

# Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

January 7, 2024 † The Epiphany of the Lord



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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### PARISH STAFF

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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.



January 7, 2024

The celebrations of Christmas and the New Year are now past. We are settling back into our daily routines. School is starting for all the students and the decorations are coming down. The reality of life is hitting us once again. I hope though that we are different. I hope that we allowed the mysteries that we celebrated on Christmas to move our hearts in new ways. I pray that we all had an encounter with presence of Christ in his incarnation during these weeks. Any true encounter with the Divine must change us for the better. We must be changed to love just a little more and to forgive just a little more.

Once again, I want to wish blessings upon the entire parish community as we enter 2024. I pray that this will be a great year for you personally and an even better year for us as a parish community. Today we celebrate the Epiphany. The wise men traveled from great distances to see the great event that had taken place. They knelt and looked God in the eye and recognized the mystery of the Incarnation. Now the struggle is for us to look into each other's eyes and recognize the ongoing mystery of the Incarnation. I challenge the community to bring someone with them to mass at least once during 2024. We have so many family members, neighbors and friends and many fellow parishioners, who for various reasons have not been to church in a long time. Let's work on recognizing the Christ in each other and reach out to them. Hopefully we can continue to increase the community and bring others to Christ just as the wise men recognized Christ today.

I want to thank everyone who helped make our Christmas liturgies so wonderful. The parish staff did a great job of planning, especially for the children's mass. All our ministers did a fantastic job. Our art and environment team did an amazing job with all the decorating. Thanks to our deacons and servers for assisting at the liturgies and making sure all went smoothly. The biggest thanks go to all our choirs for a truly outstanding job. Thanks for all you do for our OLMC community. Personally, I want to thank everyone who gave me, Fr. Rob and Fr. Bob, all the wonderful cakes, cookies, treats and gifts. All the best in 2024!!!!

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

*Fr. Jeff**Readings for the week of January 7, 2024***Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12**Monday:** Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39**Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45**Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12**Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17



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!**

Beginning in January we will be meeting the **second Saturday** of the month at 9 am AND the **fourth Friday** of the month at 10 am for **information**, **strength** and **connection** during the caregiver journey.

**NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 13**

**9:00 to 10:30 am @ Our Lady of Peace  
at Our Lady of Peace**

**Cathy Lentz at 630-852-3303 ext 5 or  
[catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org) for info**

### ***Cathy's Corner—Building God's Kingdom in a Brand New Nation***

Happily married at the age of 19 to a handsome and wealthy businessman, the union from which brought five children, steeped in her Episcopalian faith, could the New York City socialite Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton ever have imagined that she would be remembered forever as a groundbreaking American Catholic saint? Yet after her husband died only seven years into their marriage in Italy, where Elizabeth had taken him in the hopes of curing his tuberculosis, her life took a dramatic turn. Her time overseas had exposed her to Catholicism and she converted, a poverty-stricken widow shunned by relatives and friends for embracing what was considered a heretic faith.

The invitation of the president of St. Mary's College in Baltimore to open a school for Catholic girls in that city led her on a path to establishing St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, sowing the seeds of Catholic education in the United States. Other women joined her teaching mission and with them Elizabeth founded the first American-based Catholic religious community, the Sisters of St. Joseph. Now Mother Seton, she continued to teach and work for her order, renamed the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, and expanded to 20 communities. She died on this day in 1821, only 46 years old, and with her canonization in 1975 she became the first American-born citizen to be named a Catholic saint.

Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton never dreamed that she would lay the foundation in many ways for Catholic ministry to grow and thrive in the United States from its very beginning as an independent nation. Her thoughts were only on acting in righteousness as one begotten by God and hence loving all of God's children. She accepted the same invitation given by Jesus to the disciples of John the Baptist to "come, and you will see," following him even when it meant leaving everything she had known behind. Her recognition of him as Messiah led to doing his work, teaching in her schools, preaching in her communities, healing those wounded by poverty.

Spurned by the society into which she was born, the embodiment of her own words to always *live simply, so all may simply live*, she remained in God, trusting that the Spirit within her was greater than all the adversities of the world. She understood what our faith requires us all to embrace, that God has given us what we need to build the kingdom of Heaven on earth. *When so rich a harvest is before us, why do we not gather it? All is in our hands if we will but use it.* That, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, is the question that even two hundred years later, we all still must answer.

*1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42*



## The 2024 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal has begun!

As the Diocese of Joliet launches the 2024 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we are humbly asking all parishioners to pledge their support for this important effort, as together we can make a profound difference.

This year's CMAA theme is *For the Glory of God*. Through our support, we ensure that the mission and ministries of Christ's Church are available to everyone. Together, we can help provide safe shelter for the homeless, feed the physical and social needs of those who are hungry, inspire those discerning a life of vocation, and aid in the education of our next generation of Catholics. Our parish could not accomplish all of this on its own, but together through the appeal we can do so much more.

Our parish's goal for the 2024 CMAA is about \$82,000, and 70 percent of any amount we raise over our goal will be returned to us and used fruitfully within our own parish. Please review the materials you receive in the mail from the Diocese of Joliet this month and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's annual appeal.

If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the parish office. Thank you!



Diocese of Joliet



## New Year, New Young Adult Ministry!

Calling all young adults in the parish between the ages of 18-35. Yes, I mean you! Whatever stage of life you're in, please join us as we work to connect and build up our young adult community.

