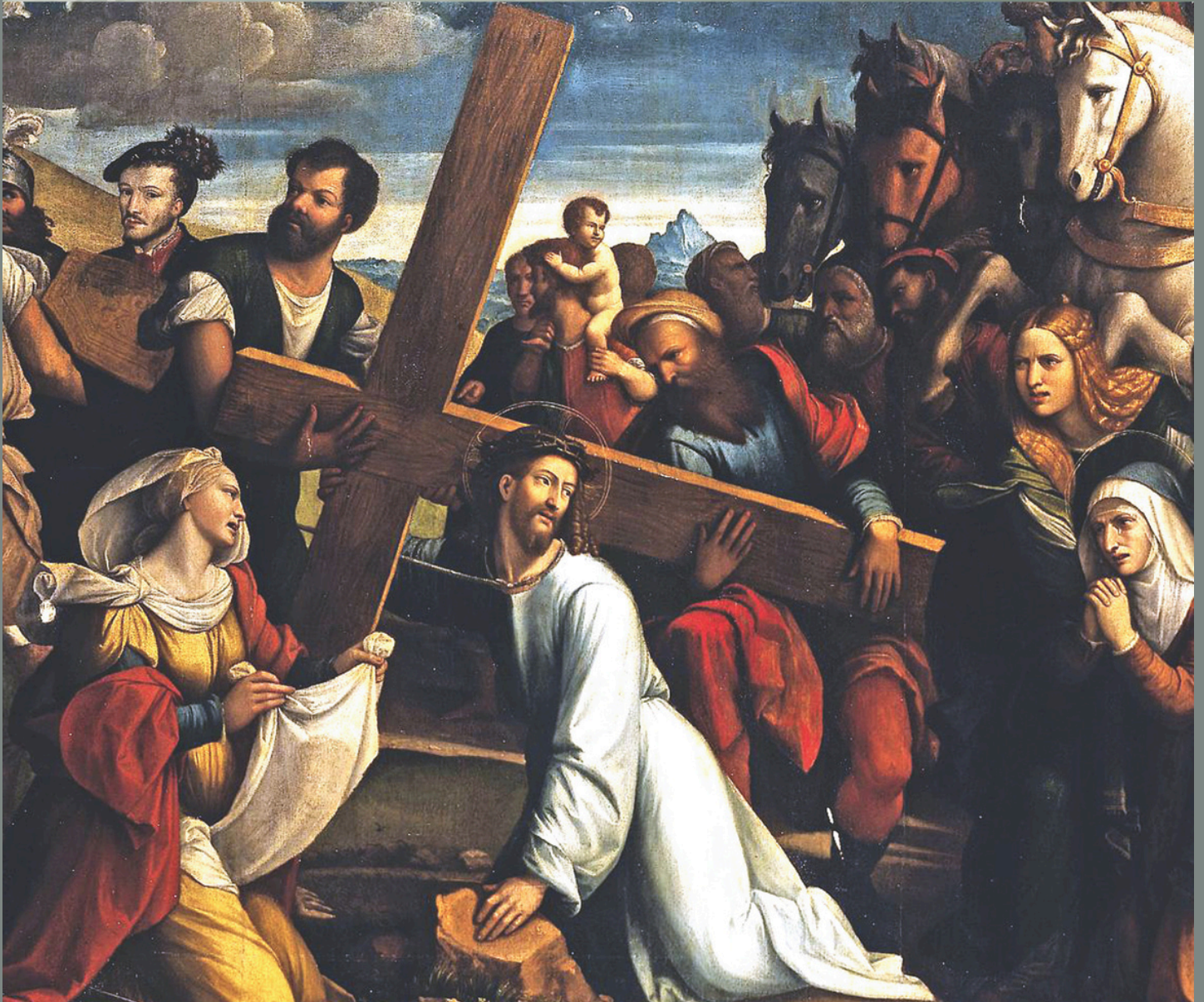


# OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

203 VAUGHN RD., BRANSON, MO | 417-334-2928 | [OFFICE@OLLBRANSON.COM](mailto:OFFICE@OLLBRANSON.COM)

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025**



*23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday*

I N O R D I N A R Y T I M E



"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." - Lk 14:27



# 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

September 6 - September 13

Nativity  
OF MARY

## Events

### SATURDAY Sept. 6

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
3:00 - 4:30pm - Confessional

