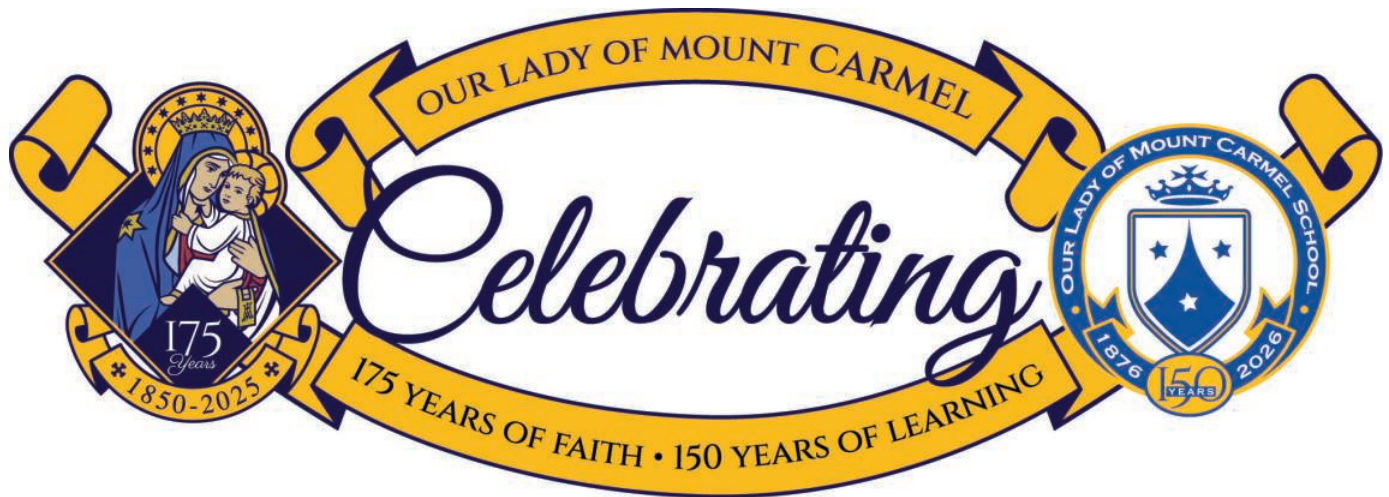




Counterintuitive as it seems, Christian martyrs are an essential part of the Christmas celebration.

On the very first day after Christmas we celebrate the Feast of Stephen, the first Martyr. On December 28th we honor The Holy Innocents – those babies who were sacrificed for the sake of the little Lord Jesus. And on December 29th we remember Saint Thomas Becket, the British bishop who was murdered in his own cathedral in 1170.

I take consolation from *all* the martyrs who faced death in the midst of situations that offered little hope. Saint Charles Lwanga was executed for refusing the sexual advances of the king of Uganda; Saint Maximillian Kolbe was killed when it seemed as if German Fascism was going to triumph over Christianity.

These witnesses model for us how to stay faithful when life seems to be getting worse.

Such was the case for two people we encounter in our readings this weekend: Isaiah the Prophet and John the Baptist. Together they teach us how to wait with faith and courage even when the winds of history are thrashing our lives and threatening to collapse everything around us.

Isaiah was living during a terrible time. The Assyrian empire was systematically destroying the country and Israel itself was rife with corruption. This led to God's people being taken into exile in Assyria. The prophet responded with these



words: *Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing ... sorrow and mourning will flee.*

The Baptist's personal circumstances weren't any better, imprisoned as he was for upholding the dignity of marriage. But as he suffered in the darkness of Herod's dungeon he reached out to Jesus for consolation.

Our own personal situations (not to mention social and geopolitical events) may seem to indicate inevitable disaster. But take heart for Christ has overcome the world (see *John 16:33*). This is the message of our readings.

Friends, our problems are temporary but Jesus has an eternal answer. So let us rejoice knowing that we will one day stand in God's presence forever.

