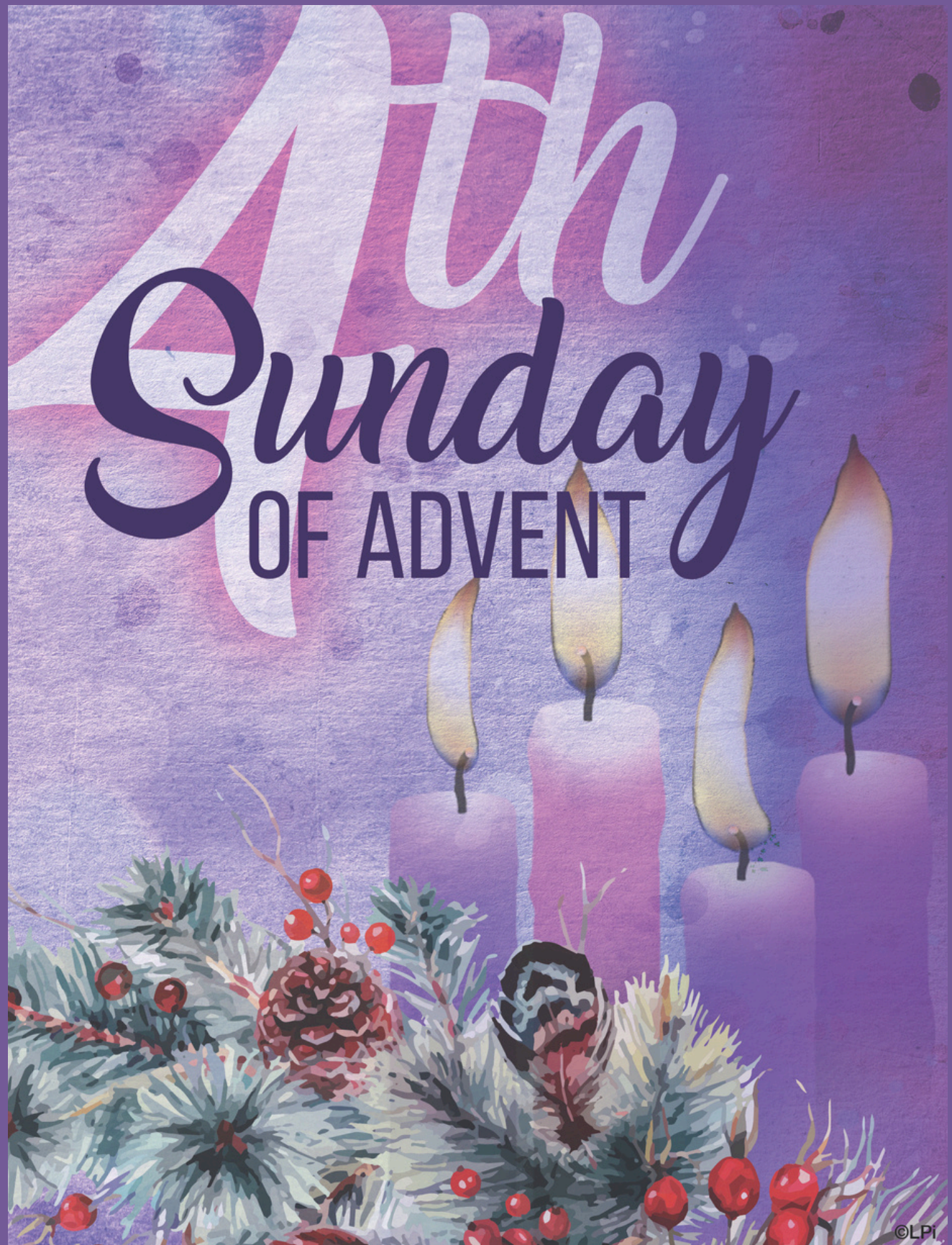


OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025





FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20 - December 26



Events

SATURDAY Dec. 20

Our Lady Cares 2nd Collection

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

SUNDAY Dec. 21

Our Lady Cares 2nd Collection

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

MONDAY Dec. 22

No events today

TUESDAY Dec. 23

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

WEDNESDAY Dec. 24

Parish Office Closed



THURSDAY Dec. 25

Parish Office Closed



FRIDAY Dec. 26

Parish Office Closed

SATURDAY Dec. 27

No Am events

Page 2

Mass Times

SATURDAY

5:00pm
7:00pm (Spanish)