### SUNDAY Sept. 7

**Coffee & Christ**  
9:15 - 10:15am - Faith Formation Room

### TUESDAY Sept. 9

**Adult Bible Study**  
10:00 - Noon - Faith Formation Room

**Centering Prayer**  
3:00-4:45pm - Heritage Room

**OCIA**  
6:30-8:00pm - Heritage Room

### WEDNESDAY Sept. 10

**Stitchers**  
9:00am - 12:00pm - St. Francis Room

**PSR (K-9<sup>th</sup> Grade)**  
5:30pm - Mass - In the Church  
6:00 - 7:00pm - Class/Food- Classrooms

### THURSDAY Sept. 11

**OLL Games**  
1:00 - 3:30pm - Faith Formation Room

**Spiritual Companionship**  
6:30 - 8:30pm - St. Ignatius Room

### FRIDAY Sept. 12

**Spanish Charismatic Group**  
6:00 - 9:00pm - Faith Formation Room

### SATURDAY Sept. 13

**WELCOME women's meeting**  
9:00 - 11:00am - Heritage Room



*Flower Intention for  
Don & Joan Berra  
70th Wedding  
Anniversary  
Sept. 6 -12*

## Mass Times

### SATURDAY

5:00pm  
7:00pm (Spanish)

### SUNDAY

8:00am  
10:30am

### MONDAY

9:00am

### TUESDAY

9:00am

### WEDNESDAY

5:30pm

### THURSDAY

9:00am



*Flower  
Intention  
Sept. 6-12  
for  
Lauren Blomlie  
& Alayna +*

## Adoration

### TUESDAY

No Adoration,  
will resume Sept. 16th

### THURSDAY

No Adoration,  
will resume Sept. 18th

## Important Links

[Click Here For  
PARISH CALENDAR](#)

[Click Here For  
MASS INTENTIONS](#)

[Click Here For  
FLOWER INTENTIONS](#)

## Mass Intentions

Sat.	9/6	5:00pm	Mary Anne Sullivan +
Sat.	9/9	7:00pm	Taney County Parish Family (Living)
Sun.	9/7	8:00am	Nan Wannithantri +
Sun.	9/7	10:30am	Lauren Blomlie & Alayna +
Mon.	9/8	9:00am	Deceased Members of the Konzen Family+
Tue.	9/9	9:00am	Deceased family members of John & Margaret Casey +
Wed.	9/10	5:30pm	Dee Walton +
Thu.	9/11	9:00am	Sonia Martin +



[Click Here to Make a Prayer Request](#)

[Click Here to Donate Online](#)

[Haga clic aquí para el boletín en español](#)

[Click Here to Contact Parish Staff](#)

**WORSHIP WITH US**



Click [here](#) for Mass Times & Sacrament of Reconciliation



**CLICK [HERE](#) FOR DAILY MASS READINGS**

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



**Collection through August 30, 2025**

Envelopes:		\$48,517.45
Plate:		\$3,400.00
Green Envelopes:		\$12,104.00
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$64,121.45</b>



# Welcome Back! Coffee and Christ



**RESUMES - Sunday, Sept., 7th**  
**9:15am to 10:15am - Faith Formation Room**

**Sunday, Sept., 7th**

### Session 7: The New Rachel

The Old Testament story of Joseph prefigures the life of Jesus and his salvific role in the New Testament. Likewise, the life of Benjamin, Joseph's younger brother, has parallels with the life of John the beloved disciple. Rachel, the mother of Joseph and Benjamin, prefigures Mary, the mother of Jesus and spiritual mother of John, and, thus, she can be seen as the New Rachel.

**Sunday, Sept., 14th**

### Session 8: Question & Answer

As the study concludes, Dr. Pitre takes time to answer questions that surfaced over the course of the video sessions. We are reminded that a deeper understanding of Marian teachings, illuminates even more fully the beauty and love of Our Lord!



**Lectio: Mary**  
**“The Bible and the Mother of God”**  
**with Dr. Brant Pitre**

Dr. Brant Pitre examines what the Old and New Testaments, the life of Christ, and the early Church fathers reveal about the life and identity of Mary.

Why is Mary so important to Catholics, and why have so many people been devoted to her over the centuries?

## Tuesday Morning Adult Bible Study

**RESUMES - Sept. 9th**  
**10:00am - Noon**  
**Faith Formation Room**

### Session 1: Sept. 9th

Introduces the beginning of the Gospel of Luke, focusing on God's fulfillment of Old Testament promises through the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, highlighting faith, divine intervention, and the start of salvation history.



The Gospel of Luke takes you on a journey that begins with the foretelling of John the Baptist's birth and culminates in Jesus' ascension into heaven.

Along the way, you will witness key moments in salvation history, including the Annunciation; the Nativity; Jesus' baptism; his public ministry; the Last Supper; and Jesus' suffering, death, and glorious Resurrection.

### Session 2: Sept. 16th

Focuses on the early life of Jesus, highlighting His dedication and the fulfillment of messianic promises, deepening your understanding of God's faithfulness through Scripture.

For more information  
contact Pat Schooley  
at [patjschooley@gmail.com](mailto:patjschooley@gmail.com)

# *Spiritual Companionship with Doreen Oesterreicher*

*Welcome to all  
young and old adults!!*

**Starting - September 11th**  
We will meet on the  
**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month**  
**at 6:30pm,**  
**St. Ignatius Room**  
**(Resource Room)**  
**on the lower level of the Church**

We will learn how to share  
and help each other based on  
St. Ignatius Exercises to become more  
intimate with Christ.

