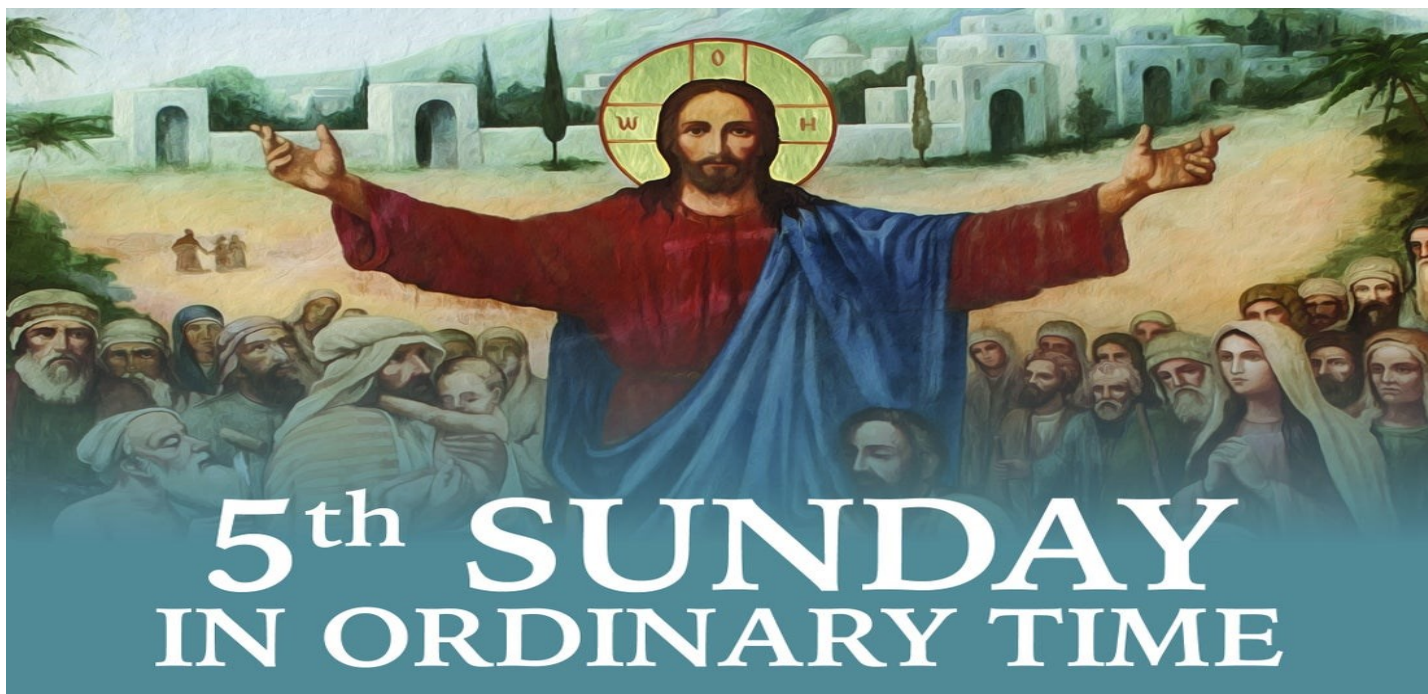


Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

February 4, 2024 † Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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
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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Sherry L. Rochford, Director, Children's Faith Formation
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Stephanie Rawls, Director, Youth Ministry
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Cathy Lentz, Director, Adult Faith Formation
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Susan Haa, Parish Receptionist, Bulletin Editor
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John Hawkins, Business Manager
john@jmhawkins.com
Val Kazich, Admin Asst., Registrar, Religious Education
val.kazich@ourladyofmtcarmel.org



Pastor's Message

February 4, 2024

Time is flying, we are already into the month of February. It feels like 2024 just began. Such is life. Lent will also be upon us in a week and a half. Ash Wednesday is February 14. What a wonderful way to spend Valentine's Day! To the best of my knowledge, the bishop has not granted any dispensations from fasts on Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, we will have masses at 9am, 12pm, 4pm and 7pm. We will collect