SUNDAY

8:00am
10:30am

MONDAY

9:00am

TUESDAY

9:00am

WEDNESDAY

Christmas Eve

6:00pm
Midnight

THURSDAY

Holy Day of Obligation
The Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Day
10:00am



Adoration

TUESDAY

No Adoration
Will Resume Jan. 13th

THURSDAY

No Adoration
Will Resume Jan. 15th

Important Links

[Click Here For PARISH CALENDAR](#)

[Click Here For MASS INTENTIONS](#)

[Click Here For FLOWER INTENTIONS](#)

Flower Intentions available for 2026

Mass Intentions

- Sat. 12/20 5:00pm Taney County Parish Family (Living)
- Sat. 12/20 7:00pm Elena Flores † (Memorial Mass)
- Sun. 12/21 8:00am Jason Butler †
- Sun. 12/21 10:30am Carey Sheriff (Birthday) †
- Mon. 12/22 9:00am Deceased family members of John & Margaret Casey †
- Tue. 12/23 9:00am Danny Martin Sr. †
- Wed. 12/24 6:00pm Robert and Dorothy Chapman & Family †
- Wed. 12/24 Midnight Mike & Veronica Axelson (Special Intention-Living)
- Thu. 12/25 10:00am Fr. J. Friedel 39th Anniversary of Ordination

A silhouette illustration of a nativity scene. In the center is a manger with the infant Jesus lying in a manger, surrounded by Mary and Joseph. To the left, a camel and two shepherds are visible. To the right, two angels with halos stand on a hill, and two palm trees are in the background. The scene is set against a dark background with white stars.

Mass Schedule For Christmas & New Year's

**Christmas Eve
Wednesday, Dec. 24**

Our Lady of the Cove
20 Kimberling Blvd. ~ Kimberling City
5:00PM

Our Lady of the Lake
203 Vaughn Dr. ~ Branson
6:00PM & Midnight

**New Year's Eve
Wednesday, Dec. 31**

Our Lady of the Cove
20 Kimberling Blvd. ~ Kimberling City
4:00PM

Our Lady of the Lake
203 Vaughn Dr. ~ Branson
5:30pm

**The Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Day
Thursday, Dec. 25**

Our Lady of the Ozarks
951 Swan Valley Dr. ~ Forsyth
9:00AM

Our Lady of the Cove
20 Kimberling Blvd. ~ Kimberling City
10:00AM

Our Lady of the Lake
203 Vaughn Dr. ~ Branson
10:00AM

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
(New Year's Day)
Thursday, Jan. 1**

Our Lady of the Ozarks
951 Swan Valley Dr. ~ Forsyth
9:00AM

Our Lady of the Lake
203 Vaughn Dr. ~ Branson
Noon



[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 Dec. 14, 2025

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Envelopes:		\$11,991.43
Plate:		\$ 330.00
Green Envelopes:		\$ 4,332.00
Total:		\$16,053.43



Here is the mailing list of names of our homebound parishioners.

If you are sending to our homebound, you may drop off the homebound cards in the basket in the gathering space.

Just write the person's name on the envelope.

Mary Vanderwheel	Frances Deall	Marie Houck	Richard (Dick) and Angelica Ginn
Eric Williams	Ronald Willis	Cathy Murphy	Marliss Timm
Margaret Kaiser	Carol Dunn	Guy Buelens	Dorothy Gray
Ann Forster	Bobbe Froelich		Rich & Marge Schmitz



Mailing addresses for our former Clergy & Religious



If mailing to priests and religious, please mail directly from your home.

