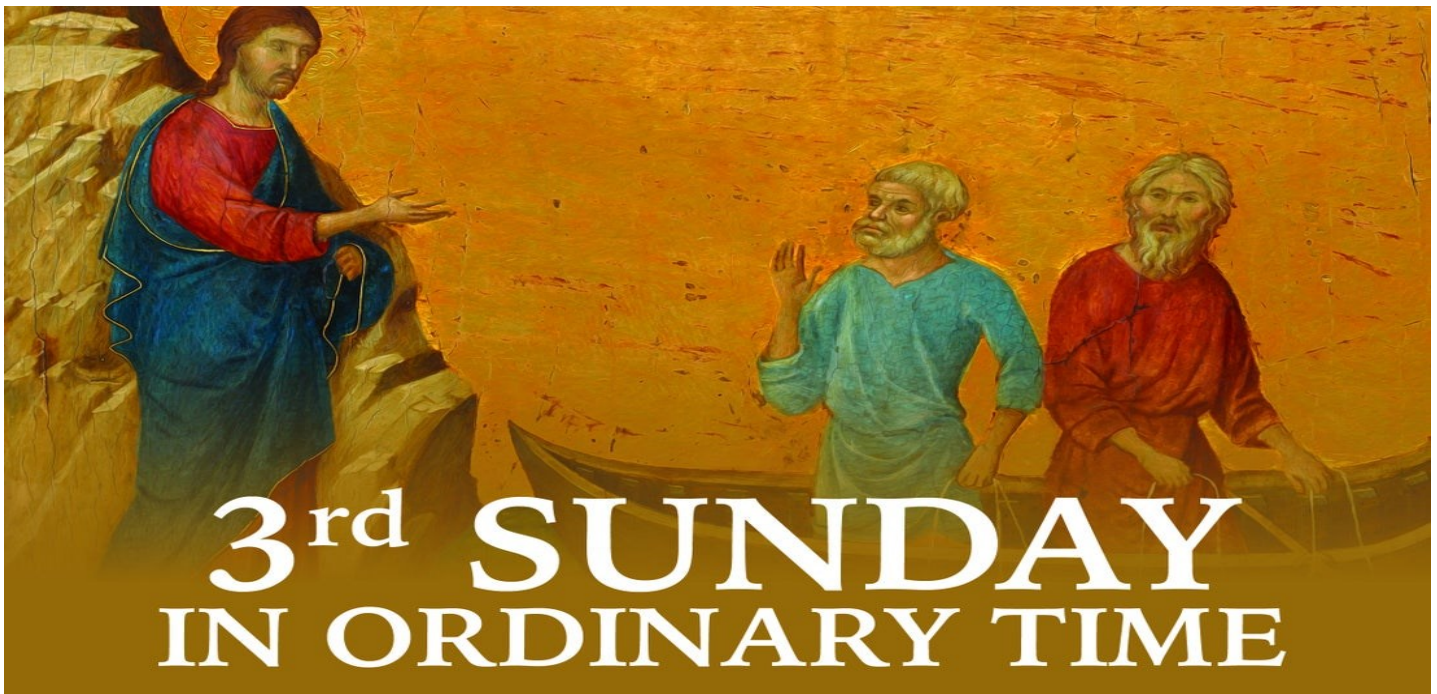


Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

January 21, 2024 † Third 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

dcnlupe@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

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

sherry.rochford@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Stephanie Rawls, Director, Youth Ministry

stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Lori Prado, Youth Ministry

lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Cathy Lentz, Director, Adult Faith Formation

catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Susan Haa, Parish Receptionist, Bulletin Editor

receptionist@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

John Hawkins, Business Manager

john@jmhawkins.com

Val Kazich, Admin Asst., Registrar, Religious Education

val.kazich@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

January 21, 2024

We are three weeks into 2024, so how are all those New Years' resolutions going? If you are like me and your resolution was to lose a few pounds, then you might not be off to a good start. Change is one of the hardest things in life. No one likes change, it is difficult. We prefer to stay in the comfortable. We want to stay with what we know and are familiar with. Change might mean we have to admit we were wrong or misinformed and no one likes to admit that. However, change is the only way to grow. As we struggle to listen to the will of God in our life, we can be assured of one thing, change. God has never called anyone to stay the same. God has never said to anyone, stay put and keep doing the same old thing. God calls everyone to conversion, growth, and change. That is why it is so hard to do God's will. It is easier to stay the same, rather than change.

