



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Advent December 14, 2025

Erected in 1936, the entire structure reflects the architectural style developed by missionaries, combining the building patterns of the Pueblo Indians with Spanish-Colonial design. Even the landscaping, with carefully selected shrubs and trees, is typical.

Priests

Fr. Lawrence Seyer, *Pastor*

lseyer@mtcarmelsb.com

Monsignor Stephen Downes, *Pastor Emeritus*

Father Maurice O'Mahony, *Pastor Emeritus*

Parish Office

1300 East Valley Rd • Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: 805/969-6868

Website: www.mtcarmelsb.com

Email: info@mtcarmelsb.com

Masses

Daily 7:45 AM

Saturday Vigil 4:30 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Holy Day Mass

Please check website for updated Mass times.

Confessions

Saturdays, from 3:30 to 4:15 PM— Side Chapel

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

805/969-5965

Principal - Tracie Simolon

Pre-K thru 8th Grade

www.mountcarmelschool.net

Sacraments

Baptism— baptisms@mtcarmelsb.com

Confirmation ('El Camino' High School)

sarahm@mtcarmelsb.com

Marriage— weddings@mtcarmelsb.com

OCIA (Adult Sacraments) — info@mtcarmelsb.com

Faith Formation/First Communion

805/969-4868

Sister Rosalie Callen, C.S.J.

rcallen@mtcarmelsb.com

Youth/Young Adult Ministry

805/574-9941

Sarah Mack

sarahm@mtcarmelsb.com

5th Grade Youth Group— "The MC Club"

6th-8th Grade Youth Group - 'The 'M&M's'

High School Confirmation & Leadership— CORE

Young Adult— Spiritual Direction/Discipleship

Young Family Ministry— Stay & Play

Secular Order of Carmelites

Merri Berwick

805/448-3587

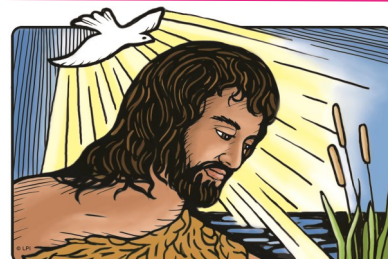
Community Outreach

805/969-4868

Sister Kathleen Patrice Sullivan

kpatrice@mtcarmelsb.com

"This is the one about whom it is written:
Behold, I am sending my messenger
ahead of you; he will prepare your
way before you.." Mt 11:10



WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL

If you are visiting or new to our community, we are blessed that you are here to worship with us and we welcome you!

Our Pastor, Father Lawrence, our retired priests, Fr. Steve and Fr. O' Mahony and Parish Family extend the hospitality of Jesus Christ to you.

If you would like more information about our faith community, please email our us at

info@mtcarmelsb.com. Our parish office hours are Monday thru Friday, 9am - 12 noon and 1pm - 5pm.

The office is closed for lunch from noon to 1pm. The office is also closed on Saturdays, Sundays and all federal holidays.

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



Parish Registration Form

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

email _____

email _____

Check One

☐ New Parishioner ☐ New Address

☐ New email or phone number

Sign up for Flocknotes

(Our Parish Communication Tool)

- Go to "olmcsb.flocknote.com"

Check our website mtcarmelsb.com
for our Mass times, other
services schedule and
current parish events.

Please place the form into the
Offerory basket or you can
mail it to the parish office.



Whole Community Faith Sharing

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11



Reflection: The focus of this Sunday's Gospel is John the Baptist's quest to confirm who Jesus really is. John was in prison and must have already had a pretty good idea of who Jesus was since he baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, yet he still sent out his disciples to ask Jesus directly. Jesus doesn't answer John's question directly but points out the great miracles He was performing. After John's disciples left, Jesus praises John and quotes the Scriptures in which John is mentioned (Malachi 3:1). This is high praise coming from our Saviour. Both Jesus and John were dedicated, humble servants of God and we are called to be like them.

