

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

203 VAUGHN RD., BRANSON, MO 65616 | 417.334.2928 | OFFICE@OLLBRANSON.COM

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



“Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” - Jn 10:2-3



4th Sunday of Easter

April 25 - May 1



Events

SATURDAY April 25

2nd Collection for Catholic Home Mission

Women's WELCOME Meeting

9:00-11:00am - Faith Formation Room

Sacrament of Reconciliation

3:00-4:30pm - Confessional

SUNDAY April 26

2nd Collection for Catholic Home Mission

Coffee & Christ

9:15-10:15am - Faith Formation Room

MONDAY April 27

No Events today

TUESDAY April 28

Adult Bible Study

10:00-Noon - Faith Formation Room

Bereavement Group

2:00-4:00pm - Heritage Room

OCIA

6:30-8:00pm - Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY April 29

Stitchers

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

William Glunt Funeral Mass

9:00am Rosary at Snapp-Bearden Funeral Home

10:00am Funeral Mass at OLL

Luncheon to follow

PSR

5:30pm - Mass

6:15-7:00pm - Food/Class

Music Practice

6:15-7:30pm - Music Room

THURSDAY April 30

OLL Game Day

1:00pm-3:30pm - Faith Formation Room

FRIDAY May 1

1ST Friday Book Club

After 10am Mass- Faith Formation Room

Spanish Charismatic Group

6:00-9:00pm - Faith Formation Room

SATURDAY May 2

No AM events today

Page 2

Mass Times

SATURDAY

5:00pm

7:00pm (Spanish)

SUNDAY

8:00am

10:30am

MONDAY

9:00am

TUESDAY

9:00am

WEDNESDAY

10:00am

Funeral Mass for William Glunt

5:30pm

Memorial Mass for Jack Hutcheson

THURSDAY

9:00am

1st FRIDAY

10:00am

Flower Intentions

April 25th -

May 1st

for

Jim Wirth†



Adoration

TUESDAY

9:30am - 3pm - Chapel

THURSDAY

9:30am - 7pm - Chapel

Important Links

[Click Here For PARISH CALENDAR](#)

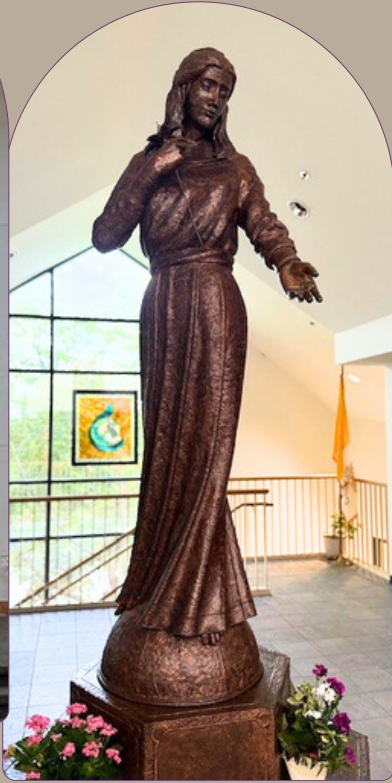
[Click Here For MASS INTENTIONS](#)

[Click Here For FLOWER INTENTIONS](#)

Flower Intentions available for May

Mass Intentions

Sat.	4/25	5:00pm	Meg Gertler †
Sat.	4/25	7:00pm	Taney County Parish Family (Living)
Sun.	4/26	8:00am	Fr. Joseph Wetasse (Living)
Sun.	4/26	10:30am	Butler Family †
Mon.	4/27	9:00am	Deceased family members of John & Margaret Casey †
Tue.	4/28	9:00am	Andres Melendez †
Wed.	4/29	10:00am	William Glunt Funeral Mass †
Wed.	4/29	5:30pm	Memorial Mass for Jack Hutcheson † (Father of Pat Hutcheson) & Ivan & Samantha Fernandez Wedding Anniversary (Living)
Thur.	4/30	9:00am	Morgan Hazelton (Living)
Fri.	5/1	10:00am	Robert and Dorothy Chapman and family (Living & Deceased)