Our kickoff event will be on **Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30**. Join us for dinner and close the night with Adoration. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let me know.

Contact youth minister, Stephanie Rawls, for more information at [stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)



## *RE News...*

As we welcome the New Year, our prayers are with our families! Peace be to all, as we continue to live Christmas in our hearts throughout the year.

### *Questions of the Week*

**Question for Children:** In your life, who helps you to see Jesus in other people such as a classmate or a friend?

**Question for Youth:** The star guided the Magi to Jesus. What are the people or events who have guided you in your relationship with Jesus?

**Question for Adults:** How this past week did you demonstrate God's love at home and at work?

### *Activities of the Week*

The word epiphany means to reveal or to be manifest. What have you learned about God from your family? Cut star shapes out of white paper, one for each family member. Have family members write their responses to the question on the paper stars. Older family members can write for younger children. Hang the stars in your home as a reminder of God's presence.

Help your family experience a true epiphany. Spend time this week looking for God. Go out for a walk or look for God in your home. See where God leads you.

### *Prayer for the Week*

The year, we celebrate the final day of Christmas on Monday with the Baptism of Jesus. Take time to talk to your children about their baptisms. Show some pictures or share any keepsakes with them that you may have saved. Talk too about choosing their godparents, and why you gave them their names. Then prayer this together:

Loving Jesus, thank you for welcoming me into the Church through Baptism. Help me live out my responsibilities as a member of your family.

Amen.

From *52 Simple Ways to Talk with your kids about Faith* by Jim Campbell.

### *Upcoming Dates*

#### **CORE Catechist Meeting**

We have many catechists that serve as team leaders for each grade level. We are presently looking for assistant team leaders for the following grades: 1, 4, 5, & 6. Our CORE team meets three times a year to help plan out the upcoming season in RE. If you are on the CORE Team now, or would like to consider joining us, please attend our winter meeting on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 for dinner, followed by the meeting at 7:00. Contact Sherry Rochford if you are interested.

#### **Family Faith-The Church**

Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00 PM

#### **Family Mass-Grades 7 & 2**

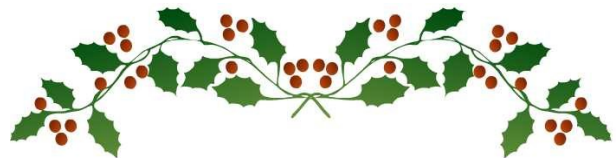
Our next Family Mass on Sunday, January 21 at 10:00 will be presented by our 7<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. We are looking for students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade to serv as readers and jr. ushers, while 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will serve as greeters and gift bearers. Contact Sherry Rochford for more information.

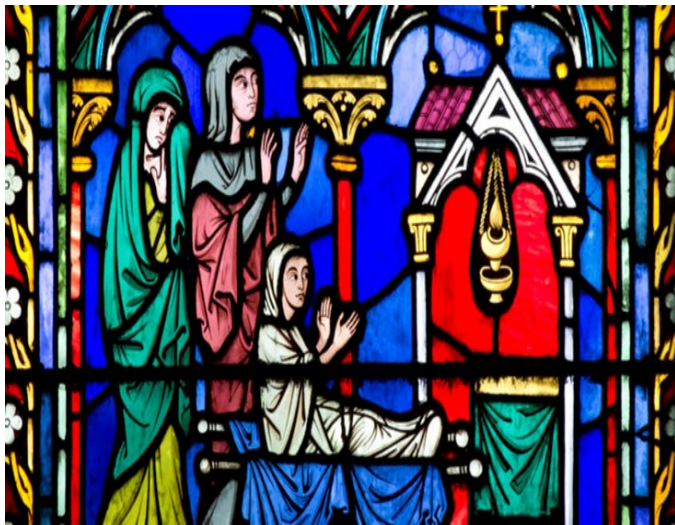
#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Reconciliation Retreat**

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 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be held on Monday, January 29 at 6:30 or Tuesday, February 3 at 6:30. Parents and children are invited to receive the Sacrament.





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.

### **Mass Intentions for the Week**

#### **Saturday, January 6, 2024**

**4:30PM** DeGrazia Kids—living (Sheri)

#### **Sunday, January 7, 2024**

**8:15AM** Lisiamma Abraham-1st anniv (Family)

Margaret & Marco Roco (Nick Rocco)

James Susic Sr. (Marie & Michael Baker)

**10:00AM** Ron May (Nancy May & Family)

Jesus Hernandez (Family)

**Noon** Richard Meister (Janice Meister-Kelly)

Eileen Murray-17th anniv (Rick & Kassidy)

#### **Monday, January 8, 2024**

**9:00AM** Barbara Dawson (Evelyn Antikauskas)

#### **Tuesday, January 9, 2024**

**9:00AM** Cynthia Sobotka (Evelyn Antikauskas)

#### **Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

**9:00AM** Bernandette Beagley (The Alsips)

Marcelle Manaligod (Friends)

#### **Thursday, January 11, 2024**

**9:00AM** Roy Lopez (Friends)

#### **Friday, January 12, 2024**

**9:00AM** Frank Modelski Sr.

(Frank & Fran Modelski)

#### **Saturday, January 13, 2024**

**9:00AM** Parishioners of OLMC



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

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