Question: *Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another? When have I been distracted by things that are not from God? How can I direct my attention more fully to God?*

Faith Response: For the rest of the Advent Season, I will ignore material distractions. Instead, I will imitate the humble and dedicated service of John the Baptist.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Prayer and meditation before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament are great ways to spend some special time with Him. You can ask Him for graces for yourself or for loved ones, reflect on His Word, or just keep Him company! And it's no bother for Jesus. In fact, He very much *wants* to see you!

Adoration is held every
Wednesday from 3:30pm to 6pm,
and the First Friday of every
month from 8:15am until 11am,
in the Main Church.
All are welcome!



2025 Advent & Christmas Services

Advent Confession Times

Tuesday, December 16th | 3:30pm-4:30pm

Wednesday, December 17th | 3:30pm-4:30pm, 7pm-8pm

Saturday, December 20th | 3:30pm-4:15pm

Christmas Eve Masses

**4pm - Christmas Eve Vigil Mass (livestreamed w/
overflow in Parish Hall)**

9pm - Christmas "Midnight" Mass

Christmas Day Masses

8am, 10am & 12pm Christmas Day Masses

New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9am Holy Day Mass

This is not a holy day of obligation, so there is no Vigil Mass.



OLMC CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Tuesday, December 16th
6pm Parish Hall

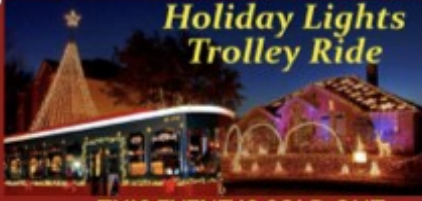
Please sign up indicating what
you are bringing.

Drinks will be provided.

Sign ups can be found at the tables
by the church doors.



Our 5th Annual Holly Jolly Christmas Trolley
Holiday Lights Trolley Ride



**THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT
 TEXT TO BE ADDED TO THE WAITLIST
 IF YOU RESERVED BUT HAVE NOT PAID BY DECEMBER 2nd
 YOUR RESERVATION WILL BE DROPPED.**

**JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL OLMC
 TRADITION WITH OUR FAVORITE DRIVER,
 JUSTIN MACK!**

**WHEN:- MONDAY DECEMBER 22, 2025
 *5:30PM WINE, CHEESE AND TREATS IN THE
 PARISH HALL THEN -6:15PM-8:00PM-WE
 RIDE!**

**DRESS WARMLY AND BRING YOUR HOLIDAY
 SPIRIT!**

**TICKETS ARE \$50.00 EACH AND A PORTION OF
 THE PROCEEDS WILL BE DIRECTED TO YOUTH
 MINISTRY HERE AT OLMC**

**PLEASE CALL/TEXT SARAH MACK 805-574-9941
 FOR TICKETS. TICKETS NON REFUNDABLE**

**UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
 CHORALE**
2026 WINTER TOUR CONCERT

Music by: Bach | Bernstein | Brahms | Rheinberger | Carly Simon



7:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
1300 EAST VALLEY RD, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93108
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



What's the story behind the Advent Wreath & the rose colored candle?




Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreathes adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
FAITH FORMATION**

Happy 3rd week of Advent!




Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday: Rejoice!
As you light the third candle, may you be filled with abundant JOY.
What JOY we have in the knowledge that we have access to an eternal hope through Jesus!

Rejoice with us in our Faith Formation Christmas Program today
9:00 AM in the Parish Hall.

No Class December 21st and 28th!
Classes resume January 4, 2026 at 8:40 AM

Faith Formation 805 969 4868
Director: Sister Rosalie Callen, CSJ
rcallen@mtcarmelsb.com



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

GIVING TREE

Since Christmas is a time of giving and sharing, we are inviting our parishioners, to join us in helping some of the less fortunate families in the Santa Barbara community. Please contact Sister Kathleen if you would like to still help a family or make a monetary donation to help make a child's Christmas wish come true.

Sister Kathleen Patrice 805 969 4868.
kpatrice@mtcarmelsb.com



From the Principal's Desk...

