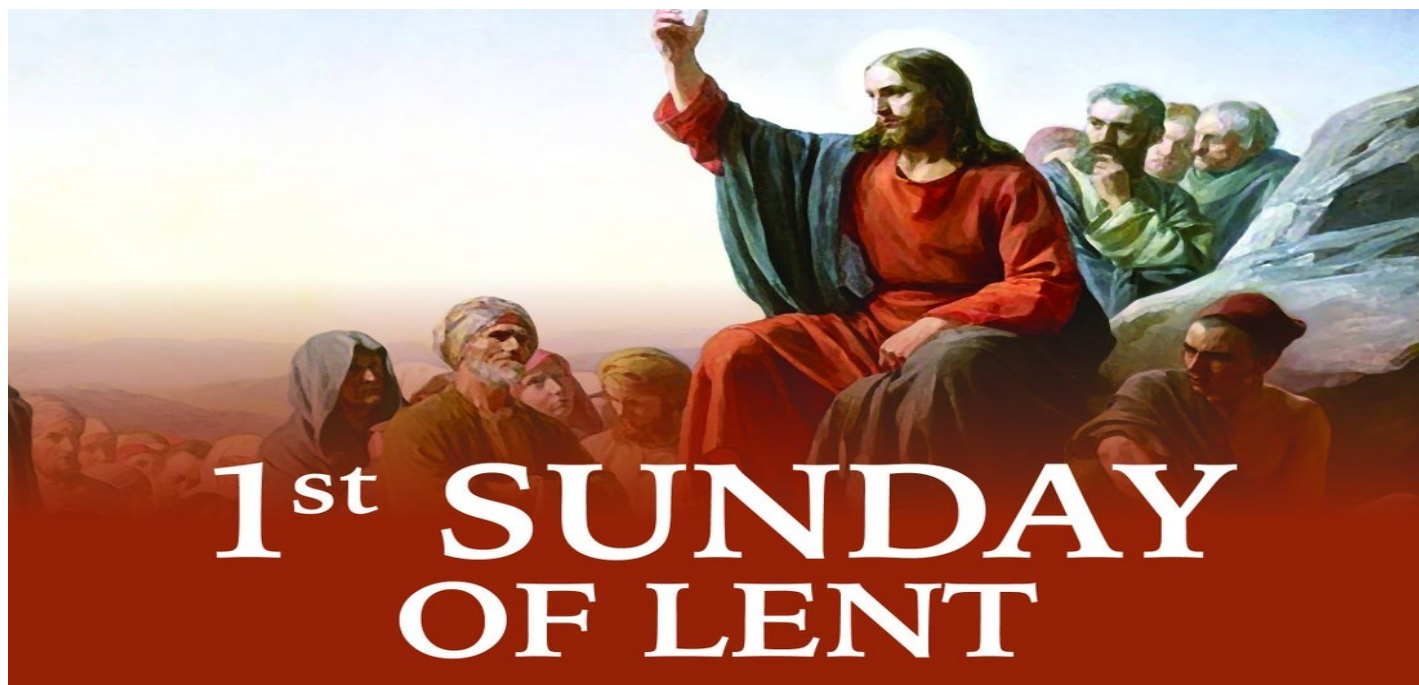


Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

February 18, 2024 † First Sunday of Lent



1st SUNDAY OF LENT



8404 CASS AVENUE

DARIEN, ILLINOIS 60561

Parish Phone Number: 630-852-3303

Religious Education Phone Number: 630-963-3053

LENTEN DEVOTION

During Lent, we will have Adoration in the Chapel beginning at 3:00 p.m. and ending with Benediction at 6:15 p.m. Then we will have Stations of the Cross beginning at 7:00 p.m. These will be on Feb. 16, Feb. 23, March 1, March 8, March 15, and March 22. Please join us for either or both.

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

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February 18, 2024

It takes a lot of courage to build an Ark. Here you are building this and knowing that the world is about to end. What a huge leap of faith that is. It takes a lot of courage to take 2 termites on a wooden ship too! Noah was able to take that leap and enter into a new covenant with God. Noah trusted that God would show him through those difficult times. Noah could enter that covenant. However, there will be at least 5, sometimes 7 depending on who you ask, covenants between God and man. Why? We keep screwing up! We have entered into the final

covenant when Christ suffered on the cross, died and rose again for us. The final covenant in His blood. However, we still do not get it. That is why we need this season every year.

