

# Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

March 10, 2024 † Fourth Sunday of Lent



## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

- Jn 3:20-21

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*Jesus asked Peter the night before His crucifixion, "So, could you not keep watch with me for one hour?"*

(Matthew 26:40)

**Come and experience an hour in  
PARADISE**

Eucharistic Adoration every Friday during  
Lent

In the Chapel

Adoration: 3 to 6:30 p.m.

Benediction: 6:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross: 7 p.m.

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March 10, 2024

I was blessed to be the assistant coach of Joliet Catholic Academy's boys' lacrosse team for 6 years. Funny, since I never played lacrosse in my life, they just needed a warm body out there to help supervise. Fortunately, the head coach was very skilled and a former college lacrosse player, so he knew what he was doing. I just had to read the rule book and stay one step ahead of the boys. It was a great opportunity to watch a group of boys who had never played lacrosse and help them develop and actually win a few games. The whole point of practice was developing the fundamental skills of handling the stick and ball and game play. Naturally, the boys wanted to race ahead and learn trick shots and advanced plays. The head coach and I continually tried to get them to focus on the basics. If you don't have the basics, the advanced techniques will not work. Our spiritual life is much the same way, we need to constantly work on the basics. Lent calls us to look at the basics of faith and how well we are living them out. What foundations might need to be shored up in us? The Gospel today has the classic verse of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." That is the foundation of our faith!

This is Laetare Sunday. It marks the halfway point of Lent. I am looking forward to breaking out the rose (pink) vestments again. Traditionally, this Sunday has been a day of celebration, within the austere period of Lent. This Sunday gets its name from the first few words of the traditional Latin entrance for the Mass of the day. "*Laetare Jerusalem*" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem") is Latin from Isaiah 66:10.

This is a busy week in the parish. The Carmelite lecture series continues on Tuesday 3/12 at 7pm. Fr. Jack Welch, O.Carm. will be presenting on an introduction to the spirituality of St. Theresa of Avila. On Wednesday 3/13 at 7pm, Joyce Donahue from Mayslake ministries will be speaking on the Eucharistic Revival. This is a great thing during Lent to focus on deepening our love for the Eucharist. Then on Thursday 3/14 at 7pm is the parish Lenten Reconciliation service. It will be a busy and blessed 4<sup>th</sup> week of Lent for our community.

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

*Fr. Jeff*



Come to hear our Eucharistic Revival Speaker

# March 13 at 7pm

## The Eucharist: Healing our Relationship with One Another and the Earth

**Joyce Donahue, the Liturgical Catechist, will reflect with us on how the Eucharist is calling us to a return to unity and harmony with all of humanity and the world – Don't miss it!**





# SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS SIGN UP NOW!

Includes Incoming 8th Graders through Graduating High Schoolers

## Joliet Youth Day

Saturday, June 1, 9:00am-5:00pm

Lewis University

- \$75 Per Person (Includes Lunch)
- Engage with National Keynote Speakers
- Experience Uplifting Praise & Worship
- Deepen Your Faith with Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation
- And So Much More!

One of 25 Steubenville Youth Conferences across North America that serve 40,000+ young people annually.

## Alive in You Mission Camp

Tuesday, July 9 - Sunday, July 14

Benet Academy

- \$300 Per Person (Includes Meals and Lodging)
- Serve in our local community with hundreds of other students from across the country
- Engage with National Keynote Speakers (TBA)
- Praise & Worship
- Fun & Games
- And So Much More!

### MINISTRY TEAM



**Sign Up By April 14th**

**Please Note:** We NEVER want cost to be a reason a student does not join us for an event. If you need financial support for either event, please contact Stephanie Rawls at [stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org) or 630-852-3303.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Palm Sunday, March 24

1:30pm

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel youth group invites all children of the parish for an Easter egg hunt. Don't forget to bring a basket to collect your eggs!

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Contact Stephanie Rawls for questions at [stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org) or call 630-852-3303.



## STATIONS of the CROSS

**Middle and High School Service Opportunity!**

Help bring the stations of the cross to life for our parish community on Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. We are looking for students to play all roles from Jesus to the townspeople. Contact Stephanie Rawls to get involved in this beautiful Lenten prayer experience at [stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:stephanie.rawls@ourladyofmtcarmel.org) or 630-852-3303.