[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](#)

Collection through April 19, 2026

Envelopes:		\$35,299.29
Plate:		\$10,195.00
Green Envelopes:		\$10,188.86
Total:		\$55,683.15

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA





SUPPORT THE
CATHOLIC
HOME MISSIONS
APPEAL

April 26

Strengthening the Church at Home

www.usccb.org/home-missions

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Copyright © 2025, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Photos: Newman Center, Catholic Diocese of Belleville. CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS

April Brings a Chance to Strengthen the Church at Home

Nearly 40 percent of the dioceses in the United States and its territories are “home mission territory,” where small Catholic populations face isolation due to geographic challenges and economic hardship. These dioceses serve communities, many in rural areas, that cannot sustain their core ministries without outside assistance. That assistance comes through contributions to the annual Catholic Home Missions Appeal, taking place this year in many dioceses on April 25-26.

Your support for this annual appeal enables home mission dioceses to sustain parishes in remote areas, support formation for priests and deacons, and train leaders in faith formation and family ministries that strengthen new generations of faithful Catholics.

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal also supports eparchies of the Eastern Catholic Churches in the United States, helping them meet the unique pastoral and cultural needs of their members, including those who have come to the United States from lands affected by war and terrorism.

If you are unable to give in your parish but wish to make a donation online, please visit [#iGiveCatholic](https://www.givecatholic.com).

SAVE THE DATE



2026 DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

We are One in Him.

DDF SUNDAY MAY 3, 2026



DIOCESE of SPRINGFIELD-
CAPE GIRARDEAU

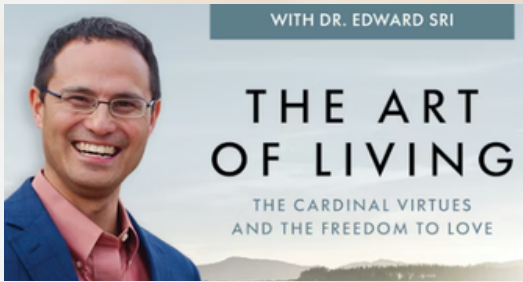


2026
BISHOP'S
ANNUAL
APPEAL 



Coffee & Christ Sundays

9:15am to 10:15am
Faith Formation Room



Dr. Sri breaks down each of the four cardinal virtues, the ways we can strengthen our practice of these virtues, and the vices that oppose them. Using real life examples, thoughtful storytelling, and the rich history of the Catholic Church's saints and theologians, you will be inspired to love others more deeply and authentically.

**Participants are always welcome!
There is no required attendance!**

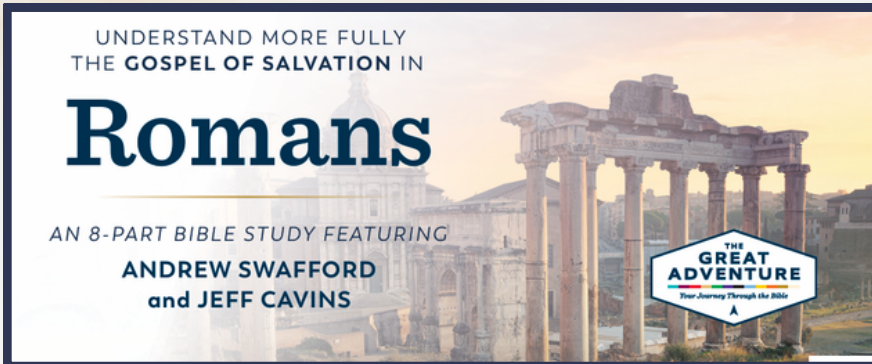
Upcoming Dates

April 26th - Temperance

God gave us the gift to feel pleasure in so many things throughout our lives (food, drink, entertainment, etc.). The virtue of temperance opens us up to feel even MORE. More joy, more pleasure, and more space to experience life's greatest things.