- We can share our joys, loss, or trauma in a safe place.
- We will look to see where God is, using our five senses in all these events.
- We will call on the Holy Spirit to guide us.
- We will help each other grow in our faith.

On Thursdays, we will start with  
reading the Daily Readings to start our  
discussions.

- How did the readings touch me?
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to me?

This is open to both men and women,  
in my experience, it is good to see each  
other's insight on how we love God.

*Please note that this is not  
Spiritual Direction.*

## *What is Spiritual Direction?*



Spiritual Direction provides special help in discerning our path of holiness. Our Christian life is a journey to become closer to God.

In other words, spiritual direction helps us discern and pursue our unique callings from the Holy Spirit at each stage of our life. It involves three parties: the one receiving spiritual direction, the one giving spiritual direction, and, of course, the Holy Spirit.

It usually entails meeting up with a spiritual director for an hour roughly once a month

In spiritual direction, we consider how the Lord is speaking to us and what He is saying. The role of the spiritual director isn't to tell us what to do or not do. Rather, through the spiritual director's expertise and training, they help us discern how the Lord is working in our lives.

Spiritual direction invites us to confront and respond to questions prompted by the Holy Spirit. What does God want me to do or not do?

For someone beginning the spiritual journey, spiritual direction can offer us insight into the fundamentals of prayer and what it means to live a sacramental and communal life of faith.

For those a little more advanced, spiritual direction can deepen our life of prayer and help us discern how we're being called to use our gifts to serve God and His Church.

*Dorene Oesterreicher has openings for  
those wanting Spiritual Direction*

*For more information, please contact the  
Parish Office*

# PSR~ Parish School of Religion

## RESUMES

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT., 10th

Click Here  
To  
Register  
for PSR

If you have any questions,  
Please call, text, or email  
417-251-1819 Cell  
[NickieRivera@ollbranson.com](mailto:NickieRivera@ollbranson.com)

OR Scan the  
QR Code



Interested in joining the  
PSR Team on  
Wednesday evenings?

#### Opportunities Available:

Kitchen Team

Prayer Team

Safety Team

Small Group Leaders

Small Group Assistance

Please call, text, or email  
417-251-1819 Cell

[NickieRivera@ollbranson.com](mailto:NickieRivera@ollbranson.com)

### PSR WEDNESDAY-SEPT., 10TH Kindergarten - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 5:30pm - Mass
- Following Mass - Orientation Meeting with parents & students in the church
- Meet PSR teachers & see classrooms
- Food in Faith Formation Room

### NEW PSR SCHEDULE Starting - Wed., Sept. 17

Kindergarten - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

Start time - 5:30pm - Mass

Parents are *very encouraged* to attend Mass with their children

*Attendance will be taken in the Gathering Space as you enter the Church*

Class 6:00 - 7:00pm

*Food provided during class*

*\*No Pre-K class this year*

### SUNDAY YOUTH NIGHT

Starting

Sunday, Sept. 14th

Grades -10, 11 & 12

6:00 - 7:00pm

St. Michael Room

Food will be provided

# OFFICE OF CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION

## Safe Environment Requirements for:

Clergy ◆ Employee ◆ Adult Volunteers\*

\*(which include the following ministries)

Knight of Columbus

O CIA

PSR

Welcome Women

Hospitality

Safety & Security

Ushers

Young Adult

Music Ministry

Help Desk

Hispanic

Eucharistic Ministers

Parish Office Volunteers

Homebound

Bible Study Leaders

Sacristans

Gift Shop Volunteers

Lectors

Funeral Ministry



**Before** engaging in diocesan, parish and school-sponsored activities for minors and vulnerable adults, all clergy, employees and adult volunteers are required to be in compliance with the diocesan Safe Environment Requirements which include:

**1) A Background Screening**

**2) Safe Environment Training**

**3) Code of Conduct - *must be completed annually***

The Code of Conduct is **required annually** and is made available at the beginning of each fiscal year, **July 1**.

The Code of Conduct can be accessed through the diocesan webpage

**<https://dioscg.org/child-youth-protection/>**

Scroll down - towards the bottom of the page there's a *RESOURCES SECTION*

Select the Prevention and Protection tab.

The documents may be found there.

or through

**VIRTUS: <https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/>**

**Select: Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO (Diocese)**

**The Code of Conduct is to be read, signed, and submitted to the local Safe Environment Coordinator at the parish - Nickie Rivera**

- For **new employees and volunteers**, to begin the process, an account must **first be created in VIRTUS**.
- There the Background Screening Application will be prompted and is now completed online through their VIRTUS account.
- The training, which includes "**Protecting God's Children**" and "**Mandated and Ethical Reporting**", are accessible through their VIRTUS account and are also completed online.

