

# OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026**



## 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” - Mt 5:16

# 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 7 - February 13

## Events

SATURDAY Feb. 7

**Special Collection-The Mirror**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

3:00-4:30pm - Confessional

SUNDAY Feb. 8

**Special Collection-The Mirror**

**Coffee & Christ**

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

MONDAY Feb. 9

**No AM Events**

TUESDAY Feb. 10

**Adult Bible Study**

10:00am-Noon - Faith Formation Room

**Centering Prayer**

12:15-2:00pm - John Paul II Room

**OCIA**

6:30-8:00pm - Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY Feb. 11

**Stitchers**

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

**PSR**

5:30pm - Mass

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

THURSDAY Feb. 12

**OLL Game Day**

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

**Spiritual Companionship**

6:30-7:30pm - St. Ignatius Room

FRIDAY Feb. 13

**Spanish Charismatic Group**

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

SATURDAY Feb. 14

**No AM Events**



## Mass Times

SATURDAY

5:00pm

7:00pm (Spanish)

SUNDAY

8:00am

10:30am

MONDAY

9:00am

TUESDAY

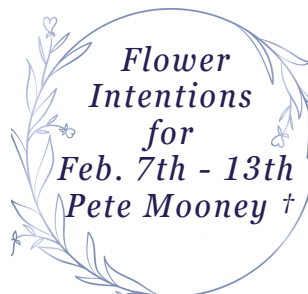
9:00am

WEDNESDAY

5:30pm

THURSDAY

9:00am



## Adoration

TUESDAY

9:30am-3:00pm - Chapel

THURSDAY

9:30am-7:00pm - Chapel

## Important Links

[Click Here For PARISH CALENDAR](#)

[Click Here For MASS INTENTIONS](#)



## Mass Intentions

- |       |      |         |  |
|-------|------|---------|--|
| Sat.  | 2/7  | 5:00pm  | Zoe Baxter (Special Intention-Living)                  |
| Sat.  | 2/7  | 7:00pm  | Taney County Parish Family (Living)                    |
| Sun.  | 2/8  | 8:00am  | Living & Deceased Members of the Launderville family † |
| Sun.  | 2/8  | 10:30am | Pete Mooney †  |
| Mon.  | 2/9  | 9:00am  | JoAnn Roman †  |
| Tue.  | 2/10 | 9:00am  | Morgan Netz (Special Intention-Living)                 |
| Wed.  | 2/11 | 5:30pm  | Lidia Lynch †  |
| Thur. | 2/12 | 9:00am  | Deceased Members of the Konzen Family †                |



[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



**We are currently facing some issues with our PayPal and Venmo accounts, but you can still make a contribution online.**

**Kindly visit our website at <https://ollbranson.com/online-giving> to donate directly or through ParishSoft, which is also accessible via our website.**

**Thank you for your generosity and understanding.**

### Collection through Feb. 1, 2026

Envelopes:		\$ 4,521.00
Plate:		\$ 500.00
Green Envelopes:		\$ 1,317.40
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$6,338.40</b>



# Coffee & Christ Sundays

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



Feb. 8

## Episode 10 - Revelation: Heavenly Worship and the End of Time

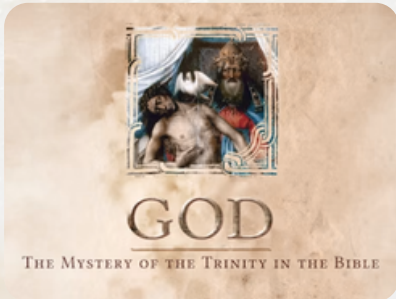
"The book of Revelation, with all of its apocalyptic imagery and focus on the end of time, has a great deal to teach us about liturgy and worship. Dr. Pitre brings our study of the Eucharist to a powerful conclusion.



## Starting Sunday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> Lectio: GOD

What do we mean when we say 'God'?