May 3rd - Justice

There is some disconnect between the secular worldview and the Christian worldview of justice. While the secular world focuses on "What do you owe me?" the Christian Church asks "What do I owe others?" Dr. Sri breaks down how justice focuses more on our responsibilities and the ways that we can give others their due.



Adult Bible Study Tuesdays

10:00am to Noon
Faith Formation Room

We're excited to invite you to **Romans: The Gospel of Salvation**, an eight-part study about possibly the most famous—and controversial—of St. Paul's letters.

Join us!

Session 6 - April 28th -

Romans 9–11: God Fathers His Family

Session 7 - May 5th -

Romans 12–13: Making Our Lives a Living Sacrifice

Session 8 - May 12th -

Romans 14–16: The End of the Story

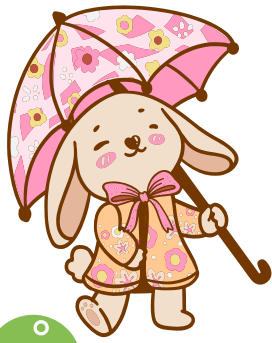
Paul's letter to the Romans has been at the center of reflection, conversion, and controversy from the very beginning.

Indeed, many Catholics fear that Romans is too "Protestant."

But understood correctly, as St. Paul intended, Romans is authentically Catholic.

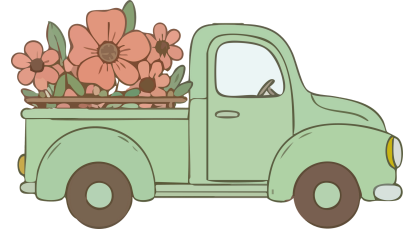
Romans reveals that salvation is not merely the removal of a guilty verdict; it is about entering into Christ's life, death, and resurrection and sharing in his divine life. In Jesus Christ all the hopes and expectations of Israel are fulfilled, leading to the universal ("catholic") family of God.





APRIL PSR CALENDAR

(Parish School of Religion)



**Wednesday
PSR K-12th**

April 29th 5:30-7pm
Mass
Food/Class

SAINT OF THE MONTH

St. Catherine of Sienna



St. Catherine's feast day is April 29,

She is the patroness against fire, illness, the United States, Italy, miscarriages, people ridiculed for their faith, sexual temptation, and nurses.

SERVICE PROJECT

Say a Divine Mercy as a Family

The Divine Mercy Chaplet
Kolbe Academy

- † Make the Sign of the Cross
 - Our Father
 - Hail Mary
 - The Apostles' Creed
- The Eternal Father
Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
- For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

3x at the end:
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.



Congratulations to those making their First Communion

MENU

4/29 - Pizza



MAY PSR CALENDAR



Wednesday PSR K-12th

May 6th 5:30-7pm

Mass
First Communion
Food/Class

May 13th 5:30-7pm

Mass
Food/
Class activities

SAINT OF THE MONTH



MAY

MONTH OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

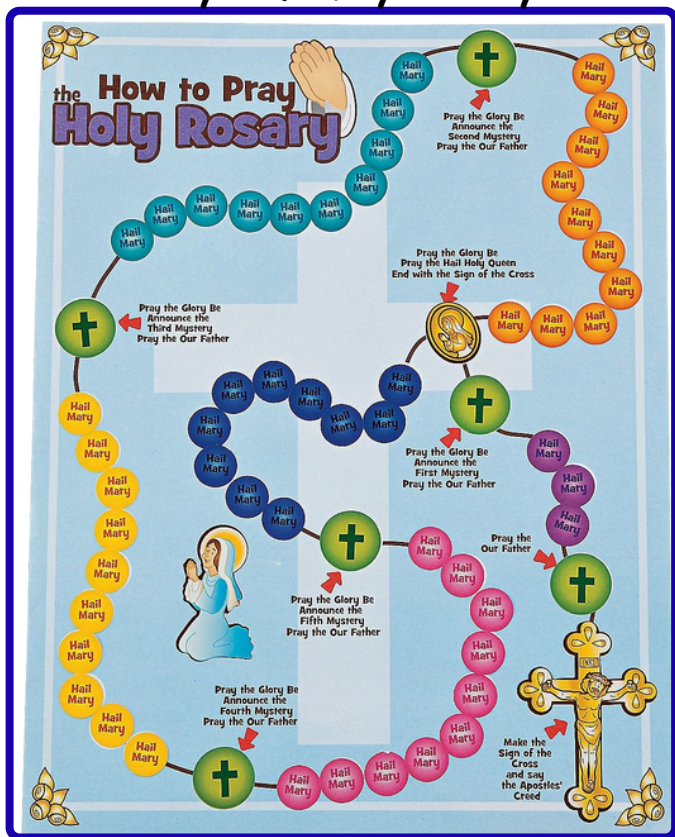
The Church honors Mary as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf.