Our readings this weekend are all about change. The first reading is the story of Jonah in the city of Nineveh. Jonah challenges the people to face up to their wrongdoing and change their ways. It wasn't easy, but the people did. They put on sackcloth and made the hard decision to change their ways because it was the will of God. The Gospel today from Mark is the calling of Simon, Andrew, James, and John. The two sets of brothers were going about their usual day. They probably didn't suspect that a life changing event would happen when they woke up in the morning, who does? They were fishing and going about their work. Then Jesus called. Their lives were turned upside down when Jesus said to change. Jesus called them to follow him, so they had to leave their jobs, leave their homes, leave their possessions, and make a change. The people of Nineveh, Simon, Andrew, James, and John all had the courage to change. Do we? One thing is for sure, God is not calling us to stay the same. Good luck with those resolutions.

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

Fr. Jeff

Readings for the week of January 21, 2024

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18

Friday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41



Mommies for Mary!
All Mommies and their
children
come pray the Rosary
With our Holy Mother!
Please join us on Friday,

January 26th @ 10:30 a.m.

We will gather on the Upper Deck!

Contact [Lori Prado](mailto:lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org) for more information

lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org



Join Fr. Bob in **PART 2** of exploring the *Gospel of Luke*
Tuesdays from 9:45 to 11:15 am

January 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27;

March 5, 12, 19

Ends the week before Holy Week

In person or via Zoom

Recordings will also be available to view

\$15 fee for materials

Register on the website or contact Cathy Lentz

at 630-852-3303 ext 5 or

catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Cathy's Corner—Old Cloaks and New Wine

Saul had the marvelous gift of knowing the will of the Lord spoken directly to him by the Lord's mouthpiece, Samuel. And he still disobeyed that will, not once, but twice. The first time he refused to wait for Samuel to offer up the holocaust before battle as divinely directed. The second time he blatantly disregarded the Lord's commandment to destroy all the spoils from the victory over the Amalekites by decimating only what was worthless and retaining the best of the sheep, oxen and lambs so he could offer burnt holocaust to the Lord. As Samuel chastised Saul, "Obedience is better than sacrifice."

And so the Lord rejected Saul as ruler over Israel. The language used to describe the removal of the kingdom from Saul is "tearing away." The new patch of complete compliance to God tearing away from the old cloak of external sacrifice without heartfelt obedience. Certainly the fasting in Jesus' time could also be undertaken in the same fashion, as an overt action of dedication to God masking an interior disposition of devotion to self. Indeed, the old wine of self indulgence can only destroy the new wineskin of self emptying. Thus was the fasting Jesus was condemning.

Because Jesus himself is the sign of the new wine poured out by God, the bridegroom come to earth to be with his beloved people. No more do we need a mouthpiece to interpret the will of God. We have God as God's own self, and the Gospel he brings of mercy and salvation. The old wineskins of fastidious following of the law trumping compassionate care of others are shredded by the transformative power of this message of love. And it is never too late to embrace the new wine, to create new wineskins to share it with the world.

As Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "The time is always right to do what is right." Let us not be torn from our Bridegroom's cloak, which encloses people of every skin color living in every part of the world with honor, dignity and respect, because we have become pieces of cloth shrunk by prejudice and hate. King proclaimed, "No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like the waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." It is the new wine of Our Lord Jesus Christ that creates that cascade – may we carry it in new wineskins of compassion so to offer it in abundance to all that we meet.