We are in Lent again. This sacred season of preparing ourselves to celebrate the paschal mysteries. Why do we need to do Lent each year? For the same reasons we needed multiple covenants, we still do not get it. Lent gives us a time each year for us to step out of the ordinary and reflect on what we need to change. We still fail to see how beautiful each of us is in the eyes of God. We cannot accept the goodness in us, so we can't accept the goodness in others. This Lent will be a challenge again, this time is not meant to be easy. We are called to make that journey into our own heart, which can be the scariest place of all. We have to look at ourselves and the change that we need to make to fully accept Jesus Christ and to passionately live out our faith. I pray that we allow Lent to change us and configure even more to Christ. We traditionally look at what we can give up during Lent, which is a good start. However sometimes, maybe we need to ask what more can I do? What is God calling me to change? That is the challenge of Lent. As we are only in the first week, this may be a long journey, but Lent is a journey worth taking.

We have several offerings during Lent to help us deepen our faith. We begin our Carmelite Lecture series on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 7pm. Fr. Leopold Glueckert, O.Carm. will be speaking on the history of the Carmelite Order and our rule of life. Please consider coming out and learning more about the religious community that shapes this parish. We will also have the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7pm during Lent. May God bless all of us during this sacred time.

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

Fr. Jeff

Readings for the week of February 18, 2024

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Join Us!



We invite all widows of our community to enjoy an afternoon filled with fine food and entertainment. Please bring a friend!

February 20 at 11:30 am - Maggiano's Little Italy
240 Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook, IL 60523

Please RSVP by February 17 to Modell Funeral Home
(630) 852-3595 or info@modelldarien.com



MODELL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™
life is precious -defend it

Spring Campaign
February 14th - March 24th



Put your faith in action by joining your fellow parishioners for the Spring 2024 *40 Days for Life* prayer vigil to end abortion.

Please consider committing to a specific hour of prayer at the Access Health abortion clinic in Downers Grove during the hours of 7AM to 7PM from February 14th to March 24th, and bring a friend. Another option would be to sign up your church for an entire day or even half a day to pray.

For more information and to sign up, go to www.40daysforlife.com/downersgrove. Access Health abortion clinic is located at 1700 W. 75th Street, Downers Grove.

PRAY TO END ABORTION

Middle and High School Service Opportunity!



STATIONS of the CROSS

Help bring the stations of the cross to life for our parish community on Good Friday, March 29th at 3pm. We are looking for students to play all roles from Jesus to the townspeople. Contact Stephanie Rawls to get involved in this beautiful Lenten prayer experience at stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org or 630-852-3303.



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!

We are now meeting the **second Saturday** of the month **AND** the **fourth Friday** of the month for **information, strength** and **connection** during the caregiver journey.

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 23

10:00 to 11:30 am

at Our Lady of Peace

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Cathy Lentz at 630-852-3303 ext 5 or catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org for info



**All are welcome –
 no RSVP necessary!**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is presenting

A Carmelite Lecture Series for Lent

Join us Tuesdays at 7 pm,

beginning February 20

**Spend this Lenten season immersing yourself
 in the beauty and the peace of Carmelite
 Spirituality**

For more information see our website

Cathy's Corner—Choosing Life Over Death

Pondering the words of Jesus in Luke's Gospel may give the reader a nagging sense of déjà vu. Did we not just hear Jesus command the crowd that anyone who wished to come after him must deny her or himself, take up her or his cross and follow him? Actually, we did, less than a week ago in Mark's Gospel. But the discerning reader will notice the addition of just one word by St. Luke – daily. The Lucan Jesus exhorts the crowd to take up his or her cross *daily*. Because Luke's Gospel was likely written 15 to 20 years after the Gospel of Mark.

By the time the evangelist Luke took pen in hand, the newly formed Christians were beginning to realize that the second coming was not in fact coming any time soon. The urgency of foregoing material possessions to lose their lives for the sake of Jesus and the Gospel was waning. Luke reminded his community in no uncertain terms that the directive to deny oneself to save one's eternal life was not a suggestion to be adopted if time allowed but a requirement to be met every single day.

Moses exhorted the Israelites in exactly the same way, making it clear that following the commandments of the Lord was not optional, even once they had entered the land promised to them by God. Indeed, he underscored the urgency of that imperative by admonishing that he was setting before them life and death, the blessing and the curse, between which they must choose.

The members of Luke's community were no less susceptible to adore and serve other gods than the followers of Moses. And thousands of years later, nor are we. Our gods might look different – money, job success, recreational activities, addictive behaviors. But nonetheless we too have to decide between the life and prosperity that spring from loving our God and walking in God's ways, or the death and doom that seep from turning our back on God's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. And we have to make that decision every day. May the reminder of the ashes that were placed on our foreheads just a few days ago help us to always make the only choice that leads to life eternal.

Dt 30:15- 20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 9:22-25



RE News...

There will be no RE on Sunday, February 18 or Monday, February 19 in honor of Presidents' Day.

There will be a Family Mass at 10:00 on Sunday February 18. We are still looking for participants. Contact the RE office for more info.