God bless you,

Father Matthew Guckin

Home, Prayer & Worship

Find Us. Meet Us. Join Us.

Rev. Matthew W. Guckin, Pastor
Rev. Msgr. Charles H. Hagan, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Shane Flanagan, Parochial Vicar
Deacon William J. Barrow, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Charles D. Dern, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Lyle Benner, General Manager
Shelly O'Hara-Tapp, Chair & Director of Liturgical Music
Dawn Parker, School Principal
Julianne Donahue, Director of Religious Education
Dawn Solly, Youth Minister
Christine Weyer, Director of Parish Discipleship
Mary Eileen Baltes, Director of Parish Engagement

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Monday through Thursday
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Music Ministry..... (215) 348-4190
 Youth Ministry..... (215) 345-7089
 OLMC School (215) 348-5907
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Children's Liturgy

Sundays • 9 AM Mass
 Preschool (Age 4) - 5th Grade
 Teen & adult volunteers needed.
 Call (215) 348-4190 to volunteer.



Kindly Note: Children's Liturgy
will not meet on Sunday, December 28.

Holiday Bulletin Submissions Deadlines

December 28 • Submit by December 12
January 4 • Submit by December 22
January 11 • Submit by December 31



bulletin@ourladymtcarmel.org

Prayer & Worship

Weekly Mass Schedule & Intentions

Altar Candles Intention for this Week
Pasquale Re

Sanctuary Lamp Intention for this Week
Mary Lee Corr

The Marian Candle Intention for this Week
Sara Carpenter

Sat 12/13	5 PM Vigil 🎵	John Munley
Third Sunday of Advent 12/14	7:00 AM	Eileen V. Silk
	9:00 AM ▶▶	Cami Polgardy
	10:30 AM 🖐️	Deacon Peter Burghart & Margaret Burghart
	12 Noon	Jack Eckenrode
	▲ = Capital Improvements	
Mon 12/15	8:00 AM	Rosemary Notwick
	12 Noon	Diane Arena
Tues 12/16	8:00 AM	John J. Perrotta
	12 Noon	Pat Friel
Wed 12/17	8:00 AM	Phyllis Mandaglio
	12 Noon	Souls in Purgatory
Thurs 12/18	8:00 AM	Parishioners of OLMC
	12 Noon	John Perrotta
Fri 12/19	8:00 AM	Jeanne & John Beckno
	12 Noon	The OLMC Memorial Soc.
Sat 12/20	5 PM Vigil 🎵	Joyce Hanson
Fourth Sunday of Advent 12/21	7:00 AM	Eileen P. Golden
	9:00 AM ▶▶	Edward "Ted" Atkinson
	10:30 AM 🖐️	Liana Hanson
	12 Noon	Julie Kelemen

🎵 = Choir Singing ▶▶ = LiveStreamed
▲ = Special Collection 🖐️ = ASL Interpreted
♥ = Sensory Friendly

Daily Mass Schedule During Advent Through Tuesday, December 23

Weekly Mass Schedule LiveStreamed ▶▶

Sunday 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM ▶▶, 10:30 AM & 12:00 Noon

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM & 12 Noon

Saturday 5:00 PM Vigil

December 14 (Red Hymnal #1007)

Reading I: Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10

Resp. Psalm Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10.

Reading II: James 5: 7-10

The Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11



December 21 (Red Hymnal #1010)

Reading I: Isaiah 7: 10-14

Resp. Psalm Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6.

Reading II: Romans 1: 1-7

The Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24



Sensory Friendly Mass

Come to Me

~Matthew 19:14



Wednesday, December 24 • Christmas Eve • 6 PM

Sunday, December 28 • 4th Sunday of Month • 12 Noon

The Parish will celebrate two Sensory Friendly Masses this month: Christmas Eve (December 24) at 6 PM and Sunday, December 28 at 12 Noon.