1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23; Mk 2:18-22

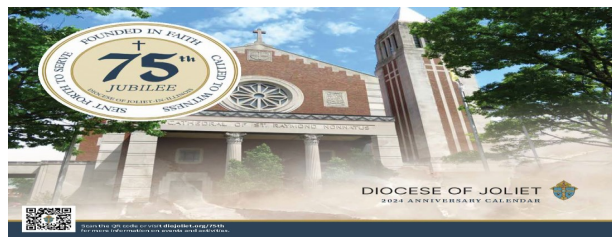


LAUDATE DEUM WEEKEND IS COMING

JANUARY 27-28

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!



IN AN ERA DOMINATED BY SMARTPHONES AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY, the traditional paper calendar may seem like an antiquated relic from a bygone era. In 2011, I officially switched from my five-year calendar/planner, which sat with heavy prominence on my desk, to a digital calendar that automatically syncs with my phone. Admittedly, the digital calendar is much more convenient and efficient, and once I made the move, I had no regrets. Yet, I still miss some of the nuances of using a paper calendar.

One thing I miss about writing an event down is the ability to impress my friends or family by telling them that I'm going to write down our appointment "in ink" — a nod to the importance and value of our upcoming gathering. I also miss the act of flipping through the pages of a physical calendar, as it evokes so many memories and emotions. Esthetically, a paper calendar — especially those that hang on the wall — also provides a wide array of styles to display, like artwork, in our homes and offices.

I am delighted that the Diocese of Joliet has partnered with Catholic Extension to publish a 2024 Anniversary Calendar for our 75th Jubilee. Catholic Extension, since 1905, has been effectively building up and strengthening Catholic faith communities in the United States, especially those in economically disadvantaged or geographically isolated areas. As we mark our 75th anniversary, this calendar beautifully expresses a narrative woven together as a tapestry of a vibrant Catholic Community. It superbly highlights key milestones with historical photographs and anecdotes that chronicle our extraordinary history and evolution. Each month unfolds with an invitation to revisit moments of significance: from the establishment of the diocese to the growth of parishes to the contributions of the clergy, religious, and laity.

This calendar also bridges different generations. It connects those who have witnessed the diocese's transformative journey with the younger Catholics who may be fascinated to learn about their roots. At the same time, it encapsulates the collective memory of our diocese, fostering a sense of community and shared heritage. Graphically, the calendar allows us to see that the diocese is much larger than only our own parish experience.

Moreover, the calendar serves as a practical guide offering information on liturgical seasons, feast days, and holy days, along with reminding us about special liturgies, ordinations, and events. It also gives us the opportunity to remember former bishops and sets aside a specific date to pray for each of our parishes. By seamlessly integrating the sacred and the secular, our calendar becomes a daily and monthly companion, enhancing our connection to our faith, heritage, and the sense of belonging to God and each other.

Our calendar further highlights the contributions of individuals, movements, and organizations that have shaped and continue to shape our diocese. Through profiles, stories, and brief history lessons, it celebrates all those heroes, both popular and unsung, whose dedication, faith, and service embody the spirit of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Joliet. The calendar's inclusion of key events, Masses, service opportunities, and milestones for the upcoming year not only keeps us informed but also invites active participation. It hopefully will inspire and motivate us to come together and contribute our time, talents, and gifts to ensure that our diocese remains strong and alive for generations to come.



RE News...

All those who volunteer with children and vulnerable adults, need to check into their VIRTUS accounts. There has been an update in the Standards and Policies information. If you have questions, or are struggling to get into your account, contact Sherry Rochford.

Questions of the Week

Question for Children: What do you think it was like for the people in today's Gospel to be called by Jesus? What did they have to give up in order to follow him?

Question for Youth: At the start of Jesus' ministry, Jesus invites people to "believe in the Good News." What are some ways that you could be more open to the truth and challenge contained within the Gospels?

Question for Adults: If someone asked you, "To what work has Jesus called you?" how would you answer?

Activities of the Week

As a family, make a list of ways each individual's life and your family life is influenced by your faith in Jesus. After brainstorming the list, talk about a few of the items. Finally, decide on one thing your family will do this week to put into practice the faith you share.