Caring for Creation- Activities of the Week

Reduce/Reuse/Recycle Books

During Lent, we will be focusing on ways we can care for our common home- Earth. This week, as we begin Lent, we will have a book drive. Everyone has unwanted books at home so we can Reduce paper waste by Reusing or Recycling books. Most books can not be put in curbside recycling due to the glue that is used to bind them together, so every year about 320 million books end up in landfills.

The best way to deal with used books is by sharing the book with others. We are offering a Book Drive to share your favorite stories with others. This week, bring your books in and next week we will have the opportunity to choose any books to take home. We will recycle the rest through SCRACE.

Take the Laudate Deum (Praise God!) Action Pledge to further your commitment to making positive changes for our common home!

LET US ACT TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMON HOME

U.S. CATHOLICS TAKE "MY LAUDATE DEUM ACTION PLEDGE"

PERSONAL AND FAMILY CHANGES
Eat less meat, waste less, use less fossil fuels, pray more.

ADVOCATE FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGES
Urge U.S. & global leaders toward better climate policies, debt forgiveness, less fossil fuels.

WORK TO MOVE OUR CHURCH
Talk to our priests, organize church actions.

THE CULTURAL SHIFT THAT IS NEEDED
Starts with us, in our hearts & actions, with spirituality & care for the life and dignity of all.

"PRAISE GOD ... FOR WHEN HUMAN BEINGS CLAIM TO TAKE GOD'S PLACE, THEY BECOME THEIR OWN WORST ENEMIES."

Sign the pledge at bit.ly/LDAActionPledge

Upcoming Dates

Teaching Mass-Sunday, March 3-3:00 pm

Do you want to know why we do what we do at Mass? Fr. Jeff will lead our third and fifth grade families through the mass step by step. You even get to ask questions along the way! While this is for all third and fifth grade families, you can join us too!

Lent Retreat-All ages

Sunday, February 25 from 2:00-4:00.

Adults will meet with Fr. Rob and discuss "What Color is Your Lent?"

Teens will meet with Youth Ministry.

Families can join us for a look at Transfiguring the Earth this Lent.

Mommies for Mary



Mommies, share your faith with your children in a welcoming prayer space.

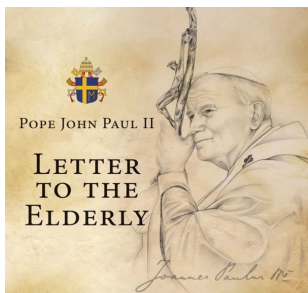
Friday, February 23rd

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Stop by anytime!

Our Holy Mother is waiting for you!
Contact Lori Prado for more information.
lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

OLMC parishioners: Thank you again for a donation of 254 pounds of personal items to Operation Support Our Troops. Your support and encouragement to our arm forces, veterans, and active duty military is greatly appreciated.



In 1978 Pope John Paul II became one of the youngest popes ever elected. At the time of his death in 2005, he was also one of the longest serving popes, having lived into his early 80's. From his own experience of growing old, and only five and a half years before his death, John Paul wrote and shared this moving letter, addressed "To my elderly brothers and sisters". In this letter he shares the beauty, agony, and dignity of growing old and drawing closer to God. "The years pass quickly", he writes, "and the gift of life for all the effort and pain it involves, is too beautiful and precious for us to ever grow tired of it."

Join us on Thursday, February 29 at 9:30 am in the lower level at OLMC as we listen to, and reflect on, the words of St. Pope John Paul II to the elderly. New members welcome!

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
Capt. 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

Saturday, February 17, 2024

4:30PM Ellen Nowak (Family)
Josephine Ryczyn (Family)
Victoria Knafl (Family)

Sunday, February 18, 2024

8:15AM Frances & Jack Caponi (Nick Rocco)
10:00AM Connie Faldrowicz (Evelyn Antikauskas)
Noon Christopher Schneider
(Nancy Cahill & Family)

Monday, February 19, 2024

9:00AM Jerome W. Bukowski
(Frank & Fran Modelski)

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

9:00AM Jim Monahan & Patrick Clancy
(Monahan Family)
June Graczykowski (Lily & Menchu Tumaneng)
Mary Kay McClelland (Eugene Munin)

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

9:00AM Dennis DeGrazia (Niece)

Thursday, February 22, 2024

9:00AM Parishioners of OLMC

Friday, February 23, 2024

9:00AM Michael Napoli (Family)

Saturday, February 24, 2024

9:00AM Patricia & Tim Delany (Family)

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 be with you, to visit with you, to pray with you, to offer you the **Body of Christ**. Please contact Cathy Lentz for more info.



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 Walters
Alex Erkiens
Capt. Michael K. Desmond, Jr., USMC
1st Lt. Mark Marten, US Army
Ted Cook