



# Our Lady of Mt. Carmel CATHOLIC CHURCH

www.olmcfssp.org + 5612 S. Hickory St. Littleton, CO 80120 + (303) 703-8538



A parish of the Archdiocese of Denver, CO served by the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP) dedicated to the Traditional Latin Mass and Sacraments according to the 1962 Missal of Pope St. John XXIII.

## Vigil of Christmas December 24, 2023

PASTOR  
**REV. MATTHEW J. MCCARTHY, FSSP**

ASST. PASTORS  
**REV. DANIEL NOLAN, FSSP**  
asst.pastor1@olmcfssp.org  
**REV. ERIC KRAGER, FSSP**  
father.krager@olmcfssp.org

OFFICE HOURS  
**MON - FRI: 9:15 AM - 4:15 PM**  
office.manager@olmcfssp.org  
secretary@olmcfssp.org

SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCIES  
**303-241-2946**

SUNDAY LOW MASS  
**6:30 AM | 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM | 1:00 PM**

SUNDAY HIGH MASS  
**11:00 AM**

DAILY MASS  
**8:30 AM MON - SAT**  
**Also 7:00 PM FRI**

CONFESSIONS  
**30 MINUTES BEFORE EACH MASS**  
**SAT: 8 - 9:30 AM**  
**SAT: 3 - 4 PM**

DAILY MASS  
**6:30 AM SUN - SAT**  
Carmelite Monastery  
6138 S. Gallup St. Littleton, CO 80120



*Et péperit filium suum primogénitum, et pannis eum invólvit,  
et reclinávit eum in præsépio.*

**From Fr. Krager**

The sermons of the Fathers of the Church are a beautiful source for us to return to in these difficult and confusing times. Fathers like St Augustine, St Chrysostom, and St Leo all lived in a world perpetually on fire and in precipitous decline, but they ordered their lives totally to Christ who makes all things new and shines light into the darkness. Let us hear what they preached to their people on Christmas day over a thousand years ago; the same Christ, the same truth, the same divine charity to which we have access through the liturgy and the Sacraments.

(Continued on page 2)

St Augustine (354-430)

Man's Maker was made man that the Bread might be hungry, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired from the journey, the Truth might be accused by false witnesses, the Judge of the living and dead be judged by a mortal judge, Justice be sentenced by the unjust, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Vine be crowned with thorns, the Foundation be suspended on wood, the Strength be made weak, the Healer be wounded, and that Life might die. Wake up, O human being! For it was for you that God was made man. Rise up and realize it was all for you. Eternal death would have awaited you had He not been born in time. Never would you be freed from your sinful flesh had He not taken to Himself the likeness of sinful flesh. Everlasting would be your misery had He not performed this act of mercy. You would not have come to life again had He not come to die your death. You would have perished had He not come

St Chrysostom (347-407)

Behold on Christmas a new and wondrous reality. The angels sing and the archangels blend their voices in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt Christ's glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth and man in heaven. He Who is above now for our redemption dwells here below, and we who are lowly are by divine mercy raised up. Bethlehem this day resembles heaven, hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices. Ask not how. For where God wills, nature yields. For He willed. He had the power. He descended. He redeemed. All things move in obedience to God. This day He Who is born and He Who is becomes what He is not. He is God become man, yet not departing from His Godhead.

St Leo (400-461)

Although Jesus shared in our infirmities, He was not a partaker of our sins. He took the form of a servant without the baseness of sin, raising up what was human, but not lessening what was divine. Emptying Himself, the Invisible made Himself Visible. He came down to us, to Whom we could not on our own ascend, that we might be brought back from our former bondage and from worldly errors to His eternal blessedness.

[Elsewhere, Leo says that the purpose of Christmas was] to give the human race a wondrous grace so that iniquity might return to the ways of innocence, old age to newness of life, strangers might be received by God as His children and without any claim be capable of entering into an inheritance, that the evil-living might begin to live righteously, the parsimonious become generous, the incontinent chaste, and the earthly might become heavenly-minded.