If you need assistance, please contact

Nickie Rivera

Please call, text, or email

417-251-1819 Cell

**[NickieRivera@olbranson.com](mailto:NickieRivera@olbranson.com)**

Director of Formation

Any questions may be directed to the Associate Safe Environment

Coordinator,

Shelly Ferry, [sferry@dioscg.org](mailto:sferry@dioscg.org) or

the Director of Child and Youth Protection, Bill Holtmeyer,

[billholtmeyer@dioscg.org](mailto:billholtmeyer@dioscg.org)

or at The Catholic Center, (417) 866-0841.

## Our Lady of the Lake PSR youth are partnering with the PCCW at Our Lady of the Cove

You can give great joy to the poorest of the poor by participating in this year's Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy Project.



Boxes are filled with age-appropriate items from toys to personal care and beyond, giving tremendous joy to the children in need.

### There are two ways to help:

- Take a box after Mass in September, fill it with goodies and return it by Sept. 28th with \$9 for shipping, OR
- Donate \$20.00 and we will fill a box for you and ship it off.

The boxes will be available to pick up with instructions and monetary donations will be collected after all the September Masses.

**Thank you for your support -  
Your box may be the only Christmas Gift a child receives!**



SAVE  
THE DATE

**Our Lady of the Lake  
Parish Homecoming**

**Sunday,  
Sept. 21**

**Parish  
Center**

**12:00 -  
2:00PM**

**More  
details  
coming  
soon**

## Our Lady of the Ozarks Fall Rummage & Bake Sale

**Sept. 25, 7am - 4pm  
Sept. 26, 8am - 4pm  
Sept. 27, 8am - noon**

Your donated items can be dropped off at  
**Our Lady of the Ozarks**  
during their set up hours starting on  
**September 8 - September 19**  
**9am - 1pm**

Please note that they will not be able to pick up items as they have in the past.

Any questions can be directed to  
Barbara Peterson at 417-251-0041 or [barbsp@protonmail.com](mailto:barbsp@protonmail.com)

# OLL Games



Join us on September 11th  
OLL Game Day  
1:00pm Faith Formation Room

OLL Train - Last Ones Out  
BIG Winner is Brenda -286  
Sharon S -291 Julie J -394  
Lil' Winner is Anne Marie -428



OLL Train - Stars  
BIG Winner is Joe -188  
Ed -304 Judy E -330  
Remy -358 Marty -391  
Lil' Winner Eva -470



Swoop - Always Swooping  
BIG Winner is Butch -153  
Dan -244 Harry -278  
Julie W -393 Joyce -451  
Sharron -472 Sharon A -575  
Lil' Winner is Julia Ann -602



Mahjong  
Steve -150 Rosemarie -25  
Judy O -25 Kevin -0  
Welcome Rosemarie and Kevin as our newest Mahjong Players!



Looking for some fun social time with fellow parishioners?  
**LOOK no further...** Come join in OLL Games on Thursday at 1:00pm in the Faith Formation Room. Hope to see you there!

# Grandparents' Day September 7

WISHING YOU A DAY THAT IS AS GRAND AS YOU ARE



HAPPY GRANDPARENTS' DAY!

We celebrate  
*Mary's*  
Birthday on  
September 8<sup>th</sup>



IN REMEMBRANCE  
OF THOSE  
WHOSE LIVES  
WERE LOST.



★ PATRIOT DAY ★

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

★★★★★ 9/11 ★★★★★

# Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn

## ***I had to show my driver's license in order to attend an all-school Mass.***

This past week, Beth and I attended an all-school Mass. Until now, this parish held its all-school Mass in the church. But because of the senseless and horrific killing at Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis the prior week, the Mass was moved to the school's gymnasium for better security. In order for Beth and I to attend Mass, we had to pass through school security which included showing official I.D. The school secretary scanned our driver's license and gave us a visitor badge. A necessary and understandable security precaution in today's world.

Before Mass began, one of the teachers gave a beautiful explanation that celebrating Holy Mass can occur in a variety of places not just in the walls of our church. She said there are times when Mass is celebrated in a large Cathedral, a person's home, outdoors, under a tent, on a school bus, and yes, even in a gymnasium. As long as there is a priest and the offertory bread and wine, Mass is able to take place. She also explained that the word "Mass" comes from the Latin word "missal" which means to be sent out. And in order to be sent out and to share the Good News of Jesus with others we must first gather in worship. Today we gather in the gym, no pews, no kneelers, but Jesus is present.

The shooting in Minneapolis last week still weighs heavy on my heart. Two children dead, 21 injured (18 children, three adults), including one child still in critical condition.

The taking of innocent lives has no place in our society, especially the killing of children. As Christians we believe all life is sacred, the good and the bad. We preach no to abortion, euthanasia, and capital punishment. Even the killer who took his own life is a lost soul to the devil. He had so many issues, he was mentally disturbed and possessed by Satan. He needed help for his illness, but the relativism of our society ignored it and even normalized his identity behavior. Now he may be spending eternity in hell. Only God knows his fate.