Misconceptions about God abound, even among Christians, and these misconceptions can become obstacles in our relationship with God. Join Augustine Institute Assistant Professor Dr. Elizabeth Klein for a careful study of Scripture that will lead you to a deeper and clearer awareness of who God is, equipping you to share this truth with others.



# Adult Bible Study Tuesdays

10:00am–Noon  
Faith Formation Room

Join us on Tuesdays  
to watch & discuss  
Season 5 of The Chosen  
followed by that episode's  
Biblical Roundtable discussion



There's a lot to talk about, and our Messianic Jewish rabbi, Catholic priest, and Evangelical scholar are back to discuss it all.

Feb. 10th

### Season 5 Episode 5: Because of Me

*The decision to arrest Jesus leads to a fiery debate. Roman soldiers track down a troublemaking crowd. Shmuel finds help from an unexpected source.*

#### Bible Roundtable:

You've seen Jesus get angry at corruption in His Father's house and hypocrisy within the religious leadership, but now, you've also seen Him snap at a tree. The "Cursing of the Fig Tree," has stumped many Christians over the centuries, but Dallas promises our Bible consultants will figure it out. :) Puns notwithstanding, this discussion truly gives us a solid understanding of the spiritual, historical, and symbolic meaning of what's been a confusing Bible passage for many.

Feb. 17th

### Season 5 Episode 6: Reunions

*As Jesus' followers gather for the Passover meal, His enemies assemble for a man hunt. Judas holds a secret meeting*

#### Bible Roundtable:

In Episode 6, we saw the first Communion at the Last Supper. The Chosen's portrayal stuck closely to Jesus' words straight from the Gospels, but there's a longstanding Catholic-Protestant disagreement over how to interpret those words. How literal or figurative was Jesus being when He said, "This is my body," and "This is my blood"? In this discussion, Father Guffey clearly presents the Catholic viewpoint. Dr. Huffman presents a continuum of Protestant views, and Rabbi Sobel brings in a Jewish perspective, connecting the Lord's Supper to Passover—and all the way back to the trees in the Garden of Eden. Despite any differences of interpretation, one thing is clear: everyone takes Jesus' words seriously and believes in the sacredness of this sacrament.

## *Understanding the differences between the Catholic Mass and a Protestant Worship Service.*

Two weeks ago, I attended the funeral service of a very dear friend of our Forsyth parish and a friend to many throughout southwestern Missouri, Arliss Stillings. Arliss wasn't Catholic in the sense of professing our Catholic Creed, but he was a catholic child-of-God in the way he lived out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Arliss' funeral service was held at the First Baptist Church in Forsyth. It was a beautiful testimony of his love for Jesus, his wife Linda, his family and friends, and the many lives he touched.

The ecumenical experience caused me to reflect upon some of the subtle and not so subtle differences between the Catholic Mass and a Protestant worship service – a topic that is discussed early on in the O.C.I.A. inquiry sessions. With this in mind, I offer the following refresher on some of the key differences.

### **The Heart of Worship: The Eucharist versus the Sermon**

At the heart of the Catholic Mass is the Eucharist, which the Church teaches is the real presence of Christ -- His body, blood, soul, and divinity. The Mass is a sacrificial offering, the re-presentation of Christ's one sacrifice on Calvary in an unbloody manner. Everything in the liturgy, readings, prayers, music, gestures, leads toward the consecration and reception of the Eucharist. Because of this, the Mass follows a universal, structured liturgy found in the Roman Missal. Whether in Missouri or Manila, the order of the Mass is essentially the same, emphasizing continuity with the early Church and the unity of Catholics worldwide.

Most Protestant services, by contrast, center on the proclamation of Scripture through preaching. While many Protestant communities celebrate Communion, it is usually understood symbolically or as a memorial rather than a sacrament that confers grace. The frequency varies widely: some celebrate weekly, others monthly or only on special occasions. The service structure also varies greatly. Lutherans and Anglicans retain a more structured form of worship. Many other Protestant denominations, especially evangelical or non-denominational churches, use a flexible format shaped by the pastor and local congregation.