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

#### Vigil of Christmas

6:30 am Marion Molchen by Greg and Theresa Garcia  
8:00 am Florence Molchen by Greg and Theresa Garcia  
9:30 am Phillips and Connors Families by Bernard Phillips  
**11:00 am (High Mass)** Pro Populo  
1:00 pm Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Austgen  
by Greg and Theresa Garcia  
5:00 pm Vespers and Compline

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

#### The Nativity of Our Lord

**12:00am (High Mass)** Pro Populo  
6:30am Pope Francis  
8:00 am Christmas Flower Donors' Intentions  
9:30am Archbishop Aquila  
**11:00 am (High Mass)** OLMC Volunteers

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

#### St. Stephen, Deacon and Protomartyr

8:30 am Bob Dalton+ by Jeff and Donna Monroe

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

#### St. John the Evangelist, Apostle

8:30 am The Monroe Family by Jeff and Donna Monroe

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

#### Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:30 am Jose Saucedo by Rosario Cichos

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

#### 5th Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:30 am Phillips and Connors Families by Bernard Phillips  
7:00 pm Juana Ortiz+  
by Jorge Valdez and Gabriella Hernandez

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

#### 6th Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:30 am Beatriz Estevez Trujillo+  
by Jorge Valdez and Gabriella Hernandez

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

#### Sunday in the Octave of Christmas

6:30 am Ruth Mallarkey+ by Anthony and Mary Dixon  
8:00 am Lori True by True Family  
9:30 am Nicholas Barker Parrott+ by Dave Parrott  
**11:00 am (High Mass)** Pro Populo  
1:00 pm Scholastica Salazar by Mary Morley  
5:00 pm Vespers and Compline

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#### Fr. Nolan's Private Intentions

**25** Michael Dvornak+ by Matthew Dvornak  
**26** Reinhold C. Greve+ by Reinhold R. Greve  
**27** Bob Anselmi+ by Jeff and Donna Monroe  
**28** Phillips and Connors Families by Bernard Phillips  
**30** Ruth Mallarkey+ by Anthony and Mary Dixon

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Priests of OLMC** wish for all the parishioners a peaceful and joyful Christmas season celebrating the birth of Our Lord.

**Parish Volunteers:** Fr. McCarthy offers sincere thanks to all who throughout the year freely give of their valuable time, without whom this church could not function, including in no particular order and not exhaustively: choir, MCs and altar servers, ushers, safety team, collection counters, those who help with sacraments preparation, ARS, K of C, those who organize/run parish events/groups, those who provide meals, do maintenance jobs or help out in any number of hidden ways. May God reward your zeal.

**The Parish Office** will be closed Dec 25-Jan 1 inclusive.

### **Mon, Dec 25 - Christmas Day Mass Schedule:**

- 12:00am Solemn High Mass with carols in the church beginning at 11pm
- 6:30am (Low), 8am (Low), 9:30am (Low), 11am (High)

### **Christmas Eve/Day Schedule at the Carmel**

- Sun, Dec 24: 6:30am (Low)
- Mon, Dec 25: 12:00am (High)
- Sun, Dec 25: 8:00am (High)

Please note the Christmas Day Mass is not at the regular time.

**Mon, Jan 1 - Octave Day of the Nativity** is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Mass times are 8:30am, 10am and 12pm High Mass.

**Thank You** to all who participated in the giving tree this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**First Sacraments:** If you have a child in the 3rd grade of religion class in school, they are eligible to receive First Holy Communion/Confirmation in 2024. For more info, please go to [olmcfssp.org](http://olmcfssp.org) > sacraments > first holy communion/confirmation. Classes will be on Sundays at 2:15pm beginning on Jan 28. Registration ends Jan 14.

**Knights of Columbus Essay Contest** for students in grades 8-12. All entries due by 6pm on Jan 5. In 500-750 words, How can the Church evangelize in the digital age? Submit essay by emailing Matt Perkins at [jmattperkins@gmail.com](mailto:jmattperkins@gmail.com) with the name, grade level, and contact information included. Winners will receive a cash prize of \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place, and \$125 for third place.

**Next Sun, Dec 31 - Epiphany Home Blessings:** The Altar and Rosary Society will be handing out Epiphany Home Blessing kits after Mass next Sunday. The kit includes a pamphlet explaining how to use the blessed chalk to protect your home in the new year. Epiphany water will be available...

**Fri, Jan 5 - Epiphany Water Blessing** at 6pm in the parish hall after Vespers. All are welcome to attend. There will be a table in the hall for water to-be-blessed from Sun, Dec 31. Please only bring gallon size containers.

