

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

March 17, 2024 † Fifth Sunday of Lent



EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI



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.

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



March 17, 2024

The Gospel today starts out with Jesus getting the rock star treatment. There is this group of people trying to meet him. They have heard so much about this man and all that he has been doing. These people are trying to work their connections to get to the star. First, they go to Philip with the request, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Then Philip goes to Andrew to help. It seems to be a I know someone who knows someone who knows someone scenario. Finally, it appears that Andrew had the right connections to get access to Jesus. I wonder what this group of visitors from Greece thought when they met Jesus? Were they overwhelmed with joy? Were they perhaps disappointed that Jesus was not what they thought? That is a good question for us to think about, if I met Jesus, what might my reaction be? I do think these visitors were shocked. Jesus instead of soaking in the star treatment, gives them a lecture on sacrifice. Jesus speaks about the grain of wheat needing to die in order to produce fruit. Jesus continues on with saying that one must lose his life and his life will preserve it for eternal life. Not exactly the kind of talk these visitors were expecting. Not the kind of talk we like to hear either. Which is why we need to keep asking ourselves, what is it that I want out of Jesus? The Christian life is one of sacrifice and service. We all have to give up things we want in order to help others out and for the common good. It is not easy to do. "Whoever serves me must follow me and where I am, there also will my servant be." I hope that is true and everywhere we go; we remember to be a servant of Jesus.

Several people have mentioned issues with the sound system. We are trying to track down the source of where the radio station interference is coming from. Sometimes, (but not always) you can hear what sounds like a talk radio station coming faintly from the speakers over the altar. As luck would have it, it never happens when the technicians are here. Others have mentioned difficulty hearing at times. Some of that may depend on where one sits in a crowded church. We have had two separate sound engineering companies out and both said the same thing. The back corners and sides of the church that are under the lower ceiling are acoustical drop off zones. The lower ceiling causes sound waves to drop dramatically in those areas. Even people with normal hearing may struggle when the church is crowded or when there is background noise from RE children or from the lobby if seated in those areas. There is nothing that can be done about that. Both companies advised against installing additional speakers in those areas because of the high potential for feedback. The optimal place for best hearing is towards the center of the church under the high ceiling. If you do have hearing loss, it is possible to connect hearing aids or Bluetooth devices to the system to stream the audio. Please contact the parish business manager, John Hawkins, for assistance with that. His contact information is on the bulletin cover.

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

Fr. Jeff

Readings for the week of March 17, 2024

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a)/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56

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.

MINISTRY TEAM



sonar

katie prejean mcgrady

oscar rivera

bishop ronald hicks

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!

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 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!

Contact Stephanie Rawls for questions at 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 29th 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 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

"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 . . .

"Intro to St. Theresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross"

by Fr. Jack Welch, O.Carm. **Tuesday, March 19 at 7 pm**

Cathy's Corner—The Promise Made to Abraham

Belief and trust. That is the definition of faith. First belief, the opening of the mind to something that cannot be seen by the eye but only felt by the heart, a presence greater than anything the most brilliant of minds can imagine. Then trust. Trust that this omnipotent and omnipresent entity is in and of itself the deepest love that can exist, a love which intends only what is best and most life-giving. No matter what that love asks of us.

Abraham believed in this God, this unknown deity that was not the god of his ancestors, and he trusted enough to leave his home and the only life he had ever known to journey to a strange new land. Because of his faith, his descendant David received the promise that his heir would be the son of God whose kingdom would endure forever.

Joseph believed the angel of the Lord when he was told that Mary had conceived her child through the Holy Spirit, even though that contradicted everything he knew to be true in his life, and he trusted enough to take Mary into his home as his wife. Because of his faith, the son of God came into this world protected and mentored by the heir of the house of David, and his kingdom will endure forever.

Belief and trust. The promise that was made to Abraham because of his faith is the same promise made to us as his descendants if we have that same faith. That kingdom established by the Lord is the same kingdom that is all around us if only we believe, if only we trust, even when our journey brings us to a world far different from anything we have ever known or wished to have.