Scripture plays a central role in both the Catholic Mass and Protestant service, but in different ways. Catholics follow a fixed lectionary that cycles through much of the Bible over three years, ensuring a broad exposure to Scripture within the context of the liturgy. Protestant pastors often choose readings based on sermon series or themes, allowing for topical or explanatory preaching. Personal Bible study is emphasized strongly in many Protestant communities.

Leadership also differs. A Catholic Mass must be celebrated by an ordained priest who stands in apostolic succession and acts in persona Christi during the Eucharistic Prayer. Protestant leadership structures vary widely: pastors, ministers, elders, or even lay leaders may preside over worship, depending on the denomination. Most Protestant traditions do not claim apostolic succession in the Catholic sense.

Music and worship style reflects theological differences. Catholic music is meant to support the liturgy rather than dominate it, with chant, hymns, and sacred music traditionally preferred. Many Protestant services place a strong emphasis on congregational singing, often using contemporary worship bands, praise music, and extended musical sets.

Finally, Communion practices differ. Catholics reserve the Eucharist for those in full communion with the Church and in a state of grace. Many Protestant communities practice open communion, inviting all baptized Christians or sometimes all attendees to participate.

Despite these differences, both traditions seek to honor Christ and nourish the faith of believers. Understanding these distinctions helps foster deeper respect and more fruitful dialogue between Christians of all backgrounds.

# Healing Mass

*The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is a rite where a priest anoints a seriously ill, elderly, or struggling person with blessed oil, offering spiritual healing, peace, and strength, and sometimes physical recovery, by uniting their suffering with Christ's, not just for those near death but for anyone needing God's healing grace, incorporating prayers and laying on of hands.*

***Anyone in need of this Sacrament is encouraged to attend one of these Masses***

**Our Lady of the Cove  
Tuesday, February 10th 9:00am**

**Our Lady of the Ozarks  
Wednesday, February 11th 9:00am**

***If you cannot attend, please contact the Parish office to schedule a time to receive this Sacrament***



Register for the March Give 5 classes at [www.OLLBranson.com/Give5](http://www.OLLBranson.com/Give5) and spend your Tuesdays learning more about your community and discovering where your unique skills, talent, interests, and extra time can make a difference.

***This session is being hosted by the Stone County Health Department in Reeds Spring. Bring a friend and make some new ones too!***

***To register -  
Please use our QR Code  
or use the website address below.***

**<https://ollbranson.com/give5signup2026>**



# WHY NOT DRAW CLOSER

TO JESUS IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST?

*Learn from the Catechism*

#1328 - 1332

*Get to know St. John Paul II's Mind*

EE Ch. 1 The Mystery of Faith

*Give Praise to God*

through the "Salutaris Hostia" hymn

*Reclaim Sunday for God & the Family*

Get to Know Your Church

*Watch an uplifting movie*

For Greater Glory: The True Story of Cristiada

Buy/rent from your favorite streaming services

*Contemplate Sacred Art*

The Last Supper by Juan de Juanes



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.*

## 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  
 REGISTRATION OPENS  
 JANUARY 12, 2026!

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

**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](http://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!

# OLL Games

Join us February 12th OLL Game Day  
1:00pm Faith Formation Room

OLL Train - Little Women  
BIG Winner Anne Marie -186  
Julie J -276  
Lil' Winner Judy E 370



OLL Train - The Banditos  
BIG Winner Joe -163  
Eva -231 Remy -234  
Lil' Winner Ed -459

Swoop Talkers - Big Winner Dan -149  
Sharon S -165 Jeanie -225 Butch -231  
Judy H -257 Sharon A -297 Harry -322  
Lil' Winner Margaret -434

Mahjong  
Sue P 25 Brenda 25  
Susan C 25 Caleb 25  
Judy O

**FORWARD... One Step At A Time**



**Bereavement  
Healing**

Grief is painful and exhausting. Bereavement is the state of loss when someone close to an individual has died. The death of a loved one is one of the greatest sorrows that can occur in one's life. People's responses to grief will vary, but grief is a normal, healthy response to loss.