## Young Adult Ministry Upcoming Events

### Bowling (Location TBD)

Wednesday, March 20, 6:00-7:30pm

### Volunteer at People's Resource Center

Saturday, April 13, 8:30am-12:30pm

Spaces are limited, please let Stephanie know if you would like to go!

Meals included for each event! Please let me know if you have any dietary restrictions.

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

## "When Adult Children fall away from the Church"

A common issue for families is the growing number of young Catholics who are drifting away from the Church and the practice of their faith.

Many grandparents worry about their children, and their grandchildren's future, when they don't come to Mass or have the sacraments.

How do we pass on the faith to grandchildren when the parents are not practicing the faith? Please join us!!

**Thursday, March 21, at 9:30 am**  
OLMC lower level



**All are welcome –  
no RSVP necessary!**

## Our Carmelite Lecture Series for Lent continues . . .

### "Carmelite Prayer"

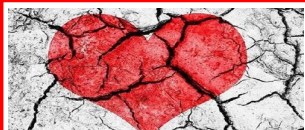
**by Fr. Jack Welch, O.Carm. Tuesday, March 12 at 7 pm**

### *Cathy's Corner—Cleansing Ourselves of Preconceived Notions*

Preconceived notions almost prevented Naaman, the army commander of the king of Aram, from living a life free from leprosy. It was his wife's slave, a young girl captured in a raid on Israel, who told her mistress of a prophet so great he could cure even that devastating disease. Naaman presumed that a prophet mighty enough to effectuate such healing must be a monarch, so Naaman brought the letter from his own king requesting a cure and the standard fare of gifts to the king of Israel. However, that ruler was so horrified by the inquiry that he tore his garments in the customary gesture of shock and dismay. He presumed the king of Aram was secretly looking for a reason to instigate a confrontation since everyone knew the Israelite king did not have power over life and death.

Once Naaman did finally locate the prophet Elisha, whom the Israelite servant girl had actually been referencing, his preconceived notions kicked in again. Naaman presumed that a real prophet would put on a show with gesticulations and invocations to his god in order to bring the necessary healing. Elisha, however, did not even bother to present himself to the ailing man. Rather, he sent instructions through a third party to do nothing more extraordinary than the commonplace action of washing himself. Even worse, he was to do this in the muddy Jordan river when he had pure mountain spring waters in his own country that would have done a much better job. Whether it was his desperation to be healed, or the gentle pull on his heart of the one true God, Naaman threw aside his preconceived notions and plunged seven times in the river Jordan. And his skin became as it was when he was just a child.

As much joy as Naaman felt at the shattering of his preconceived notions was the fury the residents of Nazareth felt when Jesus shattered theirs. After all, the children of Israel were God's chosen people and they presumed they alone were beneficiaries of God's offer of salvation. Yet Jesus made it clear that the actions of the prophets demonstrate that God's mercy is universal, poured out on Gentiles as well as Jews, women as well as men. Preconceived notions are now, as they were then, dangerous to our salvation. They can bar us from obtaining the help we need for healing and wholeness from those whose ways are different from our own. They can cause us to reject ones not in our chosen religious circle and so reject the Lord himself whose mercy extends to all people. Let us, like Naaman, feel God's gentle pull on our hearts to wash away our preconceived notions in God's boundless river of loving inclusion. 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42: 2, 3; 43: 3, 4; Lk 4:24-30



## *Bringing comfort and light through compassionate support* **Join Us on March 16**

***Together in Loss* is a grief support ministry for anyone who has suffered a loss – no need to be a parishioner**  
**We meet the third SATURDAY of the month from 10:00 to 11:30 am**

No RSVP necessary and no need to have attended in the past

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



## *RE News...*

### **Family Mass-Sunday, March 17 at 10:00**

We will celebrate another family Mass together. Please contact the RE office if you would like to participate in anyway. We can use your family to help the Ushers, be a Reader or Greeter, or you may choose to bring up the gifts. This month, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade families will sponsor. Please bring a cleaning supply for the food pantry if you can.

### *Caring for Creation-Food Waste*

#### **DID YOU KNOW:**

It happens to all of us, but how much food gets wasted in your household? I know that I have been guilty of this by over shopping. I tend to say I'm going to eat better but then call Grub Hub for dinner because I don't want to mess up the kitchen just to cook for myself.

