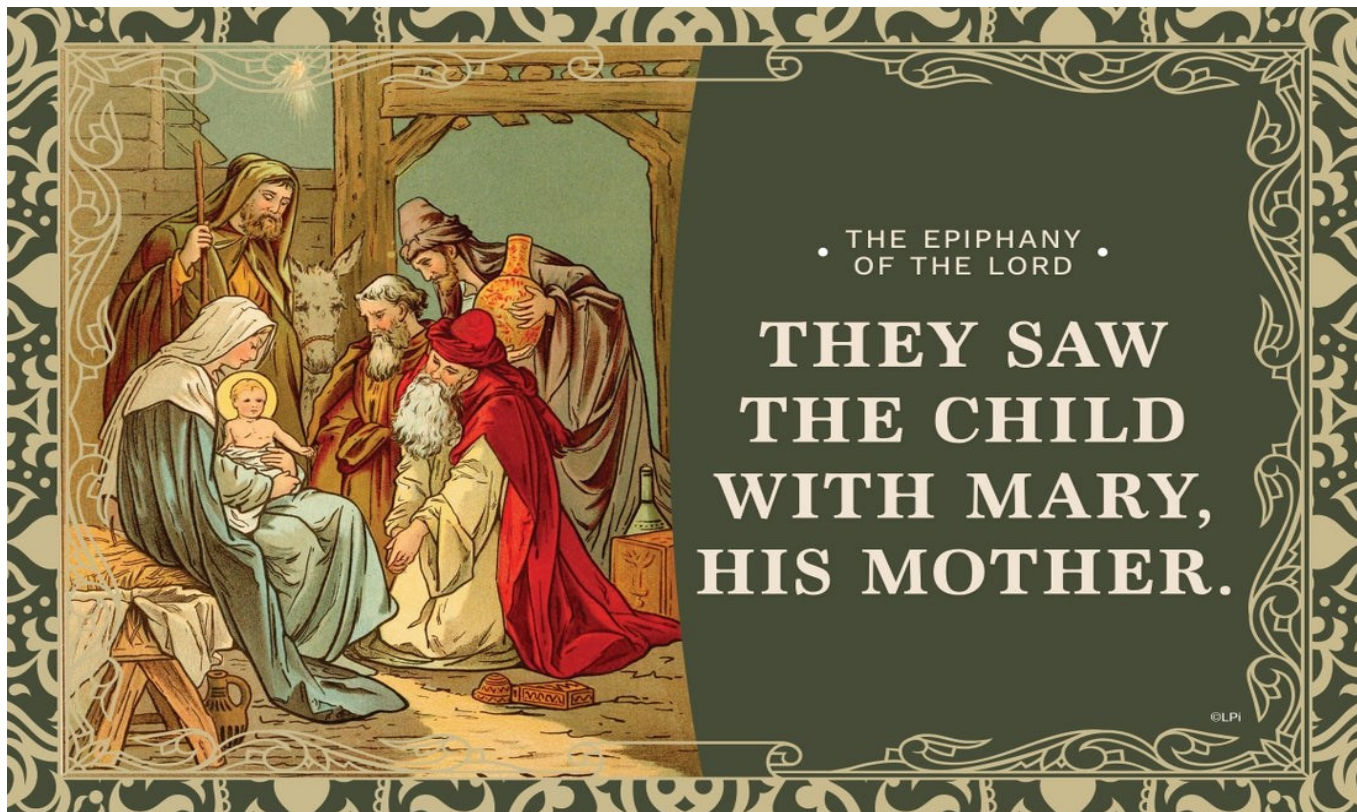


Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

January 4, 2026 † The Epiphany of the Lord



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

Reconciliation on Saturdays 3:15-4:00PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: To register call The Religious Education Office at 630-963-3053

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 630-852-3303 phone number



The 1st Quarter 2026 Ministry Schedule is now loaded in MSP. Use the QR code or your MSP app to access.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Smialek, O.Carm., Pastor

frjeff@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Rev. Rob Traudt, O.Carm., Parochial Vicar

frob@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

D.