Loss of a loved one. Diagnosis of disease. Financial struggles. Climate change. Gun violence. Atrocities of war. So much that challenges our faith. So much that is asked of us. **Belief and trust.** Throughout it all let us hold on to God's promise. The deepest love we can ever imagine does exist. We call that love God and that love calls us God's own. *1 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a*



RE News...

Family Mass-Sunday, March 17 at 10:00

Spring/Easter Break

No RE Sunday or Monday, March 24-25

No RE Sunday, March 31 or Monday, April 1

First Communion Info

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

Questions of the Week

Question for Children: Name one thing you can do or stop doing that will help you have a better friendship with Jesus.

Question for Youth & Adults: Sometimes one thing needs to die in order for something new to be born. Name one area in your life that you need to let go of, to die to, in order to rise with new life.

Questions of the Week

Question for Children: Name one thing you can do or stop doing that will help you have a better friendship with Jesus.

Question for Youth & Adults: Sometimes one thing needs to die in order for something new to be born. Name one area in your life that you need to let go of, to die to, in order to rise with new life.



Caring for Creation-Week 5-Reducing Plastic Consumption

DID YOU KNOW:

Most plastic we use is not recycled even if we think it is. About 80% of all plastics end up in landfills each year because not all plastics can be recycled the same way. "The volume of plastic production has increased nearly non-stop for the last half-century. As this unsustainable trend continues, our planet is beginning to reach the tipping point. We must find means of mitigating plastic production and innovate sustainable solutions to save our oceans and restore our Earth." (<https://www.earthday.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-Plastic-Pollution-Primer-and-Action-Toolkit.pdf>)

Plastic pollution is disproportionately evident in marine life and in our oceans. Plastic never fully degrades; over time it breaks into smaller and smaller pieces. Eventually it becomes small enough to enter the bloodstream of marine organisms, which will be eaten by fish, which are often caught for human consumption, which are then passed on to whichever human consumes it.

BE AWARE!

Take reusable bags to the grocery store. Look at laundry sheets rather than liquid detergent that comes in plastic jugs. Brands like *Tru Earth* (one I use) offer scented and non-scented sheets, are made in North America, and come in a recyclable cardstock container. Do not use plastic water bottles, even if they are reusable. Try using glass or metal containers.

PRAY!

Heavenly Father, we pray for opportunities to talk about the climate crisis and its solutions with friends and family. May your Holy Spirit fill us with boldness and wisdom to communicate effectively, and so prompt others to get involved in efforts to tackle climate change. Amen

DONATE!

Do an assessment of all the plastic containers you use at home. This may include take-out containers and water bottles. Assign a dollar amount to each item. Tally up what you use and then drop the money in the water jug on the table in back of church for the Food Pantry.

St, Vincent DePaul Truck will
be here
April 13th and 14th before and
after all the Masses.

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 16, 2024

4:30PM Scott Corwin (Family)
Lucia & Costantino Libo-On (Kowalski Family)
Rodrigo & Angeles Delfinado (Kowalski Family)

Sunday, March 17, 2024

8:15AM Don Brescia (Family)
Margaret, Sergio & Ann Vatta (Nick Rocco)
10:00AM Leon Sy (Family)

Fortunato Ravina (Pax & Rose Ravina)
Noon Laura Sunderhaus (Elaine Mitchener)

Monday, March 18, 2024

9:00AM Evelyn Walega (Frank & Fran Modelski)
Margaret Mary Munin (Eugene Munin)

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

9:00AM Ralph Moore (Germaine)
George (Family)
Nick Orlando-4th anniv (Family)
Marlene, Jeff, Phillip Carioto (Sheri)
Maria Manaligod (Friends)
Joseph Wojcik (Family)

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

9:00AM Jim Nowak (Family)
Kyle Aguila-living (Friend)
Simone & Reynaldo-living (Family)
Souls in Purgatory (Friends)

Thursday, March 21, 2024

9:00AM Michele Neill (Family)
Edward Staniszewski (Frank & Fran Modelski)

Friday, March 22, 2024

9:00AM Tom Farrell (Nancy Smyth)
Capt Peter John Cross (Family)
Martin Koranda (Family)

Saturday, March 23, 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