SPECIAL EVENT



SERVICE PROJECT

Say a family rosary



MENU



5/6 - Pizza
5/13 - Hot Dogs



Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn

Why Catholic retreats are important for our High School youth

For today's high school teens, life moves at a relentless pace. They navigate academic pressure, social expectations, digital noise, and the constant question of who they are becoming. In the midst of all this, faith can easily become something squeezed to the margins. A weekend retreat like the **Steubenville Youth Conference** offers something profoundly different: sacred time. It gives our young people a chance to step away from the noise and encounter Christ in a way that is personal, joyful, and transformative.

These retreats are crafted specifically for the spiritual and emotional needs of teenagers. Dynamic speakers address the real, everyday struggles that our youth face: identity, relationships, anxiety, and the desire to belong. Joy filled worship shows them that the Church is not only alive but vibrant. Eucharistic adoration becomes a moment of deep encounter, where many teens experience the presence of Jesus in a way they have never known before. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, offered with gentleness and encouragement, becomes a place of healing rather than obligation. For many, this is the moment when faith shifts from *"something I learned"* to *"Someone I know."*

One of the most important fruits of a retreat weekend is the strengthening of parish community. When teens travel, pray, laugh, and worship together, they form bonds that carry into the school year. They return home more connected to their youth leaders, more invested in parish life, and more aware that they belong to a family of faith. These shared experiences create a foundation of trust and friendship that supports them long after the retreat ends. A parish that invests in its youth is a parish that builds its future.

There is also a deeper, less obvious grace at work, one that is easy to overlook. A Steubenville weekend functions as a counter cultural reset. For 48 hours teens step out of the constant swirl of social media, comparison, and performance. They step into silence, sacraments, joy, and purpose. They rediscover who they are without the pressure to impress or compete. This brief but powerful shift can redirect the entire trajectory of a young person's spiritual life. Many return with a renewed sense of identity, clarity about their vocation, and a desire to live as intentional disciples.

As a parish, we want to give our young people every opportunity to grow in holiness, confidence, and community. A retreat weekend is not simply a trip or a youth activity, it is an investment in their spiritual foundation, their relationships, and their future as members of the Body of Christ. When we support our teens in attending retreats like Steubenville, we are planting seeds that will bear fruit for years to come.

Please encourage our youth to attend this year's Steubenville Conference. Our three Lady's parishes will be attending the July 10-12 weekend on the campus of Missouri State University. And pray for our youth, their chaperones, and all who will attend this summer. May the Holy Spirit move powerfully in their hearts and lead them ever closer to Christ.



OLL Games

Join us April 30th OLL Game Day
1:00pm Faith Formation Room

OLL Train - Golden Girls
BIG Winner Julie J -246
Anne Marie -338
Lil' Winner Mary - 390



OLL Train - Hustlers
BIG Winner Joe -178
Ed -181 Eva -267
Lil' Winner Remy - 236

Swoop - Frozen Swoopers
Big Winner Sharon S -156
Jeanie -164 Sharron -230
Sharon A -232 Dan -278
Lil' Winner Butch -371



Mahjong
Judy O -25
Brenda -25
Joyce -25



Great Fun over the
next Two Thursdays!



