



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.mtcarmelsb.com)  
Email: [info@mtcarmelsb.com](mailto: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](http://www.mountcarmelschool.net)

#### Sacraments

Baptism – [baptisms@mtcarmelsb.com](mailto:baptisms@mtcarmelsb.com)

Confirmation ('El Camino' High School)  
[sarahm@mtcarmelsb.com](mailto:sarahm@mtcarmelsb.com)

Marriage – [weddings@mtcarmelsb.com](mailto:weddings@mtcarmelsb.com)

OCIA (Adult Sacraments) – [info@mtcarmelsb.com](mailto:info@mtcarmelsb.com)

Faith Formation/First Communion 805/969-4868

Sister Rosalie Callen, C.S.J.  
[rcallen@mtcarmelsb.com](mailto:rcallen@mtcarmelsb.com)

Youth/Young Adult Ministry 805/574-9941

Sarah Mack  
[sarahm@mtcarmelsb.com](mailto: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

Sister Kathleen Patrice Sullivan  
[kpatrick@mtcarmelsb.com](mailto:kpatrick@mtcarmelsb.com) 805/969-4868

"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](mailto: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](http://olmcsb.flocknote.com)"

Check our website [mtcarmelsb.com](http://mtcarmelsb.com) for our Mass times, other services schedule and current parish events.

Please place the form into the Offertory 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 Savior. 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 16<sup>th</sup> | 3:30pm-4:30pm**

**Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> | 3:30pm-4:30pm, 7pm-8pm**

**Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> | 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.

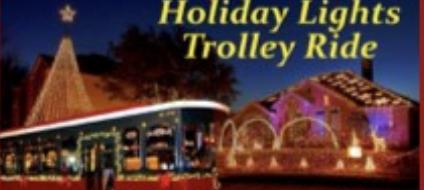
Sign ups can be found at the tables  
by the church doors.



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

**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

FAITH FORMATION  
LIFELONG AND ONCOP

**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?/](https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/holiday?/)



### **Mass Intentions**

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