Many years ago when my daughter was young, I remember her frustration when we realized just a few days before Advent that we needed new candles for our wreath. Unfortunately, all we could find were candles in red, green, and white. Throwing her hands in the air, my daughter said, "Don't they realize purple and pink are holiday colors too? We are celebrating Advent!" Never is that distinction truer than this weekend as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday amidst growing excitement, sometimes bordering on frenzy, for Christmas.

Surrounded by the red and green décor in our world and my home, I appreciate that the purple and pink of our Advent wreath on the dining room table stands out as a reminder to use this time to prepare. As the dark hours close in, we light one more candle on our Advent wreath. As we reflect on the light coming from our Advent candles, we are reminded, in some small way, of how the shepherds must have rejoiced in seeing the light of the Christmas star! Let it serve as a reminder to use these days of Advent to prepare our hearts, for Christ's coming birth!

At Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, we pride ourselves in developing the whole child through our pillars of Community, Faith, and Academics. We have a strong sense of community where families support one another and grow together. Our faith values are at the center of all we do from praying together to serving our local community. We have high academic standards and a caring, highly qualified faculty to support our students.

- Tracie Simolon, Principal

Do you know a family who would be a great addition to our school community? Call our school office to RSVP for a school tour or to apply for the 2026-27 school year! (805) 969-5965 You can stay up to date on what's happening at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School by following us on Facebook and Instagram.
@MountCarmelSchoolSB



Eucharistic Ministers

Lectors

4:30pm

Martin Bell

8:00am

Alicia McFarlane

10:00am

Brian Simolon

12:00pm

John Osley

4:30pm

Stephen Biersmith

8:00am

Scott Ogilvie

John Pate

10:00am

Beth Boyd

Mark Lorge

Brian Simolon

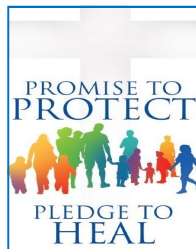
12:00pm

Marlene Massa

SAFEGUARD OUR CHILDREN Watch out for fire dangers

Christmas is a popular time to decorate with candles and electric lights, both inside and out of the house. These decorations can be beautiful and festive but also come with the risk of fires. Parents should make sure to keep candles out of reach of children, and off surfaces where they could be easily knocked over. All lights should be checked for faulty wires or other defective parts that could cause a fire.

For more information, read the "Holiday Safety" article on <https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/holiday?/>.



Mass Intentions

SAT.	DECEMBER 13TH
7:45AM	Intentions of Carol Wathen
4:30PM	Kevin Freeman †
SUN.	DECEMBER 14TH
8AM	Gay Schaaf †
10AM	For All Parishioners
12PM	Intentions of the Hines family
MON	DECEMBER 15TH
DAILY	Martin & Mark Morehart
TUES	DECEMBER 16TH
DAILY	Intentions of Harriet Callier
WEDS	DECEMBER 17TH
DAILY	Intentions of Barbara Kummer
THURS	DECEMBER 18TH
DAILY	Lori Seyer †
FRI	DECEMBER 19TH
DAILY	Intentions of Rosemary Cabe
SAT	DECEMBER 20TH
DAILY	Intentions of The Simolon Family
VIGIL	Bill Jones †
SUN	DECEMBER 21ST
8AM	Ritz Brunello †
10AM	Olympia Draper †
12PM	Ints. of Peter & Joan Berger & Family

Please Pray For The Sick Of Our Parish

Amy Warren - Mary Ann Nielsen
 Domini Tarman — Mary Press
 Cheryl & Tom Elder—Jim Clement
 Madryn Neuman-Francoise Cogburn
 Carolyn Groth-Marnat—Mary Cannon
 Meagan K.—Spencer Vaughn
 John Ryan – Guadalupe Diaz De Leon
 Zofia Uznanska — Bill Whittenberg
 Bret Dougherty—Molly Rosecrance

Please contact us if you would like to add or remove a name from the prayer list.