Rev. Rick Jones
St. Vincent de Paul
 1913 Ritter Dr
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Rev. Joseph Kelly
Guardian Angel
 604 Church St.
 Oran, MO 63771

Rev. Dave Hulshof
Immaculate Conception
 3555 S. Freemont Ave
 Springfield, MO 65804

Rev. Nicholas Newton
St. John Vianney Parish
 808 State Rt. Y
 Mountain View, MO 65548

Rev. Samson Dorival, SMM
St Benedict Parish
 P.O. Box 595
 Doniphan, MO 63936

Sr. Charlotte Rarlong SSND
 4222 Summit Knoll Dr Apt E
 St Louis, MO 63129

Rev. Simon Enudu
Sacred Heart
 1050 Bus. Hwy 60-63
 Willow Springs, MO 65793

Rev. Joji Vincent
La Veiren de Guadalupe
 P.O. Box 300
 Mesquite, NV 89024

The Most Rev. John Leibrecht
 1152 W. Camino Ave
 Springfield, MO 65810





On behalf of your clergy and those who help to serve you, we take the opportunity to wish all of you Christmas Blessings at this special time of the year. Most days, it is a pleasure to serve you and all of our visitors in our three parishes and in Stone and Taney Counties.

We are grateful for the many blessings which you bestow upon all of us at Christmas time and throughout the year!

Please know that you will be remembered at our altars during this Holy Season! Blessings to you and your loved ones now and in the coming New Year!

Father J.

Father Johny

Father Dhaneesh

Deacon Dan

And the staff of Our Lady of the Lake, Our Lady of the Cove, and Our Lady of the Ozarks Parishes

Tour is Fully booked

Join Father J.
on a Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes
with Barcelona
September 20 - 30, 2026

About This Tour

Duration: 11 days Meals: 15

Currently FULL - **there is an option to be placed on a waiting list**

Spots Available:



Highlights

Fatima
Aljustrel
Valinhos
Cathedral of Burgos

Lourdes
Grotto of Massabielle
Barcelona
Barcelona Cathedral

Travel to two of the world's most revered pilgrimage centers and experience the wonderful cultures and beauty of Portugal, France, and Spain.

[Click here for more information or to be placed on wait list.](#)



Coffee and Christ Sundays

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



‘The Lamb of God,’
‘The Bread of Life,’

‘The Body and the Blood of Christ’...
These are phrases we know from the Mass.



We will not meet on
Sunday, Dec. 28th
&
Sunday, Jan. 4th

Dec. 21

Episode 7 - Bread of Life Discourse: John 6 and the Real Presence

Jesus shocked the Jews of his time by offering his own flesh and blood as real food and real drink to gain eternal life.



Jan. 11

Episode 8 - The Last Supper and the Cross: The New Passover of Christ

What is the connection between the Old Testament celebration of Passover and Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples-and how does that impact the Mass as we know it?



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.

The experience is personal, inspirational, and fulfilling.

 **Dynamic Catholic**
Be Bold. Be Catholic.

SCAN TO REGISTER



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

OR GO TO:
OLLBRANSON.COM/WOMENS-WELCOME-RETREAT

OLL Games



Join us on January 8th
OLL Game Day
1:00pm Faith Formation Room

OLL Train -Santa's Lovely Elves

BIG Winner is Julie J -205
Judy E -270 Pam -331
Lil' Winner is Dorene -432



OLL Train -Santa's Helpers

BIG Winner is Ed -146
Joe -206 Curtis -225 Eva -286
Lil' Winner is Remy -317

Swoop - Santa's Babies
BIG Winner is Butch -137
Jeanie -228 Sharron -243
Dan -293 Judy O -371
Lil' Winner is Brenda -508

Canadian Sets - Jolly Jingles
BIG Winner is Sharon A-1275
Sharon P -985 Fr. Dhaneesh -600
Sharon S -390 Margaret -275 Joyce -135
Lil' Winner is Julie W minus 55

How many Sharons does it take to make a celebration: 3 plus a Sharron

And a good time was had by all!



Merry Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR



What time is Midnight Mass (and why)?

Liturgically speaking, the Catholic Church has four different Christmas liturgies: the Vigil Mass, Mass during the Night, Mass at Dawn and Mass during the Day. When the “Mass during the night” occurs at midnight, it receives the distinct title of Midnight Mass. For many Christians, attending Midnight Mass is not only a cherished ritual but one of the most spiritually meaningful moments of the year.

The significance of Midnight Mass for Catholics is layered. It taps into the human experience of anticipation and wonder. It symbolizes the transition from darkness to light. As we gather in the dark of night, there is a palpable sense of expectation – much like the shepherds who waited in the fields for news of the Christ child. The late hour creates an atmosphere of mystery and awe, helping us enter more fully into the miraculous nature of the Incarnation.

Why Midnight?

