

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

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

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
**MAY HIS LOVE
BE WITH US,
ALWAYS**





The Ascension of the Lord

May 16 - May 22



Events

SATURDAY May 16

2nd Collection - Our Lady Cares

Sacrament of Reconciliation

3:00-4:30pm - Confessional

SUNDAY May 17

2nd Collection - Our Lady Cares

Coffee & Christ

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

MONDAY May 18

No Events today

TUESDAY May 19

Centering Prayer

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

OCIA

6:30-8:00pm - Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY May 20

Stitchers

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

THURSDAY May 21

OLL Game Day

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

FRIDAY May 22

K of C Red Cross Blood Drive

Noon -5:00pm - Parish Center

Spanish Charismatic Group

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

SATURDAY May 23

Women's WELCOME Meeting

9:00am-11:00am - Heritage Room

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

Resumes June 9th

THURSDAY

Resumes June 11th

Important Links

[Click Here For PARISH CALENDAR](#)

[Click Here For MASS INTENTIONS](#)

[Click Here For FLOWER INTENTIONS](#)

Flower Intentions available for May & June

Mass Intentions

Sat.	5/16	5:00pm	Michael Kullmann Sr. (Anniversary DOD) †
Sat.	5/16	7:00pm	Taney County Parish Family (Living)
Sun.	5/17	8:00am	Mary Hallgren (Special Intention-Living)
Sun.	5/17	10:30am	Leman Loftis' students (Living & Deceased) †
Mon.	5/18	9:00am	Tator †
Tue.	5/19	9:00am	Linda Terrano (Special Intention-Living)
Wed.	5/20	5:30pm	Souls in Purgatory †
Thur.	5/21	9:00am	Mike and Veronica Axelson (Special Intention-Living)



[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



ASCENSION

of the Lord

Collection through May 10, 2026

Envelopes:	\$10,935.00
Plate:	7,550.00
Green Envelopes:	\$ 4,210.00
Total:	\$22,695.00

2026 DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

We are One in Him.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

**DIocese of
SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU**

**70
YEARS
1954-2024**

**2026
BISHOP'S
ANNUAL
APPEAL**

*for
Funding
Church
Ministries*

How Funds are Utilized

Contributions to the Diocesan Development Fund directly support the ongoing operations of the Diocese, ensuring that 45 vital ministries continue to thrive. These ministries are managed throughout diocesan offices.

*This is a generalization of funds and does not represent every program DDF supports

Please complete and return your DDF pledge card next Sunday, if you were not able to do so today.
OR
Click on the link below

[Donate Today!](#)
[Diocesan Development Fund](#)

Or Scan the QR code

To date, our parish has 38 donors who have pledged \$13,505 toward our goal of 204 donors and our goal amount of \$83,921 Thank you!

If you have not yet made your pledge, please add your gift, whatever the amount, in unity with those who have already given.

The diocese and Church in southern Missouri needs your participation.

Coffee & Christ Sundays

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

“Coffee & Christ” is an adult Catholic Christian faith education opportunity for learning and building community that meets on Sunday morning between the Masses.

The classes include a variety of topics, e.g. Scripture, history, faith, doctrine, spirituality, social justice, and aspects of living out one’s lay ministry in the world.

Upcoming Dates

May 17th

WE WILL RESUME IN THE FALL

Adult Bible Study Tuesdays

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 8 week Bible study on Romans

UNDERSTAND MORE FULLY
THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION IN

Romans

AN 8-PART BIBLE STUDY FEATURING
ANDREW SWAFFORD
and **JEFF CAVINS**

Will Resume at a later date.



Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn

Why Altar Servers fold their hands upright during Mass, and why we should, too.

Many years ago, before I was a deacon, a friend once remarked that I seemed “*very pious*” at Mass, and he didn’t mean it as a compliment. He told me he often noticed my hands folded upright in prayer. It was when we were at a men’s retreat when he finally shared this with me and offered an apology. He said, “Dan, I’ve come to understand that your prayer posture isn’t for show. It’s simply part of who you are.” I thanked him for that.

There was a time in high school and college when I stopped folding my hands because I thought it looked too childlike. Thankfully, when my wife and I had children, something in my heart compelled me to return the simple prayer posture I learned when I received Holy Communion for the first time and continued as an altar server. It felt like coming home.

One of the most recognizable signs of reverence at Mass is the way altar servers walk and stand with their hands folded upright, fingers together, thumbs crossed, held close to the chest. This gesture is simple, silent, and deeply meaningful. It teaches us something essential about prayer, and it’s a posture every Catholic can benefit from imitating.

At its heart, folded hands express readiness and devotion. In ancient times, a servant would place his hands together before his master as a sign of trust and willingness to serve. When altar servers fold their hands, they silently proclaim the same truth: *I am here for God*. Their stillness is not stiffness, it is attentiveness. Their posture becomes a living prayer.

The gesture also fosters interior unity. When the hands are brought together, the body mirrors what the soul is meant to do: gather itself, focus, and turn toward the Lord. Our bodies influence our hearts. When we fold our hands, we reduce distractions and signal to ourselves that something sacred is happening. In a world full of noise, this small act becomes a powerful tool for recollection.