It sometimes seems easier to avoid confronting the feelings of grief and loss. But working through sorrow and allowing ourselves to express such feelings can help us recover.

As we come together, sharing our pain, you will not be told how to grieve or how long it will take. Grief ultimately asks many things of us... including a shift in the way we relate to life. As we walk with each other, we will understand that we are not alone, allow ourselves to be mad and broken, re-discover God's love for us and eventually think and say our loved one's name with hope.

You are invited to join the bereavement group on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in the Heritage Room (lower level of the church). You may have recently lost a loved one or time may have passed since your loved one's death. If you are interested in walking together through this time of sorrow, call the OLL parish office 417-334-2928 asking to be contacted by Joyce Arnold about our Lady's Bereavement Healing Group.



# MARDI GRAS

*Celebration*

SUNDAY, FEB. 15TH

Noon

*OLL Parish Center*

POTLUCK STYLE

BRING YOUR BEST  
GUMBO, JAMBALAYA OR  
FESTIVE FOOD TO SHARE

COME SEE THE  
PSR KIDS' FLOATS

*ALL ARE  
WELCOME*



# FEBRUARY PSR CALENDAR



## Wednesday PSR K-12th

Feb 11th 5:30-7pm

Mass  
Food/Class

Feb 18th

Ash Wednesday  
Mass Times  
Noon & 7:00pm  
No Class

Feb 25th 5:30-7pm

Mass  
Food/Class



## SAINT OF THE MONTH

St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows



His feast day is Feb. 27th

Many young people look up to Gabriel today. He shows that you do not need to be famous or powerful to please God. You only need to love and trust Him. Gabriel lived this lesson with all his strength.

SAINT GABRIEL OF OUR LADY OF  
SORROWS IS A PATRON SAINT OF:  
CLERGY, STUDENTS & YOUNG PEOPLE

## SPECIAL EVENTS



Mardi Gras Celebration  
Sunday, February 15th @  
Noon ~ Parish Center

Join us for a Potluck and see the  
kids' Mardi Gras floats

Ash Wednesday, February 18th  
Mass Times  
Noon & 7:00pm



## SERVICE PROJECT

Valentine's Day Cards  
for Homebound



## MENU

2/11 - Mild chicken gumbo,  
salad, and doughnuts

2/25 - Pasta and salad



# REAL PRESENCE

## *Understanding Christ in the Eucharist*

A mini retreat at Catholic Campus Ministry  
Sunday February 8, 4-8:30 PM  
with special guest

**Dr. Bruce D. Marshall**

*All are welcome to join us for a contemplative evening aimed at deepening understanding of the Catholic doctrine of the real presence of Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Dinner will be provided, and the retreat will conclude with Mass at 7:30 PM. Students—\$5 All others—\$15*



Dr. Marshall (PhD, Yale University) is a Catholic theologian who has held the Lehman Chair in Christian Doctrine at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology since 2011 and has recently held distinguished visiting positions at Providence College and the Angelicum in Rome. He is a past president of the Academy of Catholic Theology. Dr. Marshall is the author of several books and dozens of articles, and he is a frequent speaker for the Thomistic Institute.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME



Jesus said to his disciples:  
"You are the salt of the earth.  
But if salt loses its taste, with  
what can it be seasoned? You  
are the light of the world. A  
city set on a mountain cannot  
be hidden."

