

# Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

January 28, 2024 † Fourth 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](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)

Deacon Guadalupe Villarreal

[dcnlupe@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:dcnlupe@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

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

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Stephanie Rawls, Director, Youth Ministry

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Lori Prado, 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](mailto:john@jmhawkins.com)

Val Kazich, Admin Asst., Registrar, Religious Education

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## Pastor's Message

January 28, 2024

Dear Our Lady of Mount Carmel community, I am immensely proud to share with you the financial statement of the parish for the fiscal year 2022 – 2023. I don't know why we wait until January, when the fiscal year ends in July, but I have been told that this is what the parish has always done. This also marks my first full year as pastor and responsible for the budget. I am proud to say that we are in good financial shape. I owe a huge thank you to each and every parishioner who supports and loves OLMC. It is only by your generous support that everything we do is possible. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! We also owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the finance council who generously volunteer their time and knowledge to help us make sound money decisions. The parish also thanks our business manager, John Hawkins, and our bookkeeper, Kathi DeMasi, who serve us so diligently.

Once again, thanks to all of you, the parish operated in the black. We paid all the bills, covered all the expenses, and finished \$737 ahead. That is what a non-profit organization hopes for. The reason why the profit margin was slim when compared to previous years is due to the number of improvement projects that occurred. We made a significant upgrade to the security system that now includes automatic locking mechanisms on all the doors and camera monitoring (smile because you are on camera in all the primary areas of the building and in the parking lot). We installed new handicap door mechanisms. We have upgraded and are still fine tuning the sound system. We installed TV monitors and furniture in the lobby to make it more welcoming. We replaced the patio bricks in the front entrance. We had a confessional room installed. The rectory house had to have a new roof put on in addition to other interior renovations. We accomplished many big-ticket items. That is in addition to all the routine plumbing, hvac, electrical and IT work that is always ongoing.

As we are now halfway through the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year, things continue to look positive. We have been trending upward in mass attendance and have seen a noticeable increase in the weekend collection. The donations for Christmas 2023 are also considerably up from 2022. Once again, from my heart to yours, thank you for your love for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish.

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

*Fr. Jeff*

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Financial  
Report  
July 1, 2022 - June 30th, 2023**

	Church	Religious Education	Total
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Sunday Collections	\$ 811,961	\$ -	\$ 811,961
Christmas, Easter, Holy Days	\$ 136,027	\$ -	\$ 136,027
Tuition and Fees	\$ -	\$ 30,412	\$ 30,412
Diocesan/Bank Interest	\$ 48,311	\$ -	\$ 48,311
Directed Contributions	\$ 241,778		\$ 241,778
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,238,077</b>	<b>\$ 30,412</b>	<b>\$ 1,268,489</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 403,651	\$ 246,132	\$ 649,783
Services	\$ 182,029	\$ 1,179	\$ 183,208
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 48,224	\$ 1,325	\$ 49,549
Capital Expenditures	\$ 104,463	\$ -	\$ 104,463
Materials & Supplies	\$ 69,311	\$ 14,785	\$ 84,096
Utilities	\$ 64,831	\$ 2,402	\$ 67,233
Insurance	\$ 21,758	\$ -	\$ 21,758
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 68,975	\$ -	\$ 68,975
Charity Expenses	\$ 24,982	\$ 505	\$ 25,487
Rentals & Other Expenses	\$ 6,600	\$ 6,600	\$ 13,200
Investment in Religious Education	\$ 242,516	\$ (242,516)	\$ -
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,237,340</b>	<b>\$ 30,412</b>	<b>\$ 1,267,752</b>
<b>Balance to Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 737</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 737</b>

**Capital Improvement Projects:** \$ 104,463

**Reaching out to Others:**

Charity: Individuals, Food Pantry, Organizations, Holiday Dinners \$ 39,133  
Carmelite Seminary  
Carmelite Missions

