



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.

PASTOR

REV. MATTHEW J. MCCARTHY, FSSP

ASST. PASTOR

REV. JOSEPH LOFTUS, FSSP

father.loftus@olmcfssp.org

ASST. PASTOR

REV. PADRAIC STACK

father.stack@olmcfssp.org

IN RESIDENCE

REV. JOSEPH DALIMATA, FSSP

father.dalimata@olmcfssp.org

OFFICE HOURS

MON - FRI: 9:15 AM - 4:15 PM

OFFICE MANAGER: Bruce Muhe, III

office.manager@olmcfssp.org

SECRETARY: Kaleigh Sims

secretary@olmcfssp.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: David Hughes

music.director@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 AM until the line is gone.

SAT: 3 - 4 PM

DAILY MASS

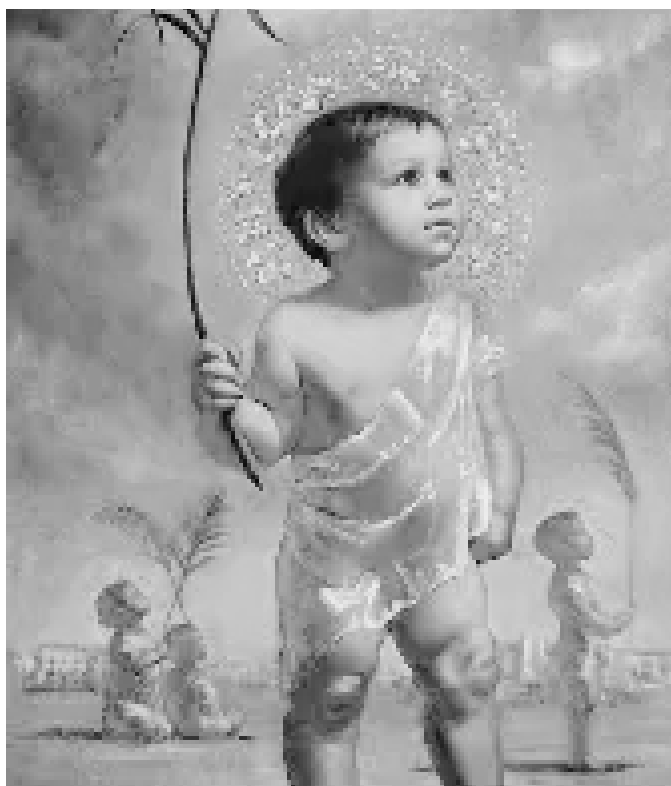
6:30 AM SUN - SAT

Carmelite Monastery

6138 S. Gallup St. Littleton, CO 80120

Sunday in the Octave of Christmas

December 28, 2025



*Vox in Rama audita est, ploratus, et ululatus multus:
Rachel plorans filios suos
et noluit consolari quia non sunt (Mt 2:18)*

From Fr Stack

As the world rushes to tear down the “Holiday” decorations which adorned businesses and homes before Thanksgiving had even come, we Catholics are just beginning our Christmas celebration. Christmas begins on the 25th of December, it doesn’t end that day; and yet, with so much preparation in order to be ready for the day, there can be a bit of a lull in the days that follow. Which made me wonder what the days and weeks were like for the Holy Family following the day of our Lord’s birth.

(Continued on page 2)

Luke's Gospel recalls that eight days after the birth of our Lord He was circumcised and "His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb" (Lk 2:21). Luke then notes that "when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord" (Lk 2:22). Thus, they went to Jerusalem 40 days after our Lord's birth.

Where were they in the interim? Bethlehem is a lot closer than Nazareth is to Jerusalem. Would they have traveled back to Nazareth, just to turn around and come back to Jerusalem? Perhaps; the Holy Family was not opposed to travel, as they would soon travel all the way to Egypt. After the Wise Men left the Holy Family to return to the East, "behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying 'Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word, for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.' When he arose he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt" (Mt 2:13-14). It is hard to say when the flight into Egypt occurred except no sooner than 40 days after our Lord's birth and no later than two years, depending on when the Star first appeared.