- Mt 5:13a, 14

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## LENTEN MISSION WITH



## BOB SCHRIMPF

*Through his workshops, books, speaking sessions, and life coaching, Bob continues to empower others and guide them on their spiritual paths.*

*Prepare to be captivated by his profound insights, authenticity, and the transformative power of faith, laughter, and genuine connection he brings to those he serves.*

## SAVE THE DATE

**Monday - Feb. 23rd**

Our Lady of the Cove - 9:00am

**Tuesday - Feb. 24th**

Our Lady of the Lake (Part 1) - 10:00am  
Our Lady of the Lake (Part 1) - 6:00pm

**Wednesday - Feb. 25th**

Our Lady of the Lake (Part 2) - 10:00am  
Our Lady of the Lake (Part 2) - 6:00pm  
(after 5:30 Mass)

## ALL ARE WELCOME!



**Welcome.**  
There is **More to Life**

*The experience is personal,  
inspirational, and fulfilling.*

**Women's Welcome Retreat**  
**Our Lady of the Lake in**  
**Branson, MO**  
**March 7 & 8, 2026**

*Welcome is a two-day renewal  
weekend unlike any you have  
attended. Parishioners share  
with one another ways they have  
found meaning, hope, peace,  
and love  
in their lives through Christ.*

SCAN TO  
REGISTER



OR GO TO:  
[OLLBRANSON.COM/WOMENS-  
WELCOME-RETREAT](http://OLLBRANSON.COM/WOMENS-WELCOME-RETREAT)

 Dynamic Catholic

The 7th Annual  
**CATHOLIC  
MEN'S  
CONFERENCE**

**TAKING  
FAITH TO THE  
NEXT LEVEL!**

In cooperation with the diocesan Office of Evangelization.

**Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026**  
at Springfield Catholic High School



Keynote Speaker

**Marcel LeJeune**

*"Marcel LeJeune, author of 'The  
Contagious Catholic,' is renowned  
for his message of radical change  
and the call for person-to-person  
evangelization."*

— John Edwards



Doors open 7am. Mass 8am. Ends by 3:30pm.

**Register for free now!**

[www.CatholicConference.men](http://www.CatholicConference.men)

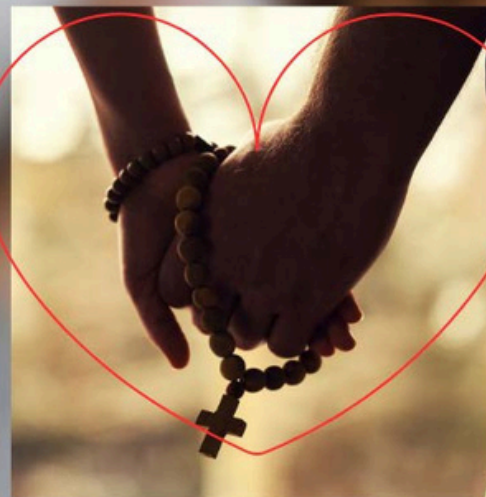
  @SOMOMensCon

*Looking for a  
special Valentines' Day gift  
for you and your spouse?*

The World Wide Marriage Encounter  
Weekend Experience is the perfect  
way to renew, refresh, and reignite  
your marriage!

**March 20 - 22, 2026**

Congregation of the Mother of the  
Redeemer Retreat Center  
Carthage, Missouri



**For more information and to register online, please go to**

[wwme.org](http://wwme.org)

# MAY GOD GUIDE your steps

"What kind of deposit does Jesus make when He goes to the bank?"



**"A Deposit of Faith."**



The Deposit of Faith is the entirety of Divine Revelation, given once and for all by Christ and the Apostles, which is entrusted to the Catholic Church to be preserved and passed on.

©LPI

## CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

Question: How many votes are needed in a papal conclave to elect a new pope?

Answer: A two-thirds majority.

