

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

November 30, 2025 † First Sunday of Advent



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"So too, you also must
be prepared, for at an
hour you do not
expect, the Son of
Man will come."
- Mt 24:44

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

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

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*From the
Pastor*



We have entered the sacred season of Advent. We will journey together during the next four weeks through this time of preparing our hearts for the coming of the Lord. This time of the year can be a mixed bag for us. The weather has changed, and winter is certainly upon us. It is cold and snow has begun to fall. The days are short, and night comes early. While the holidays are filled with great joy, it is also a time of stress. We get busy with decorating, shopping and often attending many holiday gatherings. We have to clean the house and cook and host the family. We can get so busy and stressed during this time of year that we forget what this season is all

about. It is preparing our hearts to receive Christ once again. It is time for us to ponder Christ's return to this world at some point in time. While we may feel that darkness closing in on us, we take time this season to light candles. The first candle of the wreath is lit this weekend, and we will light more candles in the weeks ahead. The light of the flame will dispel any darkness we may be experiencing at this time. We know what lies ahead, the coming of Christ and that is where our hope is found. Today's Gospel from Matthew reminds of us what this season of Advent is supposed to be about. It is a time of preparing and changing our hearts. We do not know the time when the thief is coming, so to be prepared. That starts now. It is through our faithful following of Jesus Christ, our prayer, our sharing in the Sacraments and in our witness that we will be prepared. Let's use this Advent to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ and not get caught up in the business of this time.

There are many activities during this time to help us on the way. On Sunday, December 7 from 1 – 3:30pm, Fr. Rob will be offering a reflection titled "Advent: A time of waiting with Mary." This will be great opportunity for one to enter more into Advent preparations. Monday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mass will be 9 am and 7pm on Monday. There is no vigil mass before because it falls on a Sunday. The children are hard at work preparing for the Christmas eve liturgy. On Thursday, December 18 at 7pm, we will host the Simbang Gabi mass and celebration. This is a wonderful celebration for our Filipino community, and all are welcome to the joyful liturgy.

I hope everyone had a joyful Thanksgiving Day. It was a chance to gather with family and be grateful for God's blessings. I truly want to thank all of the OLMC community for your continued support of the holiday food drive. It was another successful event and just one more sign of all that our parish does for the local community. We have much to be thankful for. A special shout out goes to Paul Gangi and his crew of volunteers who did all the hard work. Nothing gets done without wonderful parishioners.

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

Fr. Jeff

Readings for the week of November 30, 2025

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

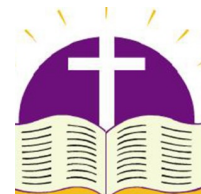
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8



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

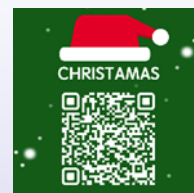
December

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!



20th : Christmas Food Drive:
In need of service hours or a Confirmation Service Opportunity? We are in need of help from 10:45- 11:30. Sign up to help our Service Ministry!



Upcoming Retreats

January 10, 2026: Recharge Retreat



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

PANCAKES
With Santa
Hosted by the Knights of Columbus, St. John Council #3738

Sunday, December 7 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Knights of Columbus, 25 North Cass Ave, Westmont
Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, Children (5-12) \$5, 4 and under Free

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



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- 7:00 Monday Night Session-there will be no regular RE on December 8. We are asking families to attend the Mass for the Immaculate Conception. Please join us for this Holy Day of opportunity!

Upcoming Dates

Christmas Eve Children's Mass Practices:

Our next practice will be **Monday, December 1 at 6:00**. This practice is for Readers and Choir members only.

Other practice times:

Monday, December 8 at 6:00 for readers and choir. Gift bearers will join at 6:30.

Wednesday, December 18:

-Readers, Choir Members at 6:00-7:00

Gift bearers, altar servers, entrance procession at 6:30.