Sensory Friendly Masses at OLMC are celebrated with lower lighting, softer volume, shorter homilies, limited physical interaction and no music (with the exception of a soft underplay of recorded music played during the distribution of Communion).

Please be considerate of this as we do our best to reach out to everyone in our parish family, so that all can hear the voice of God which guides, purifies, strengthens, forgives, feeds, comforts, enriches, liberates, heals and saves.

Advent

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Confessions



Saturdays
December 13 & 20
3:45 PM - 4:45 PM



Wednesday
December 17
6 PM - 8 PM

Saturday December 20 is the last opportunity
for the Sacrament of Reconciliation before
Christmas. There are no Wednesday
Confessions on December 24 or 31.
Wednesday Confessions will resume on
Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Confessions at Local Parishes

Sacrament of Reconciliation at Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturdays 4:30 PM
Sunday Mornings
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa

Monday - Saturday
11:00 AM - 11:45 AM
Sunday 8:00 - 9:30 AM,
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM,
2:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Rectory Hours

Christmas

Rectory is closed on
Wednesday, December 24
Thursday, December 25 & Friday, December 26

New Year's

Rectory is closed Wednesday, December 31 &
Thursday, January 1

Open on Friday, January 2 • Regular Hours

Christmas

Our Lady of Mount Carmel



Christmas Eve Masses Wednesday, December 24

4 PM 🎵
6 PM

6 PM Sensory Friendly Mass
Interpreted in ASL
No Music.

8 PM 🎵
10 PM 🎵

10 PM Choir Sings Carols
Starting at 9:30 PM

Christmas Day Masses Thursday, December 25

Not the Sunday Mass Schedule

8 AM 🎵
8 AM Ensemble

10 AM 🎵
12 PM 🎵

🎵 *Music at All Masses with the Exception of the
6 PM Sensory Mass on Christmas Eve*

New Year's Day The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Thursday, January 1, 2026

8 AM • 12 PM

Note: No Vigil Mass on December 31.



Prayer

Sick & Homebound In Our Prayers

Karen Fruman

Quinn Balceniuk	<i>Maureen Krystkiewicz</i>
Philip Baldwin	Bernard Krasnisky
JoAnn Bennett	Joan Krasnisky
Paul Benyovszky	<i>Deborah Kulp-Hocker</i>
<i>Stephanie Boccuzzi</i>	Noah Langan
Robert Borrini	Catherine Latessa
Maripily Braffa	Laurie Lerner
Marie Brescia	James Leung
Alice Bromiley	Vicky Longhofer
Mary Buckley	Clare Lucente
<i>Nancy Buckman Paravecchia</i>	Elaine Lund
Ryan Burke	Monica Maeyer
Pamela Butkus	Amy Mattle
Keith Cole	<i>Michael McConaghy</i>
Tara Conway	Mary McManemy
Rick Dalton	Benny Morrissey
Joy Davis	Eleanor Noll
Ronan DeStefano	Bonnie Olliver
Ron Dolan	Kathleen Parker
Andrew Donohue	Jack Pfeifer
Dorothy Fahie	Marilyn Richards
Angelina Fagnoli	John Roche
Scarlett Fehl	Bryan Rosica
Joseph Fellona	Brian Sacco
Barbara Finn	Andrew Schmidt
<i>Mr. & Mrs. J. Roland Fernandez</i>	<i>The Schramek Family</i>
<i>The Fruman Family</i>	Bob Solly
Anna Gallicchio	Joseph Stanley
<i>Christopher Gannon</i>	Pat Stoerrle
Edwina Gill	<i>Bernadette Strzelecki</i>
Mary Graeff	James Sullivan
<i>Rev. Msgr. Charles H. Hagan</i>	Margaret Talamo
R. J. Hammel	Joe Tyrone
Lisa Hall	Lucas Victor
Charles Heiber	Jeanne Wallace
Joe Horan	Bill Walsh
Tommy Humeston	Susan Ward
Benjamin Keller	<i>Connie Wrzesniewski</i>
Kaitlyn Kelly	Walter Zangerle
Patrick Kenney	Alexa Zoto
Butch Kilda	