your old palms to burn on Tuesday, February 13th in order to have ashes. There will be bins in the lobby to deposit last years' palms in. We are planning several events during Lent to help us deepen our faith and grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. First, we all know that this is a Carmelite parish, but what is a Carmelite? We will be having a lecture series on the Tuesdays of Lent, Feb. 20, Feb. 27, March 5, March 12 and March 19, at 7pm. Each presentation will be at 7pm. We will be covering topics on the early history and the Rule of St. Albert, which governs Carmelite life. Also, we will have presentations on some of the great members of the Carmelite Order, St. Theresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross and St. Therese of Lisieux. All the presentations will be given by visiting Carmelites, so you are spared from listening to Fr. Rob, Fr. Bob or me. This is a great way to learn a little more about who we are during this Lent. Also, we are in the year of the Eucharist. On Wednesday, March 13 at 7pm. Joyce Donohue from Mayslake Ministries will be giving an evening of reflection on the meaning of the Eucharist. These are all wonderful ways to spend some time during Lent growing in our faith. There is a lot going on in our parish during the upcoming Lenten season. Also, next weekend the parish's Laudato Si ministry will be having a table in the back offering suggestions for care of the environment during this Lent.

This weekend and next week we have the messages for the 2024 Annual Appeal for the Diocese of Joliet. This special appeal goes to supporting all that the Diocese does, including seminary education, education for diaconal formation, support of Catholic Charities and all the other activities that Diocese offers. Please be as generous as possible.

Life is so often full of opposites and contradictions. Our readings show us that this weekend. The first reading is a short piece from the Book of Job. The story of Job is that part of Scripture what addresses most directly that eternal question of why do bad things happen to good people? Which is something we still struggle to understand. Job has everything that you can imagine go wrong in life and he remains faithful through it all. The Gospel of Mark today has the story of the healing of Peter's mother-in-law, the first thing she does after being healed is leap up to serve. Perhaps the opposite of what one would expect. The readings today challenge us to look at the opposites and contradictions in life and to embrace those things we don't understand as a blessing from God as well.

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

Fr. Jeff



LAUDATE DEUM WEEKEND IS COMING FEBRUARY 10-11
 OLMC is answering Pope Francis' call to *care for our common home* – our Earth

Find out how easy it can be to follow the Gospel call to love the precious world our God has given us!



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 at 9 am for **information**, **strength** and **connection** during the caregiver journey.

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

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 10
9:00 to 10:30 am
at Our Lady of Peace

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



Join us for a Sunday tradition of gathering after the Masses to share friendship with our parish family.

WHEN:
 Sunday February 11th after the 8:15am, 10:00am and Noon masses.

WHERE:
 Outside the Religious Education classrooms.

WHY:
 To celebrate being part of a great parish family!

We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate this event. Come and have fun with us! Contact Ashwin and Robin Karingada at Ashwin.karingada@Gmail.com or 847-208-7249

Readings for the week of February 4, 2024

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (see 3a)/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40/Mk 7:24-30

Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10

Cathy's Corner—The Message Presented in the Presentation of the Lord

Mosaic law had no stipulation that the father of a newborn child be purified prior to touching anything sacred or entering the temple area. The mother, however, was legally impure until she offered the requisite year-old lamb, or two turtledoves or young pigeons for the less well off, as an expiation of sin. And yet, Luke begins his depiction of the presentation of Jesus with the words “When the days were completed for *their* purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem . . .”

Although Exodus demands consecration of the firstborn male and Numbers specifies that the ransom was five silver shekels to a priestly family, nowhere does Luke mention that directive. Instead, he introduces a requirement that did not exist in the law, that this event must take place at the temple. And neither Simeon nor Anna were priests, though it was to them the child was presented.

What can these discrepancies in relating Jewish protocol mean coming from the Gospel author who seemingly had the best knowledge of the Hebrew scriptures? Nothing less than a masterful presentation of Luke's proclamation that Jesus, the Messiah promised to the chosen people, is Savior equally for all. Mosaic law, while followed, is transcended. Mother and father approach together, no one more impure than the other. Simeon and Anna as well stand side by side, equal in honor and grace. Because they represent all the faithful and devout, they receive the one who would redeem Israel, who would bring salvation to the world. They embody the heart of the temple, service of God.

And as the Prophet Malachi prophesied, the Lord whom they seek came to that temple. He came in the arms of his mother and his father, born to be a light of revelation to the Gentiles, glory for the people of Israel. That, however, is only part of the story as the scriptures also foretell. Who will endure the day of his coming, Malachi asks? He is destined for the rise and fall of many, Simeon reveals. Even his mother's own heart will be pierced by what will take place in that refiner's fire and he himself will be tested through what he will suffer.