©LPI

5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*faith*



5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your wound shall quickly be healed. (Is 58:8)

### Psalm:

The just man is a light in darkness to the upright. (Ps 112)  
Or Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

When I came to you, brothers and sisters,  
proclaiming the mystery of God,  
I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom.  
For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you  
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. (1 Cor 2:1-2)

### Gospel:

"You are the light of the world.  
A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.  
Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel  
basket." (Mt 5:14-15)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Salt without flavor is no longer salt. Light that illuminates nothing is no longer light. As Christians, we must be what we have been made to be. So think about it, carefully: what stands between you and being who you were made to be?

## Observances for the week of February 8, 2026

- Sunday:** 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
World Marriage Day
- Tuesday:** St. Scholastica, Virgin
- Wednesday:** Our Lady of Lourdes
- Saturday:** Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop;  
Valentine's Day
- Next Sunday:** 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Virtues, Explained!

In baptism, the Holy Spirit gives us the sanctifying grace of justification — the ability to grow in goodness through an increase in moral virtue (CCC 1266). Baptism, therefore, disposes us toward goodness.

## Blessing of Mission

Bless us on our way, O Lord.  
Share with us as we share with others.  
Heal us as we help others to heal.  
Provide for us as we open our hands in charity.  
Every gift comes from You.  
You are at the heart of all that is good.  
Share that goodness with us today, abundantly.  
Amen.

## Readings for the week of February 8, 2026

### Sunday:

Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/  
Mt 5:13-16

### Monday:

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/  
Mk 6:53-56

### Tuesday:

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10,  
11/Mk 7:1-13

### Wednesday:

1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/  
Mk 7:14-23

### Thursday:

1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and  
40/Mk 7:24-30

### Friday:

1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13,  
14-15/Mk 7:31-37

### Saturday:

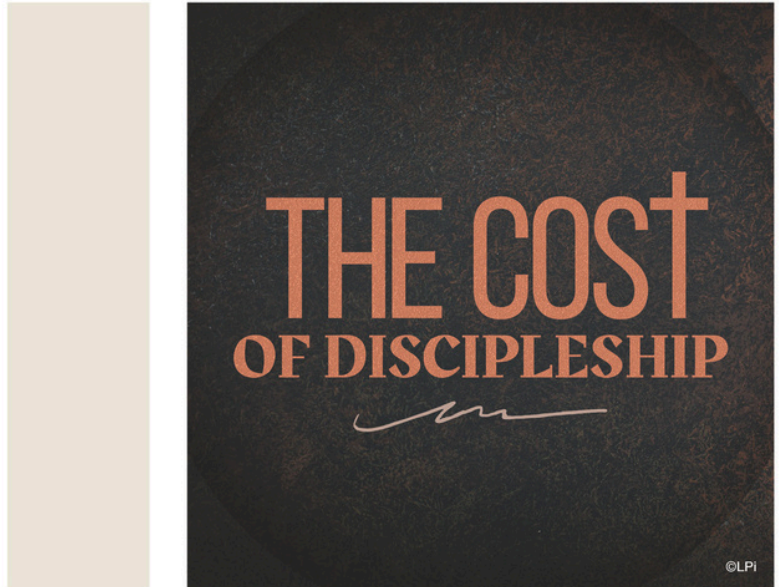
1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab,  
19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10

### Next Sunday:

Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/  
1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a,  
27-28, 33-34a, 37



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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for  
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in  
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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I recently learned why zebras have stripes. Scientists used to think it was for camouflage, but new research suggests something more interesting: the stripes help zebras blend in with one another. When a predator looks at a herd, the overlapping stripes make it hard to single out one animal. But if a researcher spray-paints a dot on just one zebra, predators lock on it and eventually attack. The lesson? In the wild, blending in is protection. Standing out can be dangerous.

Human beings are not so different. Most of us would rather blend in than stand out, especially when it comes to our faith. We know that giving bold witness to Jesus — through our words, values, or public choices — can make us targets for criticism, isolation, or judgment. That's why Jesus' words in today's Gospel are so challenging: **"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14).**

A city on a hill draws attention. It also draws fire. But that's part of the cost of discipleship. Jesus doesn't call us to be tribal or boastful. He calls us to stand in the open with humble confidence, so that people might see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. Today, let's ask for the courage not just to believe in Christ, but to be seen believing in him.