KENTUCKY DERBY

April 30th Celebrate Kentucky Derby!
Wear a Hat! Dress for Spring!



May 7th Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

Want to attend the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress, but don't want to drive?

We will be taking a chartered bus to West Plains.

We will leave OLL - SAT. AUG. 15TH at 6:00AM

There's no charge to sign up for the bus, **HOWEVER...**
you will need to register & pay to attend the Congress.
Spots are **FILLING UP** fast.

Cost

There is a registration fee of **\$10 per person or \$25 maximum per family** (parents with minor age children).

We are grateful to the sponsors and donors whose financial gifts are helping to keep the registration cost very low for participants!

The registration fee includes

- all Congress activities
- speakers
- materials
- and a lunch meal

Meals

Lunch will be provided at the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress. A variety of grab-n-go lunch options will be provided by area restaurants that will be serving meals at the Civic Center.

You will be able to view menu options and order your lunch meal ahead of time, during the online registration process.

TO RESERVE A BUS SEAT(S)

Scan QR code to reserve



Or

Click on the link below to reserve a seat(s) on the bus

Eucharistic Congress Bus reservation | Flocknote

OR GO TO:

<https://ollbranson.flocknote.com/signup/241552>

TO SIGN-UP FOR THE CONGRESS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Scan the QR CODE Or

Click on the link below

Diocesan Eucharistic Congress - DioSCG

Diocesan Eucharistic Congress
AUGUST 15, 2026
WEST PLAINS CIVIC CENTER

Spots are filling up fast

Speakers: Bishop James Conley, Bishop Edward Rice, Fr. Leo Potalinghaus, Dr. Scott Hahn, Fr. Elvis Gonzalez, De Ministris, Mari Pablo, Brian Miller, Sr. Carolyn Nunes, FIMM

JOIN US IN PRAYING, LEARNING & CELEBRATING at the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress

DIocese of SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU 70 YEARS 1956-2026

Visit WWW.DIOSCG.ORG/DIOCESAN-EUCHARISTIC-CONGRESS or scan the QR CODE for more resources, including suggestions for the Year of Spiritual Preparation, and updates to the Congress!



THE LORD'S TABLE IS SET... & YOU'RE INVITED

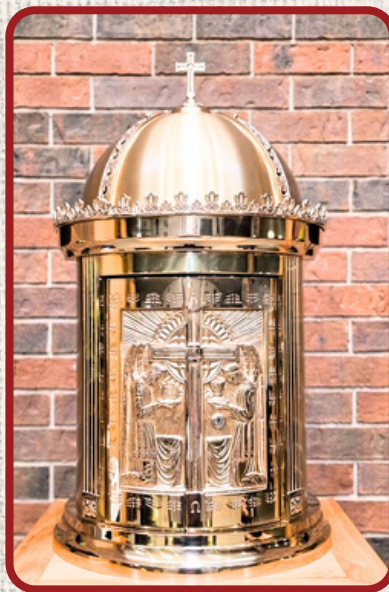
This invitation is for everyone.

This guide lays out monthly themes & practical suggestions to help you build lasting habits & to focus on placing God back at the center of your life.

APRIL



Tabernacle at
Our Lady of the Lake



Tabernacle at
Our Lady of the Cove



Tabernacle at
Our Lady of the Ozarks

PARTICIPATE IN THE HOLY WEEK TRIDUUM

Attend Mass during this time leading up to Easter

GO FOR A WALK OR HIKE WITH FRIENDS &/OR FAMILY

Spend time in nature to enjoy God's creations

DO RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

*Random acts of kindness suggestions

Leave an encouraging note on a random car windshield in a parking lot.

Donate gently worn clothes to a thrift store.

Pay for the next person in line at the drive thru.

Forgive someone you've been holding a grudge against.

Straighten up shelves when you're walking through the grocery aisle or the toy department.

Write a thank-you note to your server at a restaurant.