I continue to struggle with why these murderous acts continue to occur. When they happen, they tend to be politicalized quickly by both sides. I believe we need more resources to help those who mentally struggle. I believe in the 2nd Amendment but also believe commonsense legal measures can be taken to minimize the ability for easy access to assault style guns. A person should not be able to just walk in and purchase an assault rifle. I need a background check to be with around children in youth ministry. I need a special driver's license if I want to be commercial driver. It takes testing and certification. Maybe not the best analogies but you get my point.

We even hear comments that our prayers are senseless by those who don't believe in God or at the least don't understand the purpose and need for prayers. The good people at Franciscan University have this powerful statement about prayer.

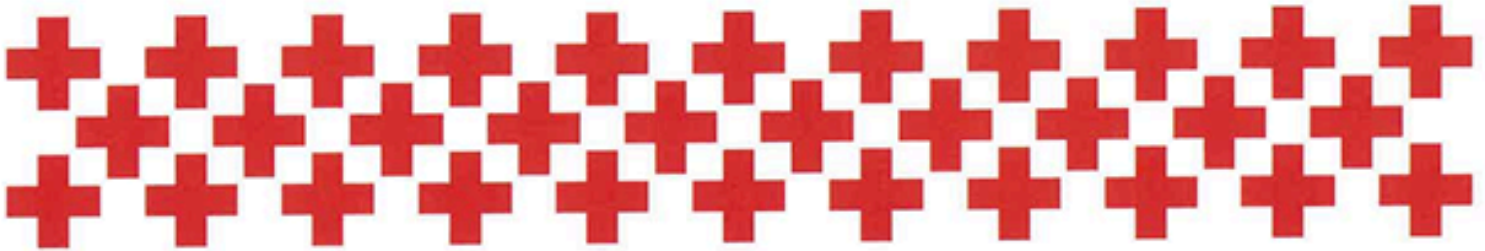


Prayer is not an escape from reality. It is the very place we meet Christ, who Himself was unjustly slain. We will continue to pray, not because we are passive, but because we know only God can bring true justice, healing, and peace. Evil wants us to stop praying and to despair. We will not. We cling to Christ, who has conquered death. "The prayer of a righteous person has great power in its effects." -James 5:16

Please continue to pray for those at Annunciation Catholic Church. Their lives will never be the same. I personally know the parish. My nephew and his wife were married their 14 years ago. I was an extraordinary minister at their wedding. Their three children attend school there. Yes, they were in Mass the morning of the shooting. By the grace of God, they were physically unharmed, however, the oldest daughter Cora (center) did witness two of her friends getting wounded. The included picture is Cora at the prayer service for the victims.

**American Red Cross**

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



**Blood Drive**  
**Our Lady Of The Lake**  
**Catholic Church**

Parish Center  
202 Vaughn Drive  
Branson, MO 65616

**Friday, September 26, 2025**  
**12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org)  
and enter: OURLADYBranson to schedule an appointment.

Come to give blood Sept. 22-Oct. 19 for a \$10  
Amazon.com Gift Card by email! See [rcblood.org/fall](https://rcblood.org/fall)



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App



We're excited to share that Faith Direct will soon be upgrading to ParishSOFT Giving—our new, secure giving platform. This upgrade will happen automatically and securely.

**The transfer date from Faith Direct to ParishSoft will take place Tuesday, Sept. 9th**

No action is required from you—your gift schedules and payment details will carry over seamlessly.

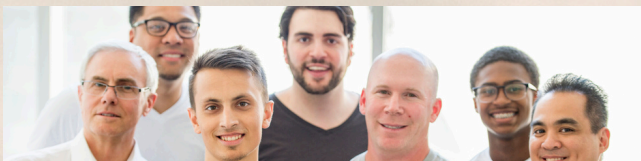
**What's new about ParishSOFT Giving?**

- **Weekly Giving:** If you selected weekly giving, your gifts will now be deducted each week instead of in one monthly batch.
- **More Flexibility:** Adjust your giving schedule to any date that works for you—not just the 4th or 15th.
- **More Ways to Give:** Now you can donate using PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay, or Google Pay.

We're committed to making this a smooth transition.

**ATTENTION: CATHOLIC MEN**

You are invited to the Southeast Missouri.....



**CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT**  
*Men Meeting Jesus*

**Thu., Sept. 18**  
**6:30 -9:00 pm**

**Sacred Heart - Poplar Bluff, MO**

To help plan for the food please RSVP to [SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com](mailto:SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com)

'SEMO Catholic Man Night' on Facebook  
Or text 573-275-5214

An evening of Adoration, Confession, & a Manly Meal with discussion to follow.

"As we celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross, Sept. 14, may the Cross be our comfort, our consolation, and our joy. May Our Lady of Sorrows draw us closer to her Son."