Midnight Mass is deeply symbolic in Christian theology and liturgy. The timing is intentional and meaningful:

- 1. Light Breaking into Darkness:** Christian tradition teaches that Jesus’ birth brought hope and salvation into a world in darkness. Holding Mass at midnight, when the world is deepest in shadow, serves as a dramatic reminder of Christ as the “Light of the World.”
- 2. Historical Jewish Timing:** The Gospel accounts suggest that Jesus was born at night. Shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks by night when the angels announced His birth. This nighttime context shaped early Christian celebrations. By the fifth century, celebrating Mass at midnight became the tradition in Rome.
- 3. Liturgical Significance:** In Catholic theology, liturgical days begin at sunset, so the Christmas celebration starting at night carries ancient biblical roots. The midnight hour became a natural point for celebrating the Nativity. The birth narrative from Luke’s Gospel allows us to spiritually place ourselves at the manger in Bethlehem.

What Happens During Midnight Mass?

While traditions vary, most Midnight Mass celebrations include candlelight processions or dimmed lights, Nativity readings, Christmas carols such as Silent Night, a solemn Eucharistic celebration; incense (smells & bells), and blessings and communal prayer. The atmosphere is typically reverent, peaceful, and filled with anticipation. For many, this is the most spiritually filled moment of the Christmas season.

The Significance of Midnight Mass

Midnight Mass remains beloved because it offers something timeless. The late hour encourages stillness and quiet contemplation, an increasingly rare experience. For many families, attending Midnight Mass Christmas Eve is a tradition passed down through generations. The shared experience of candlelight, hymns, and prayer often brings a sense of unity. Not to mention the symbolic power in celebrating Christ’s birth precisely at midnight as it reinforces the message of hope and renewal at the heart of Christmas.

Midnight Mass encapsulates the joyful anticipation, powerful mystery, and communal celebration at the core of our Christmas faith. It is a reminder that at the heart of this feast is not material gifts. But rather, the greatest gift of God’s own begotten Son.



THE LORD'S TABLE IS SET...

& YOU'RE INVITED

This guide lays out monthly themes & practical suggestions for families to build lasting habits within their family & anchor their lives by placing God at the center.

DECEMBER

ADVENT WREATH

Advent begins 11/30 - Make / Display an Advent Wreath in your home

ATTEND MASS AS A FAMILY

Attend Mass every Sunday & Holy days this month

ATTEND RECONCILIATION

As a family - attend an area Reconciliation service during Advent

JANUARY

BLESS YOUR HOME FOR EPIPHANY *

Use Chalk to Bless your home

ATTEND MASS AS A FAMILY

Attend Mass every Sunday this month

VISIT THE OTHER "OUR LADY" AREA PARISHES

Pick a time to attend a Mass at one of the other area churches

Our Lady of the Cove - Kimberling City

Sat. 5pm / Sun. 8am & 10am

Our Lady of the Lake - Branson

Sat. 5pm & 7pm / Sun. 8am & 10:30am

Our Lady of the Ozarks -Forsyth

Sun. 8:30am

We want to hear from you.

Has your family done any of the suggestions from the November or December habits from The Lord's Table is Set? Please email us comments about the new habits your family is forming or photos of your tables with your Saints (from November) or Advent wreath (December)

SAVE THE DATE: Diocesan Eucharistic Congress 2026

SCAN HERE to learn more!



DIOCESE of SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

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



Memorial Bricks

Looking for a gift for that hard to buy for person!

Paver bricks are available to remember loved ones, signify special celebrations and commemorate the celebration of life!

Interested in a Memorial Brick for the next installation?



Meditation Garden



SCAN TO ORDER

or

GO ONLINE

ollbranson.com/memorial-bricks

or

CALL the parish office

417-334-2928



Memorial Flag Pole



“May our hearts be prepared to receive Him at His coming this Christmas. May we see the face of Jesus in the poor and homeless, caring for them through our works of mercy.”

Bishop Edward M. Rice



December PRAYER INTENTION



Hallow

#1 App for Christian & Catholic Prayer, Meditation, Bible + Sleep | Hallow

Find Peace

Let God bring you His peace with the Calm Praylist, Daily Meditation, Rosary, and Sleep Bible Stories.