Please Pray for Our Troops

Andrew Bailey
Maggie Borek
Joshua Bozarth
Bradley Cannon
Matthew R. Conway
Cecilia A. Davies
Christopher Davies
Ian Donaher
Jason Douple
Daniel T. Ely
Connor Ferzetti
Lauren Griffith
Joseph Guckavan, III
Brandon Horak
Sydney Ives
Sean Lahetta
Ethan Malsom
Adam Mandzy
Christian Mandzy
Colin Michael McCormack
Conor McFadden
Jeff McGeary
Zachary Melsheimer
Giovanni Morales
Nash Nickerson
Lucas Paternoster
Damian Patrowich
Nicholas Pinnelli
Brendan Ring
Michael Warren Sabia
Samuel Snyder
Ethan Swieringa
Christopher Szekely
Isaiah Thomas
John F. Thompson
Michael A. Tuosto
Mary Kate Ulasewicz
Jake VanAken
Logan Van Nostrand
Zachary Venziale
Charles J. Weyer
Ryan J. Whitney
Jeffrey Woosnam
Cole Young



Contact
Kathleen Boucher at
kathleenboucher15@gmail.com

Please Remember All the Faithful Departed

Carolyn Cusato
Janice Pendziwater

Helen I. Gisoldi
Joseph M. Stark



May they Rest in Peace.

Tuesday Night Scriptural Rosary 7:00 PM



*Before coming for the first time, email
Marianne for location information.*

**tuesdaynightrosary@
ourladymtcarmel.org**

Join Us in Reciting a Decade of the Rosary

10 Minutes before
weekend Masses

LegionofMary
@ourladymtcarmel.org

Prayer Chain

Anyone in need of spiritual
support may place their
requests on the prayer chain
by emailing Carol at:

prayerchain@ourladymtcarmel.org

Men's Scripture Study

Wednesdays • 7 AM - 8 AM
St. Mary's Hall

mensscripture
@ourladymtcarmel.org

Prayer



Eucharistic Adoration

Mondays after the

8:00 AM Mass

Reposition at 3:00 PM

Divine Mercy Chaplet
Immediately Following

adoration@ourladymtcarmel.org

Note: There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Monday, December 22

A.C.T.S.4 Adoration
(Adults, Children, Teens, Sanctified
4th Wednesday Adoration)



"[The Church] was of one heart and mind" ~Acts 4:32

**Resumes January 28
6 - 6:45 PM**

All are invited to praise Him

Monthly Adoration will be held during
regularly scheduled Wednesday
Confessions



MOTHER OF SORROWS AND HOPE

A BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY FOR MOTHERS
WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED THE RECENT
LOSS OF A CHILD

**NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 7:00 PM**

PLEASE CALL **215-348-4190** FOR MEETING DETAILS.

formed™



On this Gaudete Sunday we reflect on joy – the joy that Christ wants us all to experience. Take time this week to listen as Chris Stefanik coaches us in practical ways to experience joy. At this busiest time in the Christmas season, his helpful tips are especially needed.



bit.ly/3KlhGGJ

Christian Formation

Pray with the Saints of St. Mary's Cemetery Columbarium

St. Francis of Assisi Wall

Going down the center of the Columbarium are three Walls. These walls have the distinction of facing in two different directions. East and West. St. Francis sees the sun rise and the sunset every day. This is a perfect spot for the Patron saint of the environment and animals.



Born in Assisi, Italy, Francesco became a knight and went to war before hearing a call from God, "Francis, repair my house." Francis began a life of poverty, renouncing worldly goods, and going among the people to preach Christ's message. Francis was a born leader and attracted many followers. Francis believed that nature was a mirror of God and that all creatures were his "brothers and sisters." He also restored churches and his way of life inspired other men. From this the First Order of Franciscans was founded. Francesco dedicated the rest of his life helping the poor and promoting harmony among all God's creatures.