For now, however, content with setting the stage, Luke shows us the little family leaving the temple in Jerusalem – and the two who had recognized in their youngest member Christ the Lord – and returning to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth, where the child grew strong, filled with wisdom and the favor of God. May we, like Simeon and Anna, recognize the one who accepts us as sisters and brothers in every way, by accepting our sisters and brothers in every way. By that, we too will live always in the peace that comes only from our God. *Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40*



RE News...

SCUBA is here! Our VBS for 2024 will dive deep to experience Jesus and look at the Eucharist as we are coming to an end of the Eucharist Revival (which, honestly NEVER ends).

Join us on Thursday, February 8 at 7:00 for our initial planning meeting.

Questions of the Week

Question for Children: What can you do to help your friends and classmates know more about Jesus?

Question for Youth: Jesus knew that his mission was for everyone, not just one village or group of people. How can you reach out to others (outside of friends and family) and offer them hope and Good News?

Question for Adults: If you were going to pray for healing for any reason, what would it be? What needs to be healed in our world and society?

Celebrating Sunday

Most of us have forgotten the importance of refreshing ourselves through rest on the Sabbath, or Sunday. With today's busy lifestyles, why not take the time to reclaim Sunday as a family day? Talk to your family about how to eliminate unnecessary distractions on Sunday mornings, such as limiting the use of electronic devices so you can spend time with each other in a more personal way. Celebrate Sunday by reading the gospel for the day before you come to Mass and ask your children what they heard at Mass afterward. Before you come into the building, say this prayer with your children:

*Thank you, Jesus,
for making Sunday's a special day
to be with you in the Mass.
Thank you for my family
and for making me one with God's family
when I go to celebrate Mass.
Amen.*

Make a meal together and end the day together with a game or storytelling.

Reconciliation Information

Reconciliation for Grades 2 & 4

First Reconciliation for 2nd graders and Reconciliation for 4th graders will be held on Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30. Parents and children are invited to receive the Sacrament.

Upcoming Dates

Family Mass-Grades 6 & 3

Our next Family Mass on Sunday, February 18 at 10:00 will be presented by our 6th and 3rd grade families. We are looking for students in 6th grade to serve as readers and jr. ushers, while 3rd graders will serve as greeters and gift bearers. Contact Sherry Rochford for more information.

Catechist Evening of Formation

Catechists, please sign up now to join us for our joint Deanery event-*Through the Hearts of the Holy Family* with speaker Katie Bogner on Wednesday, February 21 at St. Thomas the Apostle in Naperville. Dinner registration is closed, but you can still sign up for the speaker. See Sherry for details.

Activities for the Week

The Church shares the Good News today through the actions of the members. Find out what your parish is doing to spread God's mercy and compassion. Ask what you can do to support their efforts.

Tell a story about a time when you shared the Good News with a coworker, a neighbor, or a family member.

We are the people who bring Jesus to others. As a family, make a paper chain and write on the links how we bring Jesus' love to others.



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 visit with you, to pray with you, to offer you the **Body of Christ**. Contact **Cathy Lentz** at 630-852-3303 ext 5 or catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org for a visit.

We will collect your old palms to burn on Tuesday, February 13th in order to have ashes. There will be bins in the lobby to deposit last years' palms in.



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

Saturday, February 3, 2024

4:30PM Alan Cholewa (Family)
Kathy Gearhart (Sheri)

Sunday, February 4, 2024

8:15AM Carmella & Steve Seamardi
(Nick Rocco)

James Susic Sr. (Marie & Michael Baker)

10:00AM Joan Drnek (Family)

Noon Thomas Farrell
(Kenneth & Candance Kane)

Monday, February 5, 2024

9:00AM Reynaldo Rodrigo, Esther Robleza,
Romualdo Ramos, Ofelia Andres
(Teotico Family)

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

9:00AM Lois Brom (Family)
Amando Calucin (Sisters-in-law)

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:00AM Gene Chesen
(Donna & Del Kolacki)

Thursday, February 8, 2024

9:00AM Gene Saffold (Eugene Munin)

Friday, February 9, 2024

9:00AM Dom Donatello (Donatello Family)
Juanita Segovia (Family)

Avery Krashen (Ampy)

Saturday, February 10, 2024

9:00AM Parishioners of OLMC

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