

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

November 23, 2025 † Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

He said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."
- Lk 23:42-43

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

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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

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.

MARRIAGES: Plans should be made at least six months in advance of a tentative wedding date to fulfill Diocesan guidelines. To schedule a date, call the parish office for an appointment with a priest.

BAPTISMS: Are held the first and third Sunday of each month at 1:30PM. Parents and godparents are requested to attend a catechesis class. Call the parish office for arrangements.

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

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*From the
Pastor*



This weekend we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. This day marks the last Sunday in Ordinary Time and the concluding week of the Church's liturgical year. It challenges us to ask if Christ is truly the king of our life? That is a difficult question to ponder. We all like to think that we are the one who is control of our life. It is very humbling to accept the fact that we are not the boss after all. If there are areas of our life which we are not ready to turn over the Christ, the upcoming season of Advent provides a chance for us to reflect and prepare for the

coming of Christ in a more special way into our hearts. So, is Christ really the king of your life? As we enter into a new church year, just like when entering into a new calendar year, it's time to make new year resolutions. Perhaps we can all think of something to do this new year to improve our spiritual life and relationship with Jesus Christ. Maybe you can spend a few more minutes in prayer or reading our bible? Maybe I will finally volunteer to be a lector, usher or Eucharistic minister? Maybe I can serve as catechist? We can all do something. Maybe you can even make a new disciple? I still encourage everyone to read Bishop Hicks' pastoral letter "Make." We need to continually seek opportunities to bring new people to Christ. We are exploring what we as a parish community can do to reach out, but each individual needs to as well. I challenge everyone to ask some to come to mass during the Advent and Christmas season. It could be a family member who hasn't been to church in a while or a friend, neighbor or co-worker. Take the risk of sharing your faith and maybe bring a person to know the Lord. We have to continue to make disciples. Bishop Hicks continually uses the word "make" to remind us that becoming a disciple doesn't happen by osmosis, it takes effort. Through cooperating with the Holy Spirit, we make disciples. Bring someone to Christ in this new church year.

Also, this week we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Although it is a secular holiday, it has significant religious themes for us. Are we thankful enough for all the blessing that Christ has bestowed upon us? Do we take the time the express that thanks to the people who are most important to us and to all who help us in any way? I hope that everyone has a wonderful day to gather with family and friends and truly rejoice in all your blessings. Most importantly, to give thanks to God for it is from Him that all blessing flow. As a parish community, I hope that all of us give thanks for the blessing that Our Lady of Mount Carmel is to each of us. I want to wish all of you and your loved ones a happy Thanksgiving Day. Don't eat too much!

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

Fr. Jeff

Readings for the week of November 23, 2025

Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4

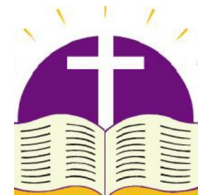
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74/Lk 21:20-28

Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36



OLMC High School Youth Group

December 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

December

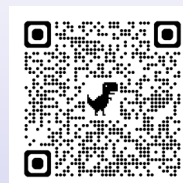
14th: Youth Group Christmas Party
High Schoolers please join us at our annual Christmas Party. Bring a \$5 or less white elephant gift.

19th : Parent Night Out- Service Opportunity:
In need of service hours or a Confirmation Service Opportunity? We are in need of help from 4:30 – 8:30 pm on 12/19. Sign up to help our Youth Group make this night a success!



Upcoming Retreats

January 10, 2026: Recharge Retreat



Tickets are limited to this Teen Diocesan event. Please RSVP by Dec 14th.

OLMC YOUTH GROUP *Parents Night Out*

Looking to finish up your Christmas shopping or just need a some time to catch up?

Let our Youth Group help you out on

Friday, December 19th!

Drop off your children aged 3 – 11 at OLMC for some

Christmas fun!

Drop off between 5:15 – 5:30

Pick up by 8:00 pm

Hot Cocoa & Pizza

"King of Kings" Movie (starting at 6:15)

Games

Christmas Crafts



RSVP Here!





New Year's Day Parish Brunch

To celebrate 2026, a parish brunch will be held at Alpine Banquets on January 1 after the 10 a.m. Mass. It begins at 11:30 and continues until 3:30. Enjoy breakfast potatoes, scrambled eggs, crispy bacon, suage links, toast, mini pancakes with maple syrup, assorted fresh fruit and cheese crepes. There will be coffee, tea and water stations, along with apple and orange juice. There will also be a mimosa bar. There will be more information in the coming weeks. Please plan on celebrating a new year with fellow parishioners, family and friends! Please contact Fr. Rob if you can volunteer with ticket sales.

Calling All OLMC Cursillistas!

"Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring a friend to Christ."

Are you a Cursillista at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel?

We're updating our parish Cursillo contact list and want to make sure you're included!

If you've made a Cursillo weekend and are part of OLMC, please reach out to your parish coordinator:

Lori Prado

Women's 134th Cursillo – Diocese of Joliet

lori.prado@ourladyofmtcarmel.org

De Colores!