— *Father John Muir*

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** The greatest saints in history were not great at holiness. The greatest saints in history were great at being who they were meant to be.

### Be Salty

I want you to close your eyes. Are they closed? (I'm serious.) Okay. Now think of the greatest saint in history.

I don't care who you're thinking of. It's going to be different for everyone. Just think of that person. Think of his or her life. And answer the question: Why is he or she a great saint?

You're all thinking of different people, but the answer is the same for everyone. And it's not "Because he did great things for God" or "Because she sacrificed everything she had for the poor." Those answers show *evidence* of the reason. But the reason is something more.

The greatest saints in history were not great at holiness. God brought holiness about within them because (ding ding ding! Here's the answer!) the greatest saints in history were great at being who they were meant to be.

Not who they wanted to be. Not who they thought they should be. Who they were meant to be.

Simply put, they gave themselves to God. All of themselves. Flaws and all. And God took them, in their totality, and said: "Now watch this."

Just imagine if salt was ashamed of being salty. Imagine if it looked at the sodium content on its nutrition label and thought, "That's embarrassing," and decided it was going to stop being salt. Well, great. Now it's just a box of tiny rocks.

Wouldn't it have been better for the salt to trust the baker using it?

There is a plan for each of us. There is a path to holiness for each of us. This path doesn't bypass our flaws or our weaknesses; it incorporates them. It transforms them. It fulfills them.

So be salty. Be who you were meant to be.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Are near-death experiences real?

### Answer:

There is a lot of curiosity and fascination with the idea of an afterlife and communicating with those who have died. In movies, television shows, and numerous books, people make claims about their ability to communicate with the dead, or having had a near-death experience. There is no objective way to verify any of this. While details about people and events can be surprisingly accurate, it is just circumstantial evidence that might be explained in other ways.

On the other hand, when people have unusual experiences, sometimes called near-death or out-of-body, it is real to them. They react with the emotions and thoughts that one would expect. At times, they report details they could not have known any other way, such as bits of conversation, or meeting people they had never known in this life. So certainly, to the person, they experience something. We believe in a life after death, we believe in the communion of saints. These things are not a contradiction to faith, but we should not base our faith on them, nor change our beliefs. They are unexplained and will likely remain so.

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## CLERGY



**Fr. J. Friedel**

Pastor  
417-334-2928 x 105  
JFriedel@diosc.org



**Fr. Johnny M. Auguthy**

Associate Pastor  
417-334-2928 x 101  
johnnyvc@diosc.org



**Fr Dhaneesh Thomas**

Associate Pastor  
417-334-2928  
Dhaneesh@diosc.org



**Deacon Dan Vaughn**

Permanent Deacon  
417-546-5208  
DcnDanVaughn@gmail.com

## OFFICE STAFF



**Samantha Barron**

Director of Parish Hospitality  
417-334-2928 x 111  
SamanthaBarron@ollbranson.com



**Mike Rivera**

Director of Outreach  
417-334-2928 x 102 office 417-527-4367 Cell  
MikeRivera@ollbranson.com



**Nickie Rivera**

Director of Formation  
417-251-1819 Cell  
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**Pat Hutcheson**

Director of Finance  
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**Valerie Marriott**

Director of Communication  
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Vmarriott@ollbranson.com

## MAINTENANCE



**Mercedes Ortiz**

Lead Custodian  
417-334-2928  
Office@ollbranson.com



**Dan Bosserman**

Maintenance Lead & Custodial Services  
417-334-2928  
Office@ollbranson.com

## 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. After Mass -**

**Adoration, Exposition, and Benediction until 7:30pm**

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.

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