World Day of Prayer for Vocations



Sunday, April 26th

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

I REALIZE
I'VE DONE
WRONG —
NOW
WHAT DO
I DO?



CONFESS
YOUR SIN,
REPENT,
AND
NEVER DO
IT AGAIN!

OTHER
THAN
THAT...

isnyder
weeb!
© 2002 LPI
WWJD



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We
Believe
Jesus
IS OUR
SHEPHERD
AND WE
ARE HIS
SHEEP.



THAT'S
RIDICU-
LOUS.
I'M NOT
A SHEEP.
SHEEP
ARE
DUMB.

JN 10:1-10

THEY'RE NOT
THAT DUMB—
AT LEAST
THEY
BELIEVE IN
THE
SHEPHERD.



isnyder weeb!
© 1999 LPI AMDG

CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

QUESTION: IN RELIGIOUS ART, IT IS COMMON TO USE A CIRCLE OF LIGHT ABOVE JESUS OR ANOTHER HOLY PERSON'S HEAD TO SET THEM APART. WHAT IS THIS "CIRCLE OF LIGHT" CALLED?

ANSWER: HALO
©LP

YOU ARE
WORTHY

IT'S TIME FOR

Catholic Night

AT THE SPRINGFIELD CARDINALS!



\$15
SINGLE
TICKET

EXECUTIVE SUITE
TICKETS ARE ALSO
AVAILABLE FOR
THOSE WANTING TO
JOIN THE TASTE OF
CCSOMO EVENT!

THURSDAY, MAY 28

HAMMONS FIELD | 7:05 PM

CCSOMO.ORG/SPRINGFIELD-CARDINALS-CATHOLIC-NIGHT

SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR TICKETS
AND MORE
INFORMATION.



HOSTED BY:

Catholic Charities
of Southern Missouri

Women's Day of Reflection

Join the women of

Our Lady of the Ozarks

With Bishop Liebrecht and Lynn Melendez

Our Lady of the Ozarks Parish

Saturday, May 9, 2026

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Bishop Liebrecht presents

St. John Paul II, Mulieris Dignitatem

"The Dignity and Vocation of Women"

and

Lynn Melendez presents

"I Am Not Equipped"

based on the Gospel reading on feeding the 5000

To Register Contact:

Kay Gerken

Phone 417.335.0271 or

Email: Kay@GerkenandAssociates.com

Make check payable to PCCW and mail to:

Kay Gerken, 480 Woodsong Lane, Branson, MO 65616

Registration \$10.00 (includes lunch)

Deadline to register - May 3rd



St. Joseph the Worker

1796 State Hwy NN, Ozark, MO 65721

June 21 - 26, 2026

Day Program (1st - 6th grade):

Monday - Friday : 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Evening Program (7th - 12th grade):

Sunday - Thursday: 7 - 9 p.m.

WHAT IS TOTUS TUUS?

Totus Tuus is a summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. A team of energetic young adults will lead the children of the parish in games, skits, lessons, prayer, discussions, and more!

The mission of Totus Tuus is to inspire a true longing for holiness in young people, a deep desire for daily conversion, and an openness to their vocation by constantly challenging them to give themselves entirely to Christ through Mary and by continually strengthening their prayer lives in imitation of her.



Scan here to see the
all-new Totus Tuus
VIDEO!



Scan here to
REGISTER for
Totus Tuus!



SAVE THE DATE

OUR LADY OF THE COVE SPRING GARAGE SALE

FRIDAY, MAY 8TH

(8AM-4PM)

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH

(8AM-12PM)



WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!



QUO VADIS

"WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"

HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

JUNE 3-6, 2026

God has a plan for you. Join us for a retreat to discern where God could be calling you.

Camp St. Carlo in Fredericktown, MO
For High School Men, 9th-12th Grade

For more information visit dioscrg.org/vocations

Dads of participants are invited to join their sons for the retreat

Office of Vocations
Diocese of Springfield - Cape Girardeau

To register, scan the QR Code




2026 MIDWEST MARCH FOR LIFE



04 30 26

Join us at the

STATE CAPITOL IN JEFFERSON CITY

WWW.DIOSCG.ORG/RESPECT-LIFE/
Diocesan-chartered buses and mileage reimbursement available!