Transform Your Prayer Life

Choose from 10,000+ sessions, guides, and music options to lead you into relationship with Christ.

Build a Habit

Build a real habit of prayer every day by setting a routine that works for your schedule.

Merry Christmas

DECEMBER PSR CALENDAR



Wednesday PSR K-12th

Dec 24th
Christmas Eve
No Class



Dec 31st
New Year's Eve
No Class



SAINT OF THE MONTH



SAINT JUAN DIEGO

was born in 1474 as Cuauhtlatotzin, a native to Mexico. He became the first Roman Catholic indigenous saint from the Americas.

Lord God, thank You for the gift of family. As we gather on this Christmas Day, may our hearts be united in love and understanding. Heal every division, restore broken relationships, and strengthen our bonds. May Your presence be felt in our laughter, our conversations, and our prayers. Help us to forgive one another as You have forgiven us. Let this Christmas bring renewed closeness and peace within our home. Amen.

SERVICE PROJECT

Christmas Cards for the Homebound




WHAT'S IN A CANDY CANE?

- LETTER 'J' = FOR JESUS
- SHAPE = OF A SHEPARD'S STAFF
- COLOR RED = HIS BLOOD SHED FOR US
- COLOR WHITE = HE WASHED OUR SINS AWAY AND MADE US WHITE AS SNOW
- STRIPES = BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED
- CANDY = HIS LOVE GROWS SWEETER EACH DAY



JANUARY PSR CALENDAR



Wednesday PSR K-12th

Jan. 7th
No Class

Jan. 14 - 5:30-7:00pm
Mass
Food/Class

Jan. 21 - 5:30-7:00pm
Mass
Food/Class

Jan. 28 - 5:30 - 7:00pm
Mass
Food/Class



SERVICE PROJECT

Decorate
lunch bags
for Elevate
Branson



SAINT OF THE MONTH



Saint John Bosco

ALSO KNOWN AS
DON BOSCO,
WAS BORN IN BECCHI, ITALY,
ON AUGUST 16, 1815

His feast day
is on
January 31

SAINT JOHN BOSCO IS THE
PATRON SAINT OF APPRENTICES,
EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS,
SCHOOLCHILDREN, MAGICIANS,
AND JUVENILE DELINQUENTS.

SPECIAL EVENT

The Epiphany
Tuesday, Jan 6th



MENU

1/14 - English Muffin Breakfast

1/21 - Chicken Nachos

1/28 - Pasta





Knights of Columbus®

Knights' Corner ~ Council 6470

Seminarian Support Fund

We have established a K of C Seminarian Support Fund to serve as a sort of endowment to support our diocesan seminarians. Our goal is to raise over \$30,000 to establish a fund that will allow us to use the interest earned to provide more than four times the support we typically have been able to give annually, and to grow the fund to continually expand our giving potential.



We're almost there!
Want to help us reach our goal?



\$30,000
\$28,786

Make checks payable to:
K of C Council 6470
Memo: Seminarian Fund

Send checks to:
Our Lady of the Lake, Attn: K of C
203 Vaughn Dr. Branson, MO. 65616

Want to contribute online?
Here's a QR code for our Venmo.



The next blood drive is scheduled for
January 16, 2026
12 noon to 5:00pm
Our Lady of the Lake Parish Center
202 Vaughn Drive
Branson, MO. 65616

Red Cross Blood Drive

43 - units collected at the November 15th, 2025 drive.
61 - drives successfully completed since Nov. 2015.
3017 - units of blood have been collected since Nov. 2015.

GO TO –
www.redcrossblood.org zip code 65616 to schedule appointment

Food Drive Update



As of 12/1//25, Our Lady of the Lake has donated over 2264 lbs of food and \$520 to the Salvation Army Food Pantry for the Fraternal year 7/1/25 - 6/30/26.

Did you know the Salvation Army can buy food at just \$0.18 per pound? Obviously this makes monetary contributions more effective.

Just a reminder that for every 1000 lbs of food **AND** for every \$500 donated, K of C donates \$100 to the pantry, up to \$500 each from the K of C annually.

Want to make a monetary contribution to the Salvation Army Food Panty through the Knights of Columbus to help reach the bonus gift from the K of C?