Bishop Edward M. Rice




September PRAYER INTENTION



**Adorers Needed**

"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you." – Jeremiah 29:12

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>10:00 - 11:00am</b>	<b>3:00 - 4:00pm</b>
<b>&amp;</b>	<b>&amp;</b>
<b>1:00 - 2:00pm</b>	<b>5:00 - 6:00pm</b>

We will not have the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the week before, the week of, and the week after a holiday.

If you are available for one of these time slots please contact Julie Johnsonbaugh [julie.johnsonbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:julie.johnsonbaugh@gmail.com)



## Common Childhood Ear, Nose and Throat Problems



# SPEAKER *series*

From ear infections to tonsils and adenoids, learn what every parent needs to know. Dr. Travis Brawner will share his expert insights on the most common ENT issues children face, what to watch for, and when to seek help.

**September 16, 2025**

**11:30 – 1:00 PM**

**Golden Corral**

3551 Shepherd of the Hills Expy  
Branson, MO 65616

**\$10 registration is required**

**Come early to network**

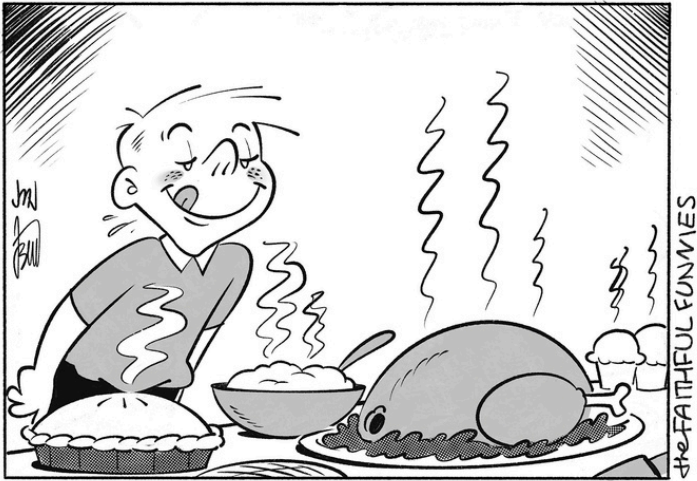


Sponsored by:



**Central Trust  
Company**

"What smells the best at Grandma's house for dinner?"



"Your nose!"



Tradition says that Mary's parents were named Anne and Joachim. They are the patron saints of grandparents, since they were Jesus' grandparents!

©LPI

# JESUS Heals Brokenness

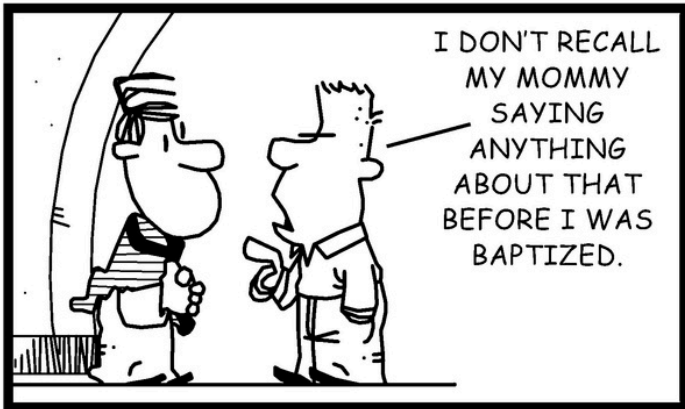
## CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** What does the word "dalmatic" mean?

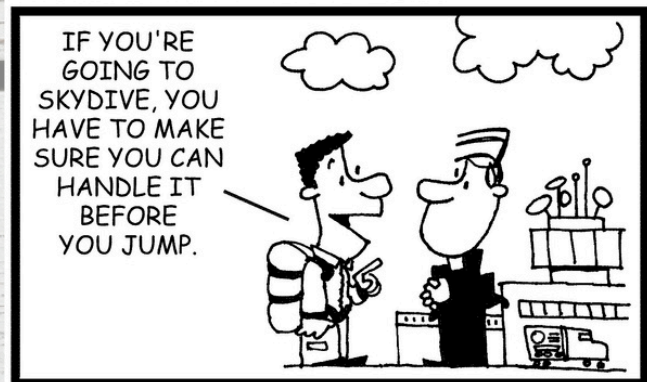
**Answer:** A dalmatic is the outer vestment worn by a deacon.

©LPI

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## Readings for the week of September 7, 2025

### Sunday:

Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17  
(1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

### Monday:

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/  
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

### Tuesday:

Col 2:6-15/Ps 62:6-7, 9/Lk 6:12-19

### Wednesday:

Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab/  
Lk 6:20-26

### Thursday:

Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/  
Lk 6:27-38

### Friday:

1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11/  
Lk 6:39-42

### Saturday:

1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7/  
Lk 6:43-49

### Next Sunday:

Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37,  
38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for  
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in  
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

One hot Arizona summer afternoon my car ran out of gas. I phoned the parish office and begged for help. My secretary came and helped me fill the gas tank. She chided me, “If you can’t manage getting your car from A to B, how can we expect you to guide the parish where it needs to go?” Point taken, Julie. I vowed to always make sure I have plenty of gas in my car.