ABORTION TAKES THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF UNBORN CHILDREN EVERY YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES.

JOIN WITH US AS WE MARCH FOR LIFE IN JEFFERSON CITY

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, BUS REGISTRATION, AND MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT FORM IS AVAILABLE [HERE](#).

1st Wednesday of the month evening Adoration and Benediction that follows the 5:30pm Mass will RESUME in the FALL



"May the victory of the Risen Jesus bring an end to war.

May Christ continue to bless all those who entered the Church this Easter."

Bishop Edward M. Rice



April PRAYER INTENTION




Save the Date

2026

Vacation Bible School

July 6, 7 & 8

Exploring the Nature of God

Our Lady of the Cove

Kimberling City

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: We can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger. But where will he lead?

The Devil's Long Con

The algorithm on my streaming service has been suggesting a lot of romantic scam documentaries lately. If you're not familiar, romantic scams are a particularly cruel form of "the long con."

Some man presents himself to some woman as Prince Charming. He wines her. He dines her. He charms her mom and makes her friends jealous. Little red flags pop up here and there, but she shrugs them all off. She accepts convenient explanations.

She just wants to be happy.

And then one day, Prince Charming vanishes, along with the contents of the woman's savings account. Every victim says the same thing: "I should have known better, but I wanted it to be real."

I think the reason I'm so drawn to these shows is that I identify with these women. No, I've never been the victim of a romantic scam (if my husband married me thinking he would gain access to some kind of fortune, he's the one who got scammed). But we have all told ourselves that something *is* right because it *feels* right. We have shrugged off doubts about a choice, a relationship, a habit.

We have accepted easy answers that don't pass the sniff test — because we really, really wanted an answer, and we really, really wanted it to be easy.

The devil is a romantic scammer. A third-party retailer hawking knock-off joy and fulfillment. A wolf in sheep's clothing. A false prophet. A thief, a robber who has climbed the fence, knowing the gate will not admit him.

These are all different ways of saying the same thing: we can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger.

But where will he lead?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is the history behind the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross?

Answer:

Emperor Constantine's mother, Helena, is credited with having discovered the true cross around 330. She traveled to the Holy Land and uncovered the places associated with Jesus' life. Legend has it that Helena uncovered three crosses but was not able to detect the true cross until each of them was laid on a leper. Only one of them cured the leper, proving it to be the true cross. A great church was built at the site, and soon various portions of the cross were sent to other churches as relics to be venerated.

The day after the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, September 14, 335, the actual cross was displayed for veneration. Egeria, a women traveler to Jerusalem around the year 386, kept a diary that has survived. She tells of the unique veneration of the wood of the cross that took place on Good Friday, something maintained ritually to this very day.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross focuses on the gift of love that Jesus manifested by his total gift of self, offered for all. The cross, the ultimate form of capital punishment in its day, has become for us the ultimate symbol of love and triumph over evil and death.

Readings for the week of April 26, 2026

Sunday:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

Monday:

Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:11-18
(second choice)

Tuesday:

Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday:

Acts 12:24-13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/
Jn 12:44-50

Thursday:

Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/
Jn 13:16-20

Friday:

Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/
Jn 14:1-6

Saturday:

Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday:

Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/
Jn 14:1-12



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the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11

My most boring job was working at an insurance company as a college student. My main task? Filing. Now imagine if I had told my supervisor, "I just want you to know, I'm willing to die for these files." She would have called a psychiatrist — or at least security.

There is something absurd in Jesus' words in today's Gospel: **"I am the good shepherd... I lay down my life for the sheep."** (John 10:11) It sounds noble, until you think about it. No one dies for sheep. Not a hired hand. Not even a good shepherd. Sheep are important, sure, but not worth a human life.

