beautiful! Thank you to the parish staff for putting in the extra hours during the holiday season. Wow, our community is overflowing with gratitude to all. The biggest thanks go to you! Thank you to each and every member of our parish community. Thank you for your love, dedication and generosity to Our Lady of Mount Carmel!

Now, we are moving into the post-Christmas celebrations. Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. We emphasize the word "Holy"; we don't call them the perfect family. It is often said that perfection is the enemy of holiness. We often get those terms confused. Jesus, Mary and Joseph did not lead a perfect family life. We recall events such as Mary getting pregnant before marriage, Joseph dying at a young age, Jesus getting in constant trouble with the "law" just to name a few events. They were not what any would consider a perfect family life. That should give us encouragement when we look at our families. As I reflect on my own family experience, I see family members who struggle with serious health issues, the death of relatives at young ages, family members making poor life decisions and family members who have struggled with alcohol and addictions. I am sure that each of us can say the same about our families. What makes a family holy is love, not perfection. We love those who are closest to us. Sometimes, love means to challenge a person to be better, but we don't stop loving. It is love that makes us holy. I hope that those who might struggle with difficult family situations find hope and example in the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Holiness is found in love, not perfection.

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

Fr. Jeff

Readings for the week of December 28, 2025

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

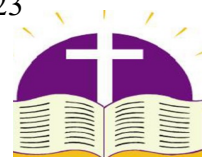
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

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

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



OLMC High School Youth Group

Upcoming 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

January
10, 2026:
Recharge
Retreat



Current High Schoolers are invited to Recharge Retreat held at St. Raphael's in Naperville. This is a 1 day retreat to find and gain focus on the voice of the Lord so you can learn where he is calling you. If you have never attended a retreat, this is a great opportunity for you to experience! *Please note this is a Saturday.

Tickets are required to attend. Please use this QR code to sign up.



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



Diocese of Joliet
Office of the Bishop



www.dioceseofjoliet.org

Blanchette Catholic Center
16555 Weber Rd.
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403

December 18, 2025

Dear Friends,
Peace be with you.

Today, December 18, 2025, it was officially announced that I will be installed as the 11th Archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York on Friday, February 6, 2026.

I want to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Pope Leo XIV for this appointment. Growing up in the south suburbs of Chicago, just a stone's throw from where he grew up, and having spent part of my priesthood in missionary work in Latin America, I feel a deep connection to him. His leadership is a guiding light for me, and I accept this new role with humility and an open heart.

I am also grateful to Cardinal Christophe Pierre, our apostolic nuncio, for his trust. When he called to share this news, I told him I simply wish to do God's will. Receiving his phone call on the feast of Saint Juan Diego is a reminder that sometimes God calls us to things that feel beyond us, but with grace and faith, we can answer yes.

I also want to offer a heartfelt thank you to Cardinal Timothy Dolan for his more than 17 years of leadership in New York. I have been touched by his gracious support and encouragement.

These past five years in Joliet have been a true blessing for me. I have felt grateful, happy, and deeply blessed to serve as your bishop. Together we have catechized, evangelized, and put our faith into action. The relationships we have built, the faith we have shared, and the journey we have walked together are treasures I will carry with me to New York.

As you continue to read, share, and embrace my pastoral letter, "MAKE," I ask you to let it keep guiding you. Please do not let it sit on a shelf, gathering dust. Instead, continue to implement it as a living, breathing call to be disciples who MAKE disciples.

I have much to learn in New York, and I will serve there as I have served here, with all my heart. I trust in God's will and count on your prayers. Know that as you pray for me, I am praying for you, with immense gratitude and love.

With good wishes, may God bless you this Advent season as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

As I remain --

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks

Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet and Archbishop designate of the Archdiocese of New York

Office of the Bishop

815.221.6100 | 815.722.6632 (f) | officeofthebishop@dioceseofjoliet.org



RE News-

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

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 13 at 6:30 for dinner, followed by the meeting at 7:00. Contact Sherry Rochford if you are interested.

All Catechist Meeting

All Catechists are invited to join us for our Catechist Appreciation Dinner. We will be inviting the Darien Police Department to come in and share some valuable safety protocols with us. Please Contact the RE office to RSVP. Dinner starts at 6:30 with meeting to follow.

Questions of the Week:

Question for Children: Why is it important to obey our parents? Why is it important to obey God?

Question for Youth: Jesus was obedient to his parents, even though he was the Son of God. Why is obedience so important? Is it something you struggle with?

Question for Adults: How are you, too, called to our Father's house?

Prayer for Your Holy Family

Bless us, O Lord, and the gifts we receive each day. Help us to share those gifts. Help us to become a Holy Family-a Family set apart for your work.

May our family become holy by expressing love through compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and forgiveness in ways that fit our style. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Parents/Caregivers of Persons with disABILITIES Retreat

You need a break and we are offering a wonderful opportunity to take the time for yourself.

Join us on Sunday January 25, 2026, from Noon to 5:00 PM. Mass is at Noon followed by our guest speaker, Fr. Mark Yavarone, OMV, the Co-founder of the Ignatian Discernment Institute. Lunch will be provided for those who wish to partake. Please use the QR code to register.

Brought to you by the Diocese of Joliet disABILITIES ministry. Please contact Sherry Rochford with any questions.



OLMC Cursillo
**"Make a Friend, Be a
 Friend, Bring a Friend!"**

Contact Lorí Prado:
lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org
to be added to
OLMC Cursillo Updated
Members List!



Young at Hearts
Wishes everyone a
Happy New Year!
See you Jan. 8th at 10:00 a.m.



Saturday, December 27, 4:30PM

Shirley Chesen (Donna Kolacki)
 Pasquale Mastrodomenico (Family)
 Carl Tork (Mazzolini Family)
 Robert Szczesniak (Family)

Sunday, December 28

8:15AM Eugene Brassil (Family)
 Marc Thompson-living (Family)
 John Schultz (Family)
10:00AM Julia Ravina (Family)
 James Barry (Young at Hearts)
Noon Marlene, Jeff & Phillip Carioto (Sheri)
 Nellie & Nenitz Libo-on (Family)

Monday, December 29, 9:00AM

Robert Lukasiewicz (Family)

Tuesday, December 30, 9:00AM

Ken Arndt-12th anniv (Family)
 Pauline Hancock-2nd anniv (Family)
 Vito Caroselli (Family)

Wednesday, December 31, 9:00AM

Theodore Yakas (Frank & Fran Modelski)
 Margaret Cleary (Granddaughter)
 Dominick DeMasi (Mom)

Thursday, January 1, 9:00AM

10:00AM Parishioners of OLMC

Friday, January 2, 9:00AM

Elizabeth & Domonic Donatello (Family)

Saturday, January 3, 9:00AM

Rita Piotrowski & Margaret Lombardi (Pat Monahan)
 Arsenio Tolentino (Lay Carmelites)

*Happy
 New Year
 2026*

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, sausage 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.