

# Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

December 7, 2025 † Second Sunday of Advent



## 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

[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)

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

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

Jennifer Emanuele, Director, Youth Ministry

[jennifer.emanuele@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:jennifer.emanuele@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

Lori Prado, Ministry Associate

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

*From the  
Pastor*



There are now two candles lit on our Advent Wreath, things are getting serious! The coming of Christ on Christmas will be here before we know it. We must continue our preparation. It is pretty common to see people, especially younger people, with ear buds and headphones constantly. While there is nothing wrong with a little entertainment and listening to music occasionally, it in my opinion has become excessive for many. How many times have we seen people at restaurants and other social gatherings with family and

someone has headphones on. They are not being present in the moment and not giving their full attention. They are not really listening to anything. They are not listening to important conversations going on around them and missing out on the opportunity for deeper connection with loved ones and friends. Sadly, we can also put on our spiritual headphones and miss out on the chance to hear the voice of God speaking.

The gospel today is the introduction of John the Baptist. He is a voice crying out in the desert. Again, whose voice are we listening to? People did not listen to John the Baptist then. People did not listen to Jesus then. People still do not listen to Jesus today. People do not listen to the modern prophets that are among us. Whose voice are you listening to? The gospel warns us, that the winnowing fan is ready. The time will come. Advent is a season of preparation for us. To get us ready for what will be. To get us to start listening to the word of the Lord in our life. This is the time for all of us to take a good look at ourselves. Are we putting things into our ears in order to keep the voice of the Lord out? Are we not paying attention to the words being spoken to us clearly every day through Scripture and the Sacraments? Whose voice are you listening to in your life?

As we try to listen to the voice crying out in the desert of our lives this Advent there are several events here in the parish that may be of help. Today, Sunday, December 7 Fr. Rob will be offering an afternoon reflection titled "Advent: A time of waiting with Mary." The reflection is a great way for us to slow down and spend some time thinking about the real reason for Advent. On Monday, December 15 at 7pm, we will have our parish reconciliation service. Reconciliation is the best way to prepare for Christmas and to truly have our sins forgiven. Please take advantage of these opportunities as a means of preparing for the coming of Christ.

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

*Fr. Jeff*

### ***Readings for the week of December 7, 2025***

**Sunday:** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

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

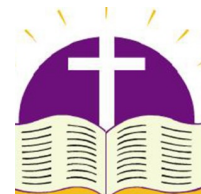
**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

**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:** 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

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



# 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](mailto:Jennifer.emanuele@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

## December

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

**19<sup>th</sup> : 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!



**20<sup>th</sup> : 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 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Join us for a special Advent service opportunity!!

Who: Grandparents – and *their spouses/family members, friends*

What: As we prepare our hearts for Christmas this Advent season, feeding God's starving children is a great way to show our love for others!!

When: Friday, **December 12**, from **11:30-1:25**  
Carpool to meet at OLMC at 10:30 a.m.

Where: **Feed My Starving Children**  
555 Exchange Court, Aurora, IL



Why: We can help turn hunger into hope, with our own two hands, by packing nutritious meals for hungry children around the world. Volunteering at Feed My Starving Children is a great team-building experience. Enjoy working together to save lives and feed kids in a positive, energetic environment.

How: Reserve your slot today, register at: [ccarrfam@gmail.com](mailto:ccarrfam@gmail.com)



# 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-*

Join us after the Noon Mass on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> for an Advent Retreat-We will have the children in the back while the adults meet with Fr. Rob. The Theme: Waiting with Mary.

### Upcoming Dates

#### **Christmas Eve Children's Mass Practices:**

Our next practice will be **Monday, December 8 at 6:00-6:45**. This practice is for Readers and Choir members only. Other practice times:

#### **Monday, December 15:**

-for everyone at 6:00-6:30

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

#### **The Advent Conspiracy:**

It is estimated that over one trillion dollars is spent globally for Christmas. Would you like to make Christmas more meaningful for your family? We will be offering a look at a 4-tiered approach to building a better Christmas by:

- Worshipping Fully
- Spending Less
- Giving More
- Loving All

Join us on the upper deck during all RE Sessions for ways to make your Advent more meaningful. on December 7 & 8 (at 5:00 PM). Call the RE office for more info.

### Immaculate Conception

December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary and celebrates Mary being conceived without sin. Our 7:00 PM Monday session will attend Mass as it is a Holy Day of Opportunity.

Mary said "yes" to God's call without knowing what it would mean. Her story shows that nothing is impossible with God. Think of one area of your family life that you think is impossible. During prayer time this week, ask God for assistance with that family situation.

Gather with your family and say the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary together. Ask Mary to give you the courage to listen to God as she did.

Each of us has a place in the unfolding story of our family history. How have you carried on the story of faith in your family?

### Questions of the Week:

**Question for Children:** Beyond toys and other things, what do you hope will happen in your family this Christmas?

**Question for Youth:** What are the greatest challenges you face as a young person today in terms of allowing Christ to be your teacher and following him?

**Question for Adults:** Name the one thing in your life which you must "move out of the way" in order to make more room for Christ – a grudge, a possession, a memory, hurt, or feeling.

### Activities of the Week

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.

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.

### Catechetical Opportunities

**PGC-**All volunteers who have work with children or vulnerable adults must be compliant with the Diocesan Safe Environment policy. Please check your VIRTUS account to make sure your training is up to date. Please contact Sherry Rochford with any questions.

If you come to Fr. Rob's talk on Waiting with Mary after the noon Mass Sunday, you will also receive 1.5 hours toward your continuing education hours.



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 6, 4:30PM***

Frances Geraldine (Franczyk Family)  
Living and Deceased members Stauder Family  
Carl Tork (Mazzolini Family)  
Miguel & Gloria Mho 60th wedding anniv

***Sunday, December 7***

**8:15AM** Marcia & Jorge Hadad-living (Nick Rocco)  
Frank Paleca (Thompson Family)

**10:00AM** Vito Caroselli (Friends)  
Joseph Bill (Raffenetti Family)

**Noon** Nick & Donna Nekola 55th wedding anniv  
Fred Onesto (Maria Costabile)  
William Dziak (Mary)  
Rose Sunny (Sheri)  
Paul Colianni (Family)

***Monday, December 8, 9:00AM***

***Feast of Immaculate Conception***

Shirley Radom (Banich Family)  
Jerome Madden (Family)  
Avery Krashen (Ampy)  
7:00PM Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

***Tuesday, December 9, 9:00AM***

Dave Sewall-1st anniv (Friends)

***Wednesday, December 10, 9:00AM***

Phil Parks (Susan Walsh)  
Brad Stock (Family)

***Thursday, December 11, 9:00AM***

John R. Brom (Family)

***Friday, December 12, 9:00AM***

Parishioners of OLMC

***Saturday, December 13, 9:00AM***

Margaret Lombardi-16th anniv (Pat & Family)  
Eleonora & Wladyslaw Niziolek (Family)

***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.