**General Information**

Funds on Deposit with the Diocese \$ 2,839,789  
Operating Funds \$ 216,221



### Readings for the week of January 28, 2024

**Sunday:** Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

**Monday:** 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 5:1-20

**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

**Wednesday:** 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6

**Thursday:** 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

**Friday:** Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

**Saturday:** 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34

**Young at Heart is a group  
for men and women age  
55+ which meets once a  
month for fellowship.**



*Join us for our  
February Gathering  
February 1st at 10am in the upper deck*

**For more information contact Cathy  
Lentz at 630/852-3303 x5 or  
Barbara Jo Miller at 630-985-1043**

### ***Cathy's Corner—Ears That Can Hear the Parable of the Sower***

The seed is precious yet the sower spreads it lavishly and with abandon. It is bursting with life and where it lands it will take root. But what will it yield? Hateful rhetoric if devoured and used as nutrient for those who twist the word of God to advance their own evil, self-glorifying agendas. Empty words if absorbed by those who proclaim love of neighbor but wilt and wither in the face of widespread prejudice and social stigma. Hypocritical proclamations if soaked into those who recognize the Gospel message to share physical and emotional resources with those in need but choke on their own self-gratifying desires to thus produce no aid. An invitation to the Kingdom of God if embraced by those who hear the parable and understand how to be the rich soil that will produce the abundant fruit of mercy and love for all.

Hateful rhetoric, empty words and hypocritical proclamations misuse the precious seeds of the Gospel and cause damage and pain wherever they sprout. Perhaps that is why the Lord wished to protect his powerful message from those who would not understand it for what it is, a call to self-emptying love. Much harm has, indeed, been caused through the years in the name of God. We, however, have been given the ears we need to hear Jesus' call, to take the seed that falls on the path as our own by forcefully rejecting those who foment division, to knock out the rocks we encounter by growing strong in our defense of the ridiculed and the reviled, to pull out the relentless thorns we cultivate by reducing our own consumption and increasing the opportunities to consume for the hungry and the homeless. We can be the rich soil that feeds the precious seeds of the word of God. We must be if we wish to join David in the Kingdom promised to him by the Lord. We will be when we listen with the ear of our heart.

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



## *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:** Name some bad things that you want to pray that Jesus will take away from our world.

**Question for Youth:** Jesus was able to free the man from the unclean spirit within him. What do you hope Jesus will free you from? What is happening in the world that needs Jesus' help?

**Question for Adults:** What are the evils in today's world that you pray God will free us from?

### Groundhog Day?

If Candlemas be fair and bright,  
Come, Winter, have another flight.  
If Candlemas bring clouds and rain,  
Go, Winter, and come not again.

February 2 is much more than Groundhog Day. Many years ago, before the revised liturgical calendar, Candlemas was celebrated. Farmers in Europe thought that the weather could be predicted on Candlemas thinking that as they were approaching the second half of winter, the weather would be the opposite of what Candlemas brought. Mr. Groundhog only came into the picture about 100 years ago, as hibernating animals were beginning to emerge at this time.

Today, the church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2. The presentation is also the fourth joyful mystery of the rosary.

The presentation is 40 days after Christmas. Mary and Joseph, following the law, "presented" Jesus "to be consecrated to the Lord". They offered two turtle doves in thanksgiving for the safe birth of Jesus. The turtle doves were offered by the poor as required by the law.

### Reconciliation Information

#### Reconciliation for Grades 2 & 4

First Reconciliation for 2nd graders and Reconciliation for 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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).

#### Upcoming Dates

#### Family Mass-Grades 6 & 3

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

#### 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.

#### 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.



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](mailto:catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org) for a visit.



Introducing "Darien Citizen of the Year" - our own Val Kazich. The town of Darien will honor her with a reception on Friday, March 8th, at the Alpine. When you see her this weekend either at Mass or in the RE rooms, please pat her on the back.

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 27, 2024**

**4:30PM** Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

**Sunday, January 28, 2024**

**8:15AM** Lee, Jerry & Joe Poli (Nick Rocco)

**10:00AM** Wes Wade (Family)

Isidoro Ravina (Pax & Rose Ravina)

**Noon** Parishioners of OLMC

**Monday, January 29, 2024**

**9:00AM** Parishioners of OLMC

**Tuesday, January 30, 2024**

**9:00AM** Vesta Calucin (Sisters)

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

**9:00AM** Eduardo Rosete (Josie)

Donald Antikauskas (Wife Evelyn)

**Thursday, February 1, 2024**

**9:00AM** Parishioners of OLMC

**Friday, February 2, 2024**

**9:00AM** Parishioners of OLMC

**Saturday, February 3, 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