"For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen."

~St. Francis of Assisi

*Find the prayer video series
in this week's Flocknote.*

Peace and Justice Ministry Meeting

Join us on **Monday, January 5**
from 6:30 - 7:30 PM • St. Mary's Hall

Jesus and Catholic social teaching tell us to love all of our neighbors including immigrants. Join our discussion with local experts on how we can better serve and welcome our neighborhood immigrant community.

All are welcome!

Questions? Contact us at:
peacejustice@ourladymtcarmel.org

OLMC School

Dear Friends:

Our school is now in its second year of implementing Friendzy, a biblically based social-emotional learning program that has become an integral part of our community. Friendzy is built around five core competencies—self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, social awareness, and relationship skills—all of which help our students grow not only academically, but also emotionally and spiritually. Every unit is anchored in Scripture and offers engaging, age-appropriate lessons that reinforce these skills in meaningful and practical ways.



One of the highlights of Friendzy is our monthly buddy activities, in which our older students partner with the younger students for a theme-based project. For example, in October our students paired up to create identity shields which were then hung throughout the school building. These activities build confidence, empathy, and friendship across grade levels, and

they have quickly become a beloved school tradition. Whether students are working together on a craft, sharing a reflection, or participating in a collaborative challenge, they are living out what it means to support one another in faith and community.

At the start of this school year, students completed surveys to assess their social-emotional competencies and our overall school culture, giving us valuable insight into how we can continue to support their growth. Each month's theme builds on the last: in October, we reflected on how we are *Better Together*; in November, students embraced the message *I Can Do It*; and this month, we focus on the beautiful truth *I Am Known* based on Psalm 139:1 "You have searched me, Lord, and you know me."

We are grateful for the partnership of our parish community as we help our students become confident, compassionate, and faith-filled young people.

God bless,

Dawn Parker



Stewardship



parishgiving.org

Special Collections ▲

December 14

Capital Improvements

January 1

Solemnity of Mary

The Next St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive is This Weekend December 13 & 14.

The following items are needed:
Paper Towels • Tissues • Toilet Paper
Applesauce • Water • Shampoo

Any nonperishable items are welcome.



Remember to Save Your Altomonte's & McCaffrey's Simply Fresh Receipts

Now collecting receipts for October, November & December. (Receipts expire after 3 months).

Please place receipts in the baskets by the Church doors.

Get involved with OLMC ROCKs
ROCKs stands for Raising Our Catholic Kids

We welcome families with children ages newborn - 8th grade

Join ROCKs for monthly play dates
 Meet in the rectory lounge

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 • 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Please refer to our Facebook page or email us at rock@ourladymtcarmel.org



Discipleship/Get Involved



YOUTH MINISTRY

DECEMBER EVENTS

Saturday, December 13
Helping "Least of Our Brothers"
Homeless Outreach

Sunday, December 14
Christmas Party and Service

Thursday, December 18
Caroling in Front of OLMC Church for
Wesley & Pine Run Residents/Buses

Sunday, December 21
Making Luminaries to be Used for the
Christmas Reveal

Monday, December 22
Serving Hot Chocolate and Candy Canes
after the Christmas Reveal

Contact Dawn Solly
youthministry@ourladymtcarmel.org

Discipleship/Get Involved



OLMC Prison Ministry

Inspired by the work
of the late Fr. Davids



"Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10

In addition to offering religious services, the OLMC Prison Ministry serves the Bucks County jail through a one-on-one mentoring program. Our mentors from OLMC and other churches meet selected people weekly both in the jail and after release to:

- Assist them in developing, prioritizing, and achieving their personal goals.
- Pray and to help them grow closer to God.
- Help them make a successful transition from prison to the community.
- Guide them to resources leading to employment, housing, medical care and more.
- Help them make good decisions so that they will remain clean and sober and begin to live a more meaningful life.