"According to the nonprofit organization Feeding America, Americans waste more than \$408 billion each year on food, with dairy products being the food item we toss out the most. The average American family of four throws out \$1,600 a year in produce." (from <https://www.rts.com/resources/guides/food-waste-america>)

#### **BE AWARE!**

Access your fridge and pantry before you shop. Utilize any items to make creative leftovers.

Shop locally and more frequently to eliminate food waste.

If you have the space, grow your own food. IF you do not have the space, shop local farmers markets in season.

#### **PRAY!**

Heavenly Father, thank you for your generous provision of food in my life, and for the blessing of having plenty to eat. For the times I have wasted food, I am truly sorry, as I am not mindful of your gifts. Forgive me and help me to become a better steward of everything you give me. I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **DONATE!**

Take your family shopping for a day of food, filling your cart with your favorite dishes. Donate the basket to the food pantry, or donate to the Holiday Meal drive this Easter.

### *First Communion Info*

#### **First Communion Retreat: Sat. March 16**

Session 1-10:00- Noon

Session 2 11:30-1:30

Parents, you are an important part of the retreat. Join your children as they learn to prepare to receive Jesus for the first time. Both groups will be together at 11:30 to learn the songs used during the Mass celebration.

#### **Breaking Bread Celebrations:**

**March 20 or 21 at 6:30 PM**

This is a great experience for the whole family. Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles together with the First Communicants and their families will learn about the connection between Baptism and First Communion. First Communicants will be inducted into the Society of the Scapular.

To participate, you just need to RSVP the number of people who are attending on which night. You will provide bread and grape juice, and anything else to make your table setting your own. We provide paper products.

For more info, call the RE office or email [sherry.rochford@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:sherry.rochford@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)

### *Mommies for Mary*

Weather permitting,  
Stations of the Cross  
(\*\*strollers welcome\*\*)  
Friday, Mar 22, 2024



Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Our Holy Mother is waiting for you!  
Contact Lori Prado for more information.  
[lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org](mailto:lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org)



## Lenten Reconciliation Service

Thursday, March 14,  
2024

7PM



We will be holding our **Holiday Food Drive** for **Easter** on **Sunday March 24th**. We will only be accepting monetary donations that we then will pass on to people in need to help supplement their food needs. You could give cash, checks or gift cards. Please put any donations in an envelope & mark the outside with **"Holiday Food Drive Donation", your name & address** then place it in the collection basket. You will get credit for any donation you make. If you pay by check please put "Holiday Food Drive" on the memo line. There will be envelopes for you to use in the back of church if needed.

**Please make your donations by March 17th.**

Thank You,  
Paul Gangi - Holiday Food Drive Chairperson

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  
Capt. 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, March 9, 2024**

**4:30PM** Bill Gowans-living (Family)

**Sunday, March 10, 2024**

**8:15AM** Dick Langella (Nick Rocco)

James Susic Sr. (Marie & Michael Baker)

Adela Sabuquia (Family)

**10:00AM** Paul Arnold-12th anniv (Family)

Fairel & Loyd Francis Smith (Family)

Lucille Christenson (Family)

Michael Dinsmore (Martha Demarte)

**Noon** Ronald & Josephine Lucatorto (Linda)

Bill & Sylvia Dziak (Mary)

**Monday, March 11, 2024**

**9:00AM** Robert Delany (Family)

May Josol-living (Family)

Mary Chacko (Family)

Rosalind Cruz (Friends)

**Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

**9:00AM** Euastachia Santiago (Friend)

Adelina Parongan (Family)

Frank & Fran Modelski-living (Friend)

**Wednesday, March 13, 2024**

**9:00AM** Adela Sabuquia (Family)

LaVerne Brodzinski (Mike & Jeri Boyle)

**Thursday, March 14, 2024**

**9:00AM** Estelle Modelski (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Marie Dulay (Family)

**Friday, March 15, 2024**

**9:00AM** Fred Ryczyn (Family)

Dan Sackett (Nancy)

Gene Rubel (Sheri)

**Saturday, March 16, 2024**

**9:00AM** Gene & Jeanette Lang (Daughter)

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