**Sun, Jan 7 - OLMC's Annual Christmas Party** will be after the 1pm Mass. Please bring a dish to share according to your last name. A-G, Main Dish; F-P, Side Dish; Q-Z, Dessert. Drinks will be provided. Sign up for the talent show in the Flocknote. If you are able to help decorate, serve, or clean-up for the party, please email the office.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Laeta Vita Christmas Party**

This Sat, Dec 30 - from 2-5pm in the St. Elijah room. Single ladies (age 18-35) of the parish are cordially invited to join us to decorate Christmas cookies, listen to Christmas music, and play games while celebrating the birth of Christ. Contact Mary at [marybeth02@comcast.net](mailto:marybeth02@comcast.net) for more info. RSVP with QR code or in the Flocknote.



**Sun, Jan 21 - Blood Drive** hosted by OLMC and sponsored by the KofC. Vitalant will be running the drive. We need a minimum of 40 committed donors by Dec 25 in order to make the drive happen. Sign-up after Mass in the parish hall or via Flocknote/QR.



**Fri-Sat, Jan 26-27 - Marriage Enrichment Retreat** at St. Mark's in Highlands Ranch. Be reintroduced to the beauty of the Sacrament of Marriage and your commitment to each other. No matter how "aged" your marriage may be, this retreat will help you discover the special reserve of God's grace and graft you and your spouse onto the Vine, Jesus Christ. (John 15:1-5) For information and to sign-up, visit: <https://give.stmarkhr.org/marriage-enrichment-retreat>

**Yearly Donation Statements** will be sent out at the end of January. The deadline for tax-deductible donations for 2023 is December 31, 2023. Any donations received after 12/31 will be counted for the 2024 tax year.

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**OLMC Online Parish Calendar** is available via the website or the code to the right. Please check there for upcoming events.



### **DAILY PRAYER LINE REQUESTS**

Contact Jane Brennan: [jmbrennan555@gmail.com](mailto:jmbrennan555@gmail.com)

### **Please Pray for the Sick**

David Williamson, Lane Reagan, Joanne Leary, Jamie Jimenez, Kim Poletto, Jacob, Jaxson, Joan Anselmi, Esther Garcia, Indigo Williamson

### **Please Pray for the Repose of the Souls of**

Peter Doran, Jackie Briggs, Thomas Morley, Patricia Jambor, JoAnn Ice, Geraldine Marie Pellant, Lydia Ferran, Francis Smith, James Sohmer, Fr. James Buckley, FSSP,

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The Poinsettias will remain on the altar until the Commemoration of the Lord's Baptism (Jan 13).

### **HOMEBOUND**

Any parishioner confined to home who would like to receive the sacraments or the bulletin, please contact the parish office.

**Electronic Giving via Faith Direct**





### **Thoughts for an Extraordinary Christmastide**

(with thanks to Fr William Rock, FSSP)

The word "Christmas" comes from combining two late Old English words "Cristes Maesse" or "the Mass of Christ." The Latin name of the feast is "Nativitas Domini," the Nativity, or Birthday, of the Lord. In the Romance languages the name of this day is derived from the Latin (e.g. Noel in French and Navidad in Spanish).

The 40 days of Christmastide begin on Christmas Day and end on the Feast of the Purification (2 February). Due to its length, Christmastide often overlaps with Septuagesima. The Octave of Christmas is from 25 December to 1 January inclusive. The 12 Days of Christmas are from 25 December to 5 January inclusive.

The date of Christmas is determined by counting nine months from 25 March when Our Lord's incarnation in the womb of Mary is celebrated. Christmas Day traverses the days of the week from year to year so that each day of the week is sanctified by the celebration of Christmas.

Three Masses are said on Christmas Day, which practice originated in Jerusalem.

- The First Mass is the Midnight Mass and its theme is the birth of Christ in Bethlehem.
- The Second Mass is the Dawn Mass or the Mass of the Aurora and its theme is the birth of Christ in the soul by grace which is expressed by the visit of the shepherds in the Gospel. This Mass is also called "the Shepherds' Mass" on this account.
- The Third Mass is the Day Mass and its focus is on the eternal generation (birth) of the Son from the Father, true God from true God.

The Gloria is said/sung even on ferias until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The angels have sung the opening words of the Gloria to the shepherds and the Church takes up this hymn in joyful celebration of the birth of Christ.

The color of this season is white which expresses: (1) the gladness to which the angels invited the world, (2) the beauty of our Divine Sun that has risen in Bethlehem, (3) the spotless purity of the Virgin-Mother, and (4) the clean heartedness which they should have who come to worship at the mystic Crib.