Talk about what it means to be "Fishers of People" and discuss ways to encourage your friends to learn more about Jesus. Invite a Friend to Mass.

Prayer for the Week

We are now entering Winter Ordinary Time in our Lectionary year. While during Ordinary Time we do not celebrate any particular aspect of the Christian mystery, it is by no means ordinary. "Ordinary" simply refers to the ordinal numbered weeks between seasons. We still celebrate many wonderful Saints and feasts during this time. So, make sure to look for special moments every week. Winter is delightful when we view it as a part of creation. Take the time to enjoy the snow! Loving Creator, thank you for all the joys a snow day can bring. Thank you for the laughter of children and the warmth of a welcoming family.

Upcoming Dates

Family Faith-The Church

Tuesday, January 23 (postponed last week due to cold weather) at 7:00 PM

Catechist Meeting & Appreciation Dinner

We would like to thank all our catechists and RE volunteers for helping us with a great program. We will have simple celebration and meeting on Tuesday, January 30 at 6:30 for dinner, followed by the meeting at 7:00. Contact the RE office for more information.

Reconciliation Information

2nd Grade Reconciliation Retreat

For Parents and children Saturday, January 27-10:30-Noon OR 12:30-2:00.

Reconciliation for Grades 2 & 4

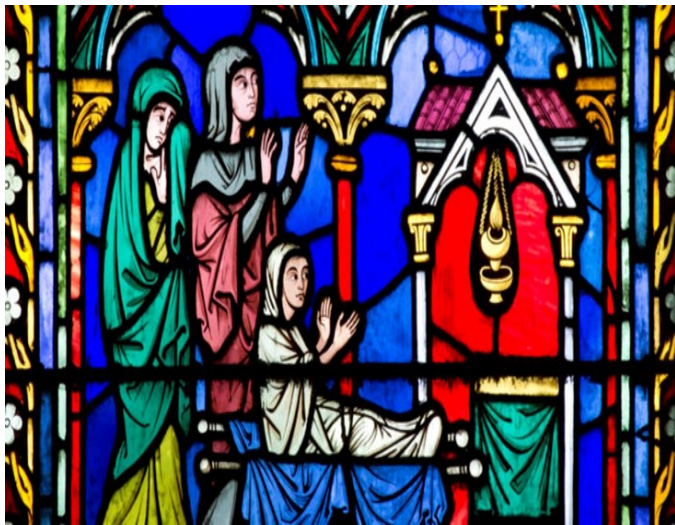
First Reconciliation for 2nd graders and Reconciliation for 4th graders will be held on Monday, January 29 at 6:30 or Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30. Parents and children are invited to receive the Sacrament.

4th Grade Parent/Child Retreat

Our 4th graders will be having a retreat for Reconciliation on Saturday, February 3. You may choose session 1 (10:30-12:00) or Session 2 (12:30-2:00).

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.



Are you or is someone you love
homebound and unable to attend
Mass?

Ministers of Care from the com-
munity 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 [cath-
arine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org) for a visit.

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
Diahan 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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, January 20, 2024

4:30PM John Swies-15th anniv (Family)
Mitch Cholewa-11th anniv (Family)
Marlene Carioto (Daughter)
Jose Avalos (Family)

Sunday, January 21, 2024

8:15AM LaVerne Brodzinski
(Germaine Moore)
Maria & Costantino Poli (Nick Rocco)
10:00AM Rolulo Acosta (Family)
Noon Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

Monday, January 22, 2024

9:00AM Eileen Kosinski (Eugene Munin)

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

9:00AM Parishioners of OLMC

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

9:00AM Miriam Lessek
(Frank & Fran Modelski)

Victoriana Quilang (Family)

Thursday, January 25, 2024

9:00AM Kathy Klemers
(Frank & Fran Modelski)

Friday, January 26, 2024

9:00AM Victoria Borucki (Daughter Evelyn)
David Spang-20th anniv (Family)

Saturday, January 27, 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 Welters
Alex Erkiens
Capt. Michael K. Desmond, Jr., USMC
1st Lt. Mark Marten, US Army
Ted Cook