Once again, where was the Holy Family staying during this time and what were they doing? It is exceedingly unlikely that they would have continued to reside in the cave within which our Lord was born. It is, however, possible that they found a place in Bethlehem to stay for a short while. In fact, in close proximity to the place of our Lord's birth, there is another holy site called the Milk Grotto. It is a place more suitable for a residence and tradition holds it was a place that the Holy Family stayed—exactly when and for how long is debated. One will quickly notice the white chalky stone of the grotto that is unlike other stone in that area. It is said that while feeding our Blessed Lord a drop of milk fell from Mary and when it hit the floor of the grotto, all of the stone turned white and has remained that way since.

It seems, then, that the days and weeks following our Lord's birth contained various religious rites, finding housing, travel, and eventually fleeing from a tyrant bent on killing the newborn King. However, the Milk Grotto is a great reminder that they also had moments of normal, everyday life—like a mother feeding her child. It is not a far stretch to surmise that the Holy Family found moments to rest after and between the big events and celebrations. There in the quiet lulls of activity, Mary and Joseph would have time to rest in their Son's Presence and adore their Him, the Son of God come in the flesh. We might take a cue from their example this Christmas Season and take time to rest with the Lord in prayer—not ending but beginning anew our contemplation of this great mystery of the Incarnation.

A blessed Christmas to you all and may you continue to rejoice in the Presence of He who has come into the world to make His dwelling amongst us.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Sunday in the Octave of Christmas

6:30 am Kerry Feist by Brett and Maria Ammerman
8:00 am Matthew Peacock+ by Barbara Ceurvels
9:30 am Celebrant's Intention
11:00 am (High Mass) Pro Populo
1:00 pm Chris Caplis and Family by Tom Chavez
5:00 pm Solemn Vespers and Compline

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

5th Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:30 am Miller Children by Rebecca Miller

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

6th Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:30 am Agapito Sanchez Sedano+ by Laurel Sanchez

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

7th Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:30 am Kim Poletto+ by Chris Poletto

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

Octave of the Nativity of Our Lord

8:30 am End of Abortion by Ellen Auger
10:00 am Eleanor McCarthy
12:00 pm (High Mass) Pro Populo

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

Feria of Christmastide

8:30 am Members of the Society of Masses for the Dead+
7:00 pm Minuel Lerma+ by Jeronimo Castillo

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

Saturday of Our Lady

8:30 am John Holson by Rick Mudd

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

Holy Name of Jesus

6:30 am Celebrant's Intention
8:00 am Matt/Peggy Tynan Family by Ammerman Family
9:30 am Chas and Grace Canfield by Seybert Family
11:00 am (High Mass) Pro Populo
1:00 pm Kayla Venzor Rivera by Francisca Rivera Ruiz
5:00 pm Solemn Vespers and Compline

Fr. Dalimata's Private Intentions

29 Francisca Rivera Ruiz by Francisca Rivera Ruiz
30 Emmiliana and Schumann Family by Adam Pippin
31 Agapito Sanchez Sedano+ by Laurel Sanchez

Fr. McCarthy's Private Intentions

29 Mark Auger+ by Ellen Auger
31 Gloria and Muecke Family by Adam Pippin
1/3 Dolores Gomez+ by Jeronimo Castillo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Priests of OLMC wish for all the parishioners a peaceful and joyful New Year.

Parish Volunteers: Fr. McCarthy offers sincere thanks to all who throughout the year freely give of their valuable time, without whom this parish 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.

Thank You to all who participated in the Giving Tree this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The Parish Office will be closed through Fri, Jan 1.

Fr Dalimata will be away Jan 1-13 on a Mission Trip to Guadalajara, MX.

Today - Epiphany Home Blessings: The Altar and Rosary Society will be handing out Epiphany Home Blessing kits after all Mass. 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...

Mon, Jan 5 - Epiphany Water Blessing at 5:45pm in the parish hall after Vespers. All are welcome to attend. There will be a table in the hall for water to-be-blessed beginning on Sun, Dec 28. Please only bring gallon size containers.

This Thu, Jan 1 - Octave Day of the Nativity is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times are at 6:30am (Carmel), 8:30am, 10am, and 12pm (High Mass).

This Sat, Jan 3 - The Legion of Mary invites all to a Public Rosary immediately following the 8:30 AM mass at Bega Park in downtown Littleton at Littleton Boulevard and Main Street.

First Sacraments 2026: If you have a child in the 3rd grade of religion class in school (or age 8), they are eligible to receive First Holy Communion/Confirmation in spring of 2026. For more info, please go to olmcfssp.org > sacraments > first holy communion/confirmation. Classes will be on Sundays at 2:15pm beginning on Jan 25. Registration ends Jan 11.