And yet, Jesus insists: *I will die for them.* The crowd understandably responds: **"He is out of his mind."**

C.S. Lewis once said that Jesus does not leave us the option of calling him merely a good teacher. If someone speaks like him, he is either lying, crazy, or telling the truth. John's Gospel won't let us stay sentimental. Jesus means it. He reveals a love that surpasses logic — a love that measures worth not by strength or success, but by the willingness to suffer unto death.

The Good Shepherd's madness is mercy. His cross makes no earthly sense and yet it makes divine sense. He lays down his life not for kings or saints but for sheep — for the ordinary, the unworthy, for you and me.

Think of someone who may feel unworthy of love. Do something simple and generous for them, not because they deserve it, but because Jesus did the same for you.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Peter said to them,
"Repent and be baptized, every one of you,
in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

By his wounds you have been healed.
For you had gone astray like sheep,
but you have now returned to the shepherd and
guardian of your souls. (1 Pt 2:24-25)

Gospel:

"I came so that they might have life and have it more
abundantly." (Jn 10:10)

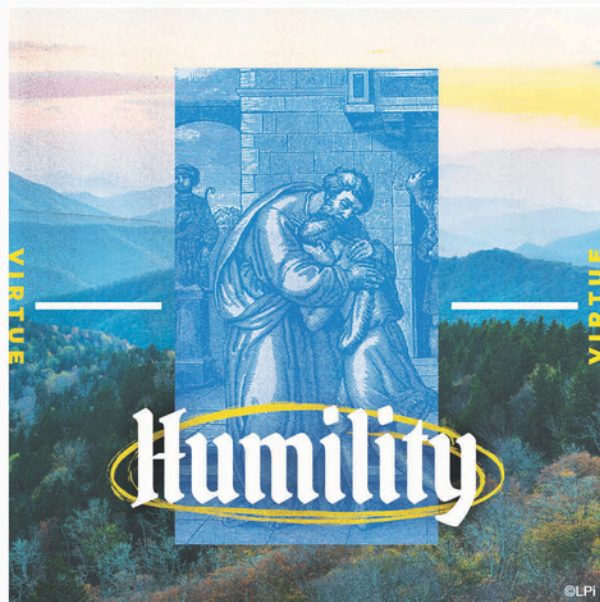
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"The sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice," Jesus says. Do we know the voice of Jesus when he speaks to us? Have we spent time in conversation with him? This week, listen for the voice of Jesus in your life, and follow where it leads.

Observances for the week of April 26, 2026

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Easter;
World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- Tuesday:** St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;
St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest
- Wednesday:** St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and
Doctor of the Church
- Thursday:** St. Pius V, Pope
- Friday:** St. Joseph the Worker; National Day of Prayer
- Saturday:** St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Easter



Virtues, Explained!

True humility does not require us to ignore, underestimate, or hide our gifts — it merely demands that we use these gifts rightly, with the knowledge that they are from our Creator and meant for His glory, not our own.

Blessing of the Good Shepherd

Dear Jesus,
Be the Good Shepherd in my life.
Help me to know your voice and
to respond.
Help me to find your fold and the
paths on which you lead.
Bless me with verdant pastures
and restful waters.
Refresh my soul.
Amen.

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Fr. Johny M. Augusthy
Associate Pastor
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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)

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from **3:00 - 4:30 pm**
or by Appointment (417-334-2928)

ADORATION

Tuesday 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

1st Wednesday of the month (Will RESUME in the Fall)

Thursday 9:30 am - 7:00 pm

- We will not have the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the week before, the week of, and the week after a holiday.
- All Adorers, please sign in when you come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.
- Please get in touch with the office if you need a door code or are having trouble with your own.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Any suspected or known abuse of a minor must first be immediately reported to the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-392-3738 or 844-CAN-TELL; or for suspected or known abuse of vulnerable or eligible adults, the Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-392-0210.

The Diocese of Springfield – Cape Girardeau is committed to the mission and ministry of protecting our children and young people.

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