Make checks payable to:
K of C Council 6470
Memo: S. A. Food Pantry

Send checks to:
Our Lady of the Lake, Attn: Knights of Columbus
203 Vaughn Dr. Branson, MO. 65616

Interested in becoming a Knight?

Contact the church office for contact information, or go online @
kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-knights.html

Use promo code **SHINKEBEIN** for one year free membership!

Merry Christmas

"What do bear families sing during Christmas?"



THE FAITHFUL FUNNIES

"Have yourself a **Beary** Little Christmas."



All of creation joins in praise for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. May the joy of the season fill your home!

©LPI



CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN



Question: Which saint's nickname is "Santa Claus"?

Answer: St. Nicholas

©LPI

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOW COULD JOSEPH HAVE SO MUCH FAITH IN DREAMS?

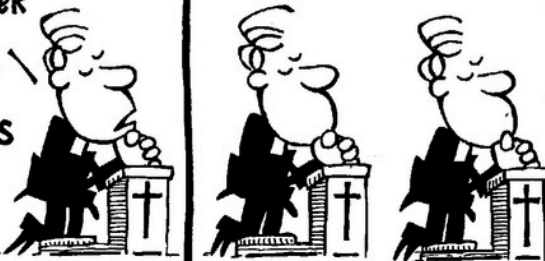


HE DIDN'T — HE HAD FAITH THAT GOD COULD SPEAK TO HIM ANY WAY GOD WANTED TO!

ISYDER WEBB!
© 2001 LPI WWJD

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

LORD, I WOULD NEVER PRESUME TO ASK YOU FOR A MIRACULOUS SIGN...



... So Does THIS MEAN I'M NOT GETTING ONE?

ISYDER WEBB!
© 1998 LPI AMDA

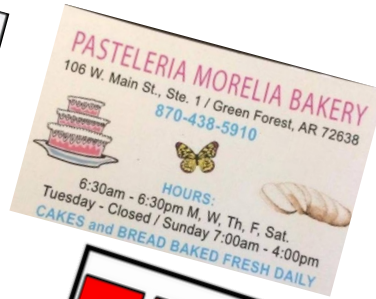


muchas Gracias



salamat

Thank you



Delicias Factory
720 likes • 813 followers

kiitos



Cám ơn
NHA!

Thank you to all the families, ministries, groups, and people who helped with our Advent Novena and Mission

Gomez Avila
Lopez Hernandez
Parada Ramirez
Romo Tovar
Moran Aquino
Segura Rivera
Espino Luevano
Hernandez Carmona Gomez
Torres Carmona Villa
Olmos Gomez
Lopez Morales
Centeno Reyes
Salas Andrade
Rodriguez Garcia
Rodriguez Galvan
Evangelista Castro

Lugo Gomez
Espino Arguello
Molina Mata
Agundiz Huerta
Martinez Ramos
Carmona Perez
Wilson Family
Haro Family
Hyde Family
Reyes Family
Mercedes
Maribel Olmos Gomez
Eugenio
Marla Sheil
Tony and Lynn Melendez
Jose Melendez
Luevano Dimas

Aztec and Matlachines dancers
Folk dancers
Chinelos dancers
El Grupo de Oración Carismática - Semillas del Espiritu Santo
Music Ministry
Grupo de Emaus Hombres
Staff of Our Lady of the Lake
Hispanic Ministry
Nuevo Tlaquepaque Mariachi group
Dcn Abel Rubio
Hermano Felipe - Music
Marina Perez Zuniga

This is always a huge event put on by many people. We are sorry if we accidentally left anyone out.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE **Served...**

Rev. Mark J. Binder
Rev. Mark G. Boyer
Rev. John S. Braun
Rev. Michael Casteel
Rev. M. Oliver Clavin
Rev. John M. Harth

The Most Rev. John J. Leibrecht
Rev. Michael V. McDevitt
Rev. Paul J. McLoughlin
Rev. David L. Miller
Rev. Fergus Monaghan
Rev. Matt Rehrauer

Rev. Msgr. Thomas Reidy
Rev. James J. Unterreiner
Rev. Msgr. Normand G. Varone
Rev. Mitchell S. Wilk
Rev. James Patrick Wissman



AND THOSE WHO WILL **Serve.**



Support the past & future of the Church in the annual Christmas Collection in your local parish

Few things are more important for the future of the Church than supporting the young men who respond to the call of Christ to become priests and for us to attend to the needs of our elderly priests.