RE News...

We will be celebrating those who have gone before us this month. Please bring a picture of your deceased loved ones to add to our table on the upper deck. We will remember them in prayer through the month of November.

Reminder: there is no RE November 24-30 for Thanksgiving break.

Service Opportunities

Help us fill the pantry after Thanksgiving! Our Family Service Day is on Saturday, December 6 and we will be collecting food from our neighbors, separating the donations, and learning about the Food Pantry. Pick up information packets in the RE office. Hand out the flyers to your neighbors and pick up the food between 10:00-11:00 on Saturday, December 6. Bring any donations back to church. We will then have a simple lunch. Call the RE office for more info.

Our service opportunity for December is called "Just Like Me" and we are asking that your child purchase a toy they like to donate to a child just like them. We are asking for small items, but it should be something your child would like to receive. Take a card from our "Just Like Me Tree" and have your child decorate the card, write a small note, and add his or her first name only to the card. Then return the gift unwrapped to the tree. We will be donating the items to the Darien Lion's Club toy drive. Contact the RE office for more information.

Catechetical Opportunities

PGC-All volunteers who have work with children or vulnerable adults must be compliant with the Diocesan Safe Environment policy. Please check your VIRTUS account to make sure your training is up to date. Please contact Sherry Rochford with any questions.

Questions of the Week

Question for Children:

Jesus is always kind to those who love him. How do you show your love for Jesus?

Question for Youth:

This week we celebrate Christ the King. In the best sense of the word, a King is some one who cares for the people under his care, and also has authority over them. When have you felt Jesus' care for you? How do you allow Jesus to have authority over you?

Question for Adults:

As you think about Jesus on the cross, having compassion on the "good thief," what lesson do you draw from it for your own life?

Activities of the Week

We are children of God. If the Lord our God is King, and we are God's children, then we must belong to a royal family. Make a crown out of construction paper for your table centerpiece. Every time a family member acts in a Christian way, have that person color a jewel on the crown. Hopefully by the end of the week, the crown will be filled with jewels of faith.

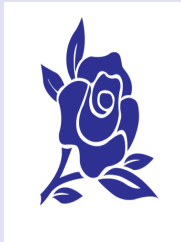
Pray the Lord's Prayer together as a family. Place emphasis on the words "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Remind your family to be aware of God's Reign in the world this week.

Christmas Eve Children's Mass:

Our next practices will be **Mondays, December 1, 8, & 15 at 6:00**. We will finish by 6:45 and we will talk about the final practice/rehearsal date. December 8 is a Holy Day of Opportunity so please stay for Mass at 7:00.

The Darien Woman's Club will hold the Annual Holiday Soap Collection from November 28 to December 18. Soap products (hand soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, laundry detergent, dishwashing detergent, etc.) can be dropped off in bins at the following locations:

Indian Prairie Public Library,
Darien Park District, Mark De Lay School,
Concord Elementary School, and Cass Jr. High. This year we are also collecting some paper products such as paper towels and bath tissue. All donated products will be given to local charities including three food pantries and the Family Shelter.



The Knights of Columbus Council #3738 will be conducting their annual "Keep Christ in Christmas" ornament sale after all masses on the weekend of November 29th & 30th. We are requesting a donation of \$5/ornament, or three for \$10. We look forward to, and very much appreciate, your continued support. Merry Christmas to all.

Saturday, November 22, 4:30PM

Lauretta McCue (McMahon Family)

Arlene Brescia (Donatello Family)

Sunday, November 23

8:15AM Theresa Aroune (Family)

Arlene Brescia (Family)

10:00AM Joan Mueller (Family)

John & Donna Geraghty (Mike & Colleen Lowery)

Noon Rosie Dulay (Family)

Sorero Quilang (Family)

Monday, November 24, 9:00AM

Edmund Majewski (Donatello Family)

Fortunata Quilang (Family)

Eddie Dulay (Family)

Tuesday, November 25, 9:00AM

Russell Hancock Sr. —5th anniv (Family)

Wednesday, November 26, 9:00AM

Michael Napoli (Family)

Kathy Gearharat (Sheri)

Mary L. Stanton (Stanton Family)

Thursday, November 27, 9:00AM

Thanksgiving—Intentions for all parishioners

Friday, November 28, 9:00AM

Bart Ribando (Niece)

Saturday, November 29, 9:00AM

John Boyle (Family)

Eleonora & Wladyslaw Niziolek (Family)



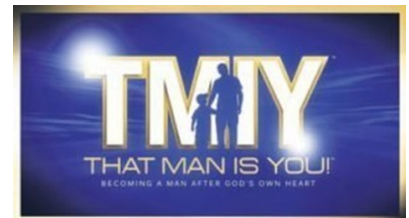
That Man Is You! – Now Meeting Saturday Mornings

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