The Lord Jesus chides us in this week’s Gospel, too. He uses the two images of a man building a tower and a king marching soldiers into war to make this single point: acquire what is needed to follow him or look ridiculous. We rightly mock the builder who lacks money for his tower and the king with a short-handed army. But our mocking boomerangs back on us. How do we expect to follow Jesus to the end with insufficient detachment from our possessions and divided hearts?

The good news is, there is still time. Jesus is building a great tower to heaven—his own body. So we renounce all and give ourselves to him as his precious stones. Jesus is waging a battle against our enemy. So we forsake all and swear allegiance and march under his banner. In this way, we will finish what has begun in our discipleship. Or better put, our Lord will have the stones and soldiers required to see his great work through.

— *Father John Muir*

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight. (Wis 9:18)

### Psalm:

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge. (Ps 90)

### Second Reading:

Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while,  
that you might have him back forever. (Phlm 1:15)

### Gospel:

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me  
cannot be my disciple. (Lk 14:27)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,  
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Today, Jesus tells us the cost of true discipleship — and it turns out, it's everything. We must reject the world in order to love God. What attachments are holding us back from the relationship we could have — we *should* have — with our Lord?

## Observances for the week of September 7, 2025

<b>Sunday:</b>	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day
<b>Monday:</b>	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. Peter Claver, Priest
<b>Thursday:</b>	Patriot Day
<b>Friday:</b>	The Most Holy Name of Mary
<b>Saturday:</b>	St. John Crysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

## Devotions, *Explained!*

*Lectio divina* (“divine reading”) is an ancient practice of praying through the reading of Scripture. It includes four steps: read (*lectio*), meditate (*meditatio*), pray (*oratio*) and contemplate (*contemplatio*).

## Prayer of Simplicity

Dear God,  
In my desire for You, take away anything that keeps me from knowing You, myself, or my mission here on earth. Help me to remember what is truly important, and to seek and treasure that.  
Amen.



“In the same way, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.”

LUKE 14:33

## When Life Becomes Lose-Lose

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**here is so often a cost to being a follower of Jesus, to doing the right thing. During our country’s Civil War, southern plantation owners came face to face with the gospel’s imperative to accept slaves as human beings who have the right to be free, though that would then bring about the collapse of the cotton economy. For them, it was live the gospel or save the economy. Sometimes, the gospel seems to put us in a lose-lose situation.

President Lyndon B. Johnson was confronted by the Vietnam War. By continuing a war he knew was unwinnable, it would cost human lives. If he ended the war, he would be labeled as the president who lost a war. For him, it was lose-lose. Do the right thing or save face. A person may be confronted by a job that demands unjust and immoral decisions when

the refusal to make such decisions would cost that person the job necessary to support his or her family. A student may be faced with the prospect of either cheating or receiving a poor grade. Living the gospel is fraught with costs.

Today, our nation faces the difficulties of immigration. On the one hand, there is the gospel’s command to love the poor and so to accept immigrants seeking to escape violence and terror and drought, conditions that make it impossible to live. On the other hand, there is the need for our nation to deal with uncontrolled migration. The question of “What would Jesus do?” is never without consequences. ●

### Reflect

*How does following Jesus cost me in my life?*

## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** For someone who talks about love so much, it seems weird that in today's Gospel Jesus is calling us to hatred. It makes us question everything we think we understand about him, about God, about discipleship.

### How to Hate the Christian Way

When I was a kid, we had the Dumb Stupid Hate Chair.

It was a chair in my parents' foyer where an offending child had to sit for five or ten minutes if they uttered the words "dumb," "stupid" or "hate." The rules in my house growing up were very clear. We don't call anyone stupid. We don't call anyone dumb. And we hate no one and nothing.

Well, today, Jesus has to sit in the Dumb Stupid Hate Chair.

For someone who talks about love so much — for whom love is a legacy and a commandment — it seems weird that in today's Gospel Jesus is calling us to hatred. It makes us question everything we think we understand about him, about God, about discipleship.

I'll let you guess which of the kids in my family spent the most time in the Dumb Stupid Hate Chair (Hi! It was me). But I didn't really think my sister was stupid, and I didn't really hate my brother. Those were just the words I used, even though they were strictly forbidden — maybe *because* they were strictly forbidden. They were the strongest words I knew, and you need strong words for strong feelings.

Jesus knew that hate is a really strong word. It's a word that gets people's attention. And I think what he wants to do today, more than anything, is get our attention. He wants to force us to consider the ways in which our attachments to this world — and even to other people — supersede our attachment to God. He wants us to radically evaluate what (and who) we love and how we love it and how much of our souls, our lives, ourselves we have let this love consume.