Dress rehearsal for all participants-Saturday, December 21 at 1:00. Please have your children wear the shoes they will wear for Christmas Eve Mass.

Family Service Day:

Saturday, December 6 10:00

We are going to fill the Pantry! We are collecting food and paper supplies from your neighbors. Pick up your packet now and deliver the flyers to your neighbors by Monday, December 1. You will then pick up the food they leave on Saturday morning and bring it to Church so we can go through the items for the Food Pantry. Call Sherry Rochford for more info.

The Advent Conspiracy:

It is estimated that over one trillion dollars is spent globally for Christmas. Would you like to make Christmas more meaningful for your family? We will be offering a look at a 4-tiered approach to building a better Christmas by:

- Worshipping Fully
- Spending Less
- Giving More
- Loving All

Join us on the upper deck during all RE Sessions on December 1, 7-8, & 14-15. Call the RE office for more info.

Questions of the Week:

Question for Children: What can you do to be ready for God to come into your heart and your life?

Question for Youth: The Gospel tells us we don't know when the Son of Man will return. If he were to arrive today, would you be ready for him? What is one thing you can do during Advent to prepare for his coming?

Question for Adults: As you prepare to re-welcome Christ into your heart while you prepare for Christmas, what does Isaiah call you to do? What does Isaiah call us as a people to do?

Activities of the Week

As a family buy or create an Advent wreath. (You can create one using a foam ring and evergreen branches. Carve holes in the foam to fit four candles.) As you create or assemble it together, discuss the symbolism of the Advent wreath:

The circle reminds us of God's everlasting presence among us.

The green of the evergreen symbolizes God's promise of eternal life.

The four candles remind us of the weeks of preparation for the coming of Jesus.

The pink of the third candle is a sign of joy. It reminds us of the closeness of the Lord's coming

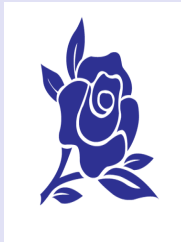
As a family, plan what you will do to be ready for the coming of Jesus. Ask each person to answer this question: "If we knew that Jesus was coming to our house to stay a few days, what would we do to get ready for him?"

Parent's Notes

It's Advent time! Your children will be learning all about the time of waiting. We ask that you celebrate Advent by celebrating some of the various feast days we celebrate in advent. Look up St. Nicholas, St. Lucy, Our Lady of Guadalupe as well as many others. See handout on the table on the upper deck for more ideas. Let's celebrate and enjoy the whole season!

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.



Saturday, November 29, 4:30PM

Joseph McCue (McMahon Family)
Tim Jakaitis (Tony & Melanie Ruta)

Sunday, November 30

8:15AM Parishioners of OLMC

10:00AM Charmaine Martin (Family)

Connie Yeagle (Vieni Family)

Jim Ruggiero (Mazzolini Family)

John Altobelli (Family)

Matthew Loth (Family)

Noon Parishioners of OLMC

Monday, December 1, 9:00AM

Bernhard Karacsonyi (Steve & Joyce Fedeczko)

Tuesday, December 2, 9:00AM

Rose Cesna (Daughter)

Danny Benish (Family)

Wednesday, December 3, 9:00AM

Parishioners of OLMC

Thursday, December 4, 9:00AM

Benedicto Tutor (Andrea Tutor)

Bill Goss-5th anniv (Wife)

Friday, December 5, 9:00AM

Joe Ladowski-living (Sister)

Saturday, December 6, 9:00AM

Living & Dec'd Members Stauder Family

Frances Geraldine (Franczyk Family)

Carl Tork (Mazzolini Family)



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.

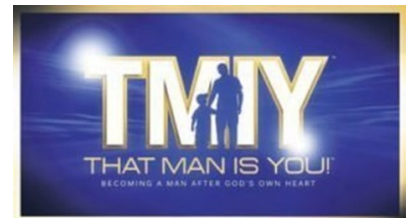
That Man Is You! – Now Meeting Saturday Mornings

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