Priest In residence

Deacon Ed Ptacek

littlebirdfarm@hotmail.com

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

sherry.rochford@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Jennifer Emanuele, Director, Youth Ministry

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2026!!! All I can say is WOW! Another year that we have been blessed with. I want to wish everyone a happy, blessed and healthy new year and may the Lord fill everyone in our community with happiness and joy in this new year. I want to thank everyone who came out to the parish brunch on New Years Day. It was a wonderful celebration and a great time to be together. I want to thank all the staff that worked so hard to plan the day. I think we may have just started a new parish tradition. I hope we can keep the brunch going in the

years ahead. New Years is also a time to look back on all that we accomplished and experienced. We continue to have a vibrant and lively parish community. That is due to a great parish staff. So a huge shout out to all our hard working employees!!! Please say thank you to Sue Haa and Kim Euske who work in our office, Sherry Rochford and Val Kazich in our Religious Education program, Jen Emanuele our youth minister, Confirmation and OCIA coordinator, Lori Prado, our ministry associate, John Hawkins and Kathi DeMasi, who work in our business office, Ismael Martin and Tony DeMasi our janitors. They all work so hard for this community. A huge thank you goes to our choir directors, Karen Krueger, Beth Lopez and Cheston Bogue and all our choir members who sang with such joy this Christmas! Also, to all our volunteers thank you from the bottom of my heart. A special thank you goes to Fr. Rob and Deacon Ed for their ministry among us. We have accomplished a lot in 2025 as a new elevator, new carpet, repaved the parking lot and added the votive candle stand around St. Joseph. They have been wonderful upgrades to our building. We are still in need of reflooring the upper deck, new tile in the lobby and most importantly a new roof this year. Thank you for your continued support.

This weekend is the Feast of the Epiphany. This is the day the Magi arrived from the East and visited the baby Jesus. They recognized the Christ present in front of them. I wish we knew more about what happened to the Magi when they returned home. They must have continued to lead changed lives. They must have led lives focused on love and doing good for others. The Magi had to have been profoundly changed for the better because of meeting Christ. That is what happens anytime we have an experience of Christ. When we meet Christ in the Eucharist and Sacraments, when we meet Christ in the love and good deeds of others we are changed. Our hearts are softened, and we are moved to be even more loving. The question for us on this Epiphany Day is have we been changed by Christmas? Did we truly meet Christ? Did we allow Christ to change us? The Magi encountered Christ and their lives were changed. Have our lives been changed?

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel...Pray for Us!!

Fr. Jeff

Readings for the week of January 4, 2026

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30



OLMC High School Youth Group

Upcoming Meetings

Our meetings take place in the church basement from 1 – 3 pm.
Email Jen Emanuele, Director of Youth Ministry, with questions or suggestions!
Jennifer.emanuele@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

January
10, 2026:
Recharge
Retreat



Current High Schoolers are invited to Recharge Retreat held at St. Raphael's in Naperville. This is a 1 day retreat to find and gain focus on the voice of the Lord so you can learn where he is calling you. If you have never attended a retreat, this is a great opportunity for you to experience! *Please note this is a Saturday.

Tickets are required to attend. Please use this QR code to sign up.



KNOWN

JN. 4: 26-29

Middle School Youth Rally (grades 6-8)

Featuring:



Kris Frank
Emcee



Jadin O'Brien
Guest Speaker
Olympic Athlete and
3x National Champion



John Paul
Von Arx
Musician

**Closing Mass
with Bishop
Hicks!**

Central Athletic Complex
500 S Naperville Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187

Register here by **January 5th**



MAKE
A Pastoral Letter for the People
of the Diocese of Joliet



Thank you to the Knights
of Columbus for the
generous donation to our
Food Pantry



***Together in Loss* is a **grief support ministry**
for anyone who has experienced a loss of a loved one.**

***Saturday January 17th*
*10a.m.-11:30 a.m.***

**For Information-Contact Lori Prado:
(lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)**

That Man Is You! – Now Meeting Saturday Mornings

Men of the parish are invited to join That Man Is You!, a dynamic men's program that combines faith, fellowship, and personal growth.