It's a tough assignment, and we don't like it. Maybe we kind of hate it. That's okay: hate has its place. So take a seat in the chair and give it a ponder.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

What happens if someone drops a consecrated host?

### Answer:

Despite our best efforts, and this is as true in our liturgical celebrations as in all of life, accidents happen. Occasionally at Mass, a host may be dropped or some of the Precious Blood could even be spilled from the chalice, despite the best efforts of the priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion assisting at the liturgy.

So, when a host is dropped or the Precious Blood is spilled, we can take guidance from the U.S. Bishops' statement *Norms for the Distribution for Holy Communion Under Both Kinds*:

All ministers of Holy Communion should show the greatest reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist by their demeanor, their attire, and the manner in which they handle the consecrated bread or wine. Should there be any mishap — as when, for example, the consecrated wine is spilled from the chalice — then the affected "area . . . should be washed with water, and this water should be then poured into the sacrarium."

According to no. 280 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, the general rule is that a dropped host is picked up by the minister distributing Communion and reverently consumed. The minister should be careful to make sure that no other particles from the host remain on the ground. As we see in the instruction from the bishops, the Precious Blood would be absorbed (customarily with a purificator) and the area attentively and reverently washed with water which would then be disposed of properly. w

# Dear Padre,

**Why is RCIA now called OCIA? And why do people have to go through that process anyway? Can't they just talk to the priest if they want to be Catholic?**

The reason why Christian Initiation for Adults is now identified as the "Order" rather than the "Rite" is that the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) changed the name in November 2021. The name change more accurately reflects the English translations of the Latin texts and emphasizes the ongoing development of participants in the faith. Within the Order are different rites, such as the Rite of Entrance to the Catechumenate, the Rite of Sending, the Rite of Election, the Scrutinies, and the Rites of Initiation.

Although it is still possible to become a baptized Catholic or a confirmed Catholic after a simple conversation with a priest or a catechist, the preferred way is the communal encounter. The Christian community plays an important role in calling us to faith, enabling our practice of the faith, and helping us persevere in our baptismal call to faith. We are not alone; we are part of the people of God. We are the community that is called into life by the Spirit of God and that is nourished by the Eucharist we share and the sacraments we celebrate. ●

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org**



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## **A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV**

**In Gaza...children, families, and elderly are reduced to starvation. In Myanmar, new hostilities have cut short innocent young lives. Finally, war-torn Ukraine awaits negotiations for a just and lasting peace.... We implore [Our Lady's] intercession for the gift of peace, for support and comfort for those who suffer.**

**REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 18, 2025**

### **Monday**

September 8  
*The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
Mi 5:1-4a or  
Rom 8:28-30  
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or  
1:18-23

### **Tuesday**

September 9  
*St. Peter Claver, Priest*  
Col 2:6-15  
Lk 6:12-19

### **Wednesday**

September 10  
*Weekday*  
Col 3:1-11  
Lk 6:20-26

### **Thursday**

September 11  
*Weekday*  
Col 3:12-17  
Lk 6:27-38

### **Friday**

September 12  
*Weekday*  
1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14  
Lk 6:39-42

### **Saturday**

September 13  
*St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*  
1 Tm 1:15-17  
Lk 6:43-49

### **Sunday**

September 14  
*The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*  
Nm 21:4b-9  
Phil 2:6-11  
Jn 3:13-17

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*Upcoming Weekends*

**Sept. 26-28, 2025**

CRM Retreat Center, Carthage



Sept. 26-28, 2025 at the CRM Retreat Center, in Carthage, MO.  
For more information, go to [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org).

**Oct 11,  
2025**



*Renewed in  
Hope*

keynote speaker

**Danielle Bean**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11**  
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Conference Begins | 9:00 am  
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\*please register by September 12<sup>th</sup> to receive a t-shirt

Registration is now open  
for the 4th annual  
Catholic Women's Conference,  
Sat., Oct. 11, 2025 at  
Holy Trinity Parish, Springfield.

This year's theme, Renewed in Hope,  
is based on Romans 5:5  
"Hope does not disappoint."  
The keynote speaker is Danielle Bean,  
a Catholic writer, speaker, and host of the  
Girlfriends podcast.



Check-in starts at 8 a.m.  
Conference begins at 9 a.m.  
closing Mass will begin at 3:30 p.m.  
Registration fee of \$25 includes lunch and t-shirt.

Registration deadline  
(to receive a t-shirt) is Fri., Sept. 12.  
Register online <https://form.jotform.com> or  
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## MASS SCHEDULE

### WEEKEND

Saturday 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm (Spanish)  
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:30 am (Live-Streamed)

### WEEKDAY

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 9:00 am  
Wednesday 5:30 pm  
1st Friday 10:00 am

### Holy Day of Obligation

Noon and 7pm (Bilingual)

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