Please be generous in your support to the 2025 Christmas Collection at your local parish.

C H R I S T M A S C O L L E C T I O N 2 0 2 5

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isa 7:14)

Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

Second Reading:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 1:7)

Gospel:

"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:20-21)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Sometimes we want God's instructions to be clear and precise — like the angel in Joseph's dream. But Joseph's understanding was only as strong as his devotion to God's will. If we give our lives to God as Joseph did, we will know what he asks of us.

Observances for the week of December 21, 2025

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent
Tuesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
Wednesday: Christmas Eve
Thursday: The Nativity of the Lord
Friday: St. Stephen, First Martyr
Saturday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Next Sunday: The Holy Family



Devotions, *Explained!*

Las Posadas is a Mexican tradition which recreates the Holy Family's search for lodging in Bethlehem. This nine-day devotion anticipates the birth of Jesus Christ, who seeks refuge in the heart of every man and woman.

Prayer for Advent - Miracles

Dear God,
You are in the miracle business.
I still believe that You can move
mountains and separate seas.
Break into every unknown and
astound us with Your goodness
and grace.
Amen.

Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

Sunday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday:

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and
14/Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday:

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps
89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Thursday:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
(2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or
1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
(Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/
Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/
Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and
8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Next Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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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

A priest friend recently told me a remarkable story. One of his cousins reported having a vivid dream in which an angel told him the family needed to exhume their grandmother's body from a cemetery in New York and return it to her birthplace in Romania. She had been dead nearly ten years. As you might expect, the family thought it was, well, crazy. But astonishingly they exhumed her body. It was incorrupt, showing no signs of decomposition. That experience sparked healing, faith, and reconciliation throughout the family.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Joseph also receives a dream. He's confused, afraid. But in the quiet of sleep, God speaks: **"Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home" (Matthew 1:20)**. When he wakes, Joseph acts. He doesn't overanalyze or dismiss the message. He trusts, and acts.

God still speaks — not necessarily through literal dreams but through those deeper intuitions of the heart. St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that God's voice draws us into peace, courage, and love. But we have to listen to it. Advent is a time for stillness. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we're invited to enter that quiet space where God's voice can be heard.

When and how do you become most receptive to God? Is it in silence? In prayer? In nature? At Mass? This week, go there. Be still. Listen. And like Joseph, have the courage to act on what God shows you.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

The First Transfiguration

I imagine Joseph waking up the morning after the dream, blinking in the dim half-light of the dawn.

One day, decades from now, the baby his wife carries will stand on a mountaintop. His face will shine like the sun, and those who look upon him will fall down upon their own faces in fear.

We call this the transfiguration, and Joseph won't be there to see it. But that doesn't matter. What those men will learn on the mountaintop, Joseph already knows. He learned it last night.

Today, he shrugs off the remnants of slumber and stands up.

"Rise, and do not be afraid." This is what the baby — a baby no longer, but a man now, one in the last days of his life — will say to his companions on the mountain a few decades from now. They will look up to see him standing there the same as he always was, and they will realize that he did not change at all. They did.

"Do not be afraid." This is what the angel said last night as he revealed to Joseph the will of God: that Joseph take Mary and the Child as his own, despite having so many reasons not to do so. And today Joseph wakes up and the world is the same as it always was: Mary is pregnant, and the Child does not belong to him.

No, the world has not changed. Joseph has.

He rises, and goes to Mary.

Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is the difference between tithing and stewardship?

Answer:

Both tithing and stewardship are part of a spiritual way of life that calls us to use all of our resources for the service of the Gospel. Everything we are and everything we have comes from God. Offering back to God what He has given us is part of how we worship and give thanks to God.

Tithing is the practice of giving back 10 percent of what we earn. It comes from the Old English word for "ten." The first Scriptural example of tithing came from Abraham who gave a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek. He did so as an act of thanksgiving to God.

Stewardship as a way of life calls us to use well all that we have and all that we are, placing all things in service of others and God. Stewardship helps us see the good we can accomplish by making God and our spiritual life the most important values in our life. Whatever we accumulate in this life stays here. We can't take it with us! Both tithing and stewardship help us remember that nothing is mine or even ours ... all belongs to God.

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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. 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.

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.

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