Are you Interested in using your gifts in this way? Please join us. Learn more about the mentoring program by writing to us at prisonministry@ourladymtcarmel.org

"I couldn't have succeeded so well after jail without the care and compassion of my mentor and the support given me through OLMC's Father Davids Mentoring and Reentry Program."
~ Andrew W.

Christmas Dinner Baskets

We are in need of your help once again to provide **Christmas Dinner Boxes** for families in need. We hope that many of you who helped at Thanksgiving will help us again in reaching out to those in need. We also encourage new people to include this project in your Christmas giving.

Please call **(215) 348-8833** and leave your name and phone number, someone will return your call and give you a code number, and the size of the family and whether they wish a turkey or ham. The code number maintains confidentiality.

What is needed: a frozen turkey or a ham, and all the makings to prepare that meal. Ideas: fresh or canned fruits and vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy, bread for stuffing or stuffing mix and one home-baked item (cookies, pie, nut bread); candles, napkins, flowers or other items that you would like to add. *(Do not include any other frozen items, only the turkey)*

Put all ingredients in a box (or two smaller boxes that are easy to carry) Put the code number on the box (boxes) and deliver to St. Mary's Hall (next to the Prayer Garden) on Tuesday, **December 23, 2025 between 6 AM and 11 AM.**

We will deliver the dinner boxes to the families that same day.



Youth Ministry is grateful to our Parish Family for supporting our pie sale fundraiser.

Want to learn more about our Summer 2026 trip to Catholic Heart Workcamp? Contact Dawn Solly, Youth Minister

215-345-7089
youthministry@ourladymtcarmel.org

**175th Anniversary
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Doylestown, PA**



One-hundred-seventy-five years ago a French priest from Haycock Pennsylvania saw a need and had a desire to start a Mission in the new growing area of Doylestown. Every two weeks he came down to say Mass, and perform Baptisms and Marriages, until it became apparent that it was time for a permanent church. With the Blessing of Bishop Neumann, land was bought and a church built. Named Our Lady of Mount Carmel, it was affectionately known in the papers as St. Mary's. There was a meeting room in the basement of the church for gatherings and a cemetery was begun.

Twenty-five years later a school was raised called St. Bernard's. In the last 175 years Our Lady of Mount Carmel has done just what it should do and that is grow. Fourteen pastors, two church buildings, two schools, three expansions to the cemetery, the building of a new rectory and priests' residence, acquiring Simon Stock house, a Prayer Garden, and a new parking lot to accommodate the growing congregation, is a lot of growth. Nine parishes were "born" from Our Lady of Mount Carmel also.

What will the next 25 years bring as we grow towards our Bicentennial Celebration in 2050? Only the Lord knows. They will no doubt be fruitful and inspirational leading all who gather here closer to God and each other. The year of the 175th celebration is not over yet.

**Please
join us on
Monday,
December 22
at 5:30 PM for our
Christmas
Reveal.**

**Our Lady of Mount
Carmel, pray for us!**

**Join Our Choir, Our Cherub Choir
& Two Special Christmas Visitors at**

The Christmas Reveal

**Monday, December 22
5:30 PM in Church**

Youth Ministry will serve hot chocolate & candy canes on the Church portico afterwards

Musicministry@ourladymtcarmel.org

***There's Still Time to buy
an Anniversary Cookbook!***

**Purchase at the rectory
during regular business
hours.**

**Limited quantity available.
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LFry@ourladymtcarmel.org**

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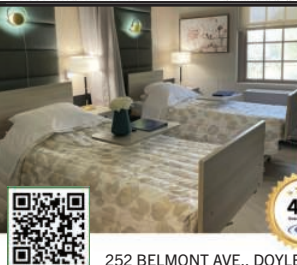


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