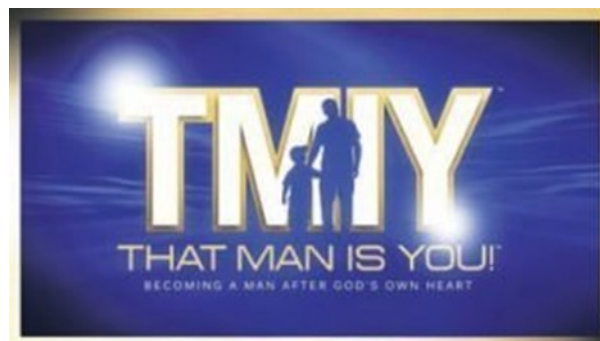
Sessions are held Saturday mornings from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the church basement.

Come enjoy coffee, brotherhood, and meaningful discussion as we seek to deepen our relationship with God and strengthen our roles as husbands, fathers, and leaders.

All men are welcome—bring a friend!

For more information contact

Joe Kenny CrusaderJoe87@gmail.com or Gerry Leganski GerryLeganski@gmail.com





RE News-

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.

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 13 at 6:30 for dinner, followed by the meeting at 7:00. Contact Sherry Rochford if you are interested.

All Catechist Meeting

All Catechists are invited to join us for our Catechist Appreciation Dinner. We will be inviting the Darien Police Department to come in and share some valuable safety protocols with us. Please Contact the RE office to RSVP. Dinner starts at 6:30 with meeting to follow.

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?

Prayer Opportunity

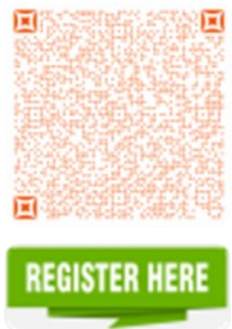
The Epiphany is a traditional time for the blessing of homes. It is a time to celebrate the fact that God can be found in our everyday environment. We know that we are part of the family of God and that God dwells in our home. Plan a blessing of your home. Use the following format: Read John 1:14 from the Bible. Then go in procession from room to room, blessing each room with holy water.

Parents/Caregivers of Persons with disABILITIES Retreat

You need a break and we are offering a wonderful opportunity to take the time for yourself.

Join us on Sunday January 25, 2026, from Noon to 5:00 PM. Mass is at Noon followed by our guest speaker, Fr. Mark Yavarone, OMV, the Co-founder of the Ignatian Discernment Institute. Lunch will be provided for those who wish to partake. Please use the QR code to register.

Brought to you by the Diocese of Joliet disABILITIES ministry. Please contact Sherry Rochford with any questions.



What is Cursillo?

Cursillo is a worldwide Christian movement, originating in the Catholic Church, that provides a "short course in Christian living" through a transformative, three-day weekend retreat focused on encountering oneself, Christ, and others, aiming to empower lay-people to Christianize their everyday environments through community and service.

*For more information,
jolietcursillo.org*

or

Contact Lorí Prado:

lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org



Young at Hearts

**Wishes everyone a
Happy New Year!**

See you Jan.8th at 10:00 a.m.



Saturday, January 3, 4:30PM

Carl Tork (Mazzolini Family)

Sunday, January 4

8:15AM Margaret & Marco Rocco (Nick Rocco)

John Grabowski (Ostrowski Family)

10:00AM Maria Ruvalcaba-1st anniv (Family)

Kathy Marino (Candy O'Connell)

Noon Benedicto Tutor (Andrea Tutor)

Richard Faklenthal (Eugene Munin)

Anthony Conniff (John & Kathy Callan)

Monday, January 5, 9:00AM

Sr. Primitiva Sobredo, C.M. (Family)

Tuesday, January 6, 9:00AM

Jerome Madden (Family)

Brenda Lally & Family-living (Minogue Family)

Luis U. Udarbe (Family)

Wednesday, January 7, 9:00AM

Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

Thursday, January 8, 9:00AM

Fr. Gavin Quinn, O.Carm. (Pat Monahan)

Barbara Dawson (Evelyn Antokauskas)

Dorothy McNellis (Eugene Munin)

Friday, January 9, 9:00AM

Stanley Barzyk (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Stella Stahulak (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Cynthia Sobotka (Evelyn Antikauskas)

Saturday, January 10, 9:00AM

Parishioners of OLMC

First Friday of the Month

January 2 2026

Adoration-Chapel

3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Concluding with Benediction