Legion of Mary: All are welcome to join our meetings held Mondays at 6pm and Thursdays after the 8:30am Mass. Please join us at either meeting once a week. The Legion is a sign of the Blessed Mother Mary's maternal love for the world and a means of enlisting all her children in the Church's Evangelizing work.

Fri, Jan 9 - Mary's Budding Flowers is a parish group for women expecting and in early motherhood. Join us at 9:30am in the St. Albert Room. You are encouraged to bring a friend and dish to share. Toddlers and babies are welcome. Direct questions to Angela at angeladelcarmen@protonmail.com.

Sun, Jan 11 - OLMC's Annual Christmas Party after the 1pm Mass. Save the Date! More information to come!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Bishop Speaks to Modern Living

Make time to be quiet in the presence of the Lord. Go to Adoration at church. One of the poisons of modern life is how busy we are. Our lives are noisy, and we don't make time to listen to God. I am a big fan of silence, especially before the Blessed Sacrament... Many people are anxious in society. They are not living healthy lives physically or spiritually. They have too much (sic) stimuli (i.e., electronic devices - Ed.) We need God. If we don't make room for Him, something else will fill the void that can agitate or depress us.

Colorado Catholic Business Network : The January event will feature Vince Jaramillo presenting on Tax Planning for Catholic Business Owners.

When? - Tuesday January 13, 2026, 11:30 AM

Where? - Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish Hall

How much? - It will cost \$10 to pre-register and \$20 at the door to attend this event.

Register now for the event and save \$10 --> <https://coloradocatholics.betterworld.org/events/littleton-monthly-networking-jan>

Yearly Donation Statements will be sent out at the end of January. The deadline for tax-deductible donations for 2025 is today Dec 28, 2025. Any donations that come in after 12/28 will be counted for the 2026 tax year.

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

Please Pray for the Sick

David Williamson, Jamie Jimenez, Jacob Jaxson, Indigo Williamson, Jeff McBride, Shannon Coffey, Miriam Halazon, John Filipczak, Cristina Vigil, Maria McKinley, Rebecca Noël Moser, Joanne Leary, Ronald Rider, Robert Tancredi, Pat Bergman.

Please Pray for the Repose of the Souls of

Michael Anderson, Fr. James B. Doran, John & Eugenia Casbergue, Ronald & Dorothy Seybert, Blake Bratcher, James Hamm, Tony Morley, Susan Martin, Joyce Doherty.

HOMEBOUND

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

Electronic Giving via Faith Direct





Christmas Nativity Scene

Dating back to the 2nd century, the Catacombs of Rome hold some of the earliest Christian depictions of the nativity scene. These underground burial sites featured frescoes and carvings which portrayed biblical scenes, including the birth of Our Lord. The catacombs played a significant role in preserving the early Christian faith and its visual representations. These ancient artworks serve as evidence of the prominence and early fascination with the nativity story. In the 13th century, St. Francis of Assisi was instrumental in popularizing the nativity scene. Motivated by the pervasive coldness to the reality of the Incarnation and Our Lord's temporal birth due to the influence of Gnosticism, Francis wanted to rekindle devotion, Francis's initiative had a lasting impact and the tradition of setting up nativity scenes spread across Europe. To our own creche, in addition to the historical figures, this year we added those of saints whose feast days immediately follow the Lord's Nativity, which saints are closely associated with and highlight the Incarnation:

St Stephen (Dec 26) - one of the first seven deacons (symbolized by his dalmatic and tonsure) and Protomartyr, being the first to willingly shed his blood as a witness to the Incarnation and the Gospel. Stoned to death, Stephen's figure carries the martyr's palm with stones at his feet. The words on the open book are from the Acts of the Apostles (6:15): They saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

St John (Dec 27) - the Evangelist, whose Gospel is an extended meditation on the great mystery of the Incarnation, opening with its incomparable Prologue declaring the eternity of the Son of God who entered his own creation, The words on the open pages of the book which he carries are from his gospel (Jn 1:14): And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

The Holy Innocents (Dec 28) - those male children aged two and under who were slaughtered out of hatred of Our Lord, whose temporal birth in Bethlehem had been foretold by the prophet Micah and announced by the Magi. The Innocents also carry the martyr's palm.