For altar servers, the posture has a practical purpose as well. It prevents unnecessary movement and keeps their attention fixed on the altar. The faithful in the pews are not required to fold their hands in the same way, yet doing so can help cultivate a more prayerful disposition. The Church has always taught that the body participates in prayer. Our posture shapes our interior life. When we fold our hands, we are not just “looking prayerful”, we are *becoming* prayerful.

The upward orientation of the folded hands also subtly expresses lifting the heart to God. Though the hands are not raised high, they point upward, reminding us that our prayer is directed toward heaven. Many Catholics find that folding their hands during moments of silence, before receiving Communion, or during personal prayer helps them remain centered on Christ.

Finally, folded hands are a sign of humility and receptivity. They are hands that are not grasping or demanding, but resting and ready to receive. In the Mass, where God gives Himself completely, this posture becomes a beautiful expression of our identity as children before the Father.

Altar servers show us that reverence is expressed not only in words but in the language of the body. By folding our hands together and holding them upright, we join them in a posture of readiness, humility, and love -- one that draws us more deeply into the mystery of the Eucharist.



MAY PSR NEWS



*Congratulations
to those who recently
made their
First Communion*



Wednesday, May 6th



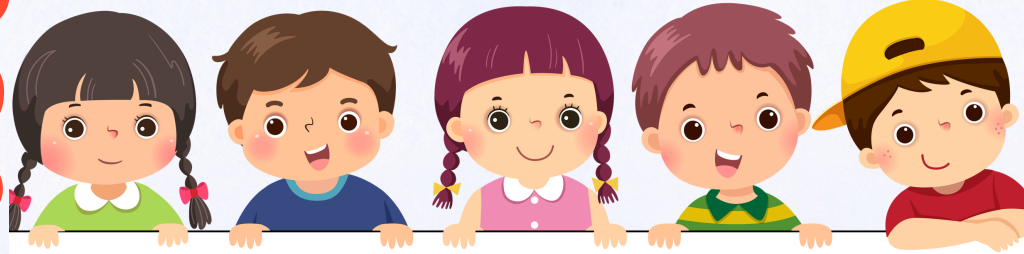
Saturday, April 4th



Saturday, May 9th

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who helped with PSR ~ Our priests, teachers, food prep, cleanup crew and Ms. Nickie who coordinates all this.



A huge thank you to all the parents who make sure your kids are here to participate in this important ministry.



“But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.’ – Matthew 19:14

If you have any questions regarding PSR(Parish School of Religion), Sacraments, or Quinceañeras.

**Please call, text, or email Nickie
Director of Formation**

NickieRivera@ollbranson.com

417-251-1819 Cell





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.

MAY

ATTEND MAY CROWNING

May Crowning will be held
Wed. May 6th at Our Lady of the Lake
& Our Lady of the Cove

PRAY THE ROSARY

May is the month of Mary –
Pray the Rosary as a family or on
your own

HONOR MARY & YOUR MOTHER

Mother's Day is May 10th
Honor Our Lady & thank your Mom
with prayer & (flowers)



JULY

AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

Celebrate with family & friends

ATTEND MASS AS A FAMILY

Attend Mass every Sunday this month

SCREEN FREE SUNDAY

Take a break from digital screens –
spend the day at the lake or
take a walk.



JUNE

HONOR YOUR FATHER

Father's Day June 21st
Say a prayer of thanksgiving to
your Heavenly Father for all the
gifts you've received / Write a
thank-you note to your own Father

CORPUS CHRISTI

Attend a Corpus Christi Procession
June 7th –
Our Lady of the Cove will be hosting
one this year

VOLUNTEER AS A FAMILY

Volunteer an afternoon or evening
to help a local organization





After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.
Acts 1:9

"Did you hear about the porcupines' prayerful journey?"



"They were on a **quill-grimage**."



A "pilgrimage" is a special journey to a spiritual location with the purpose of thanking God, carrying a prayerful intention, and growing deeper in faith.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA - JUST FOR FUN

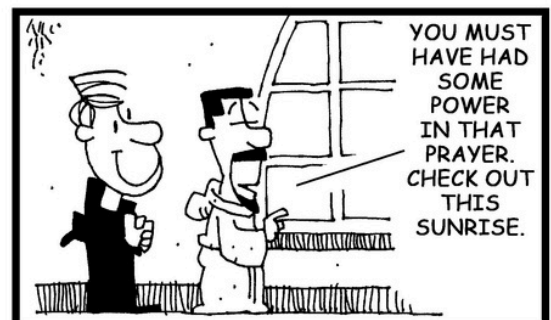
Question: What is a conopaeum veil used to cover?

Answer: The tabernacle.
©LPI

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ASCENSION



OLL Games

Join us May 21st OLL Game Day
1:00pm Faith Formation Room

Swoop - Lucky Seven
Big Winner Butch -121
Sharon S -231 Sharon A -239
Dan -281 Julie W -310
Jeanie -313
Lil' Winner Sharron -366



Mahjong
Susan C -50-
Harry -0-
Judy O -0-
Joyce -0-
To the Wall -1



OLL Train -
"No Competition"
BIG Winner Julie J -82
Mary -402
Lil' Winner Anne Marie 569



OLL Train - The Five
BIG Winner Eva -229
Judy E -235 Remy -240 Ed -245
Lil' Winner Joe -256

This was a very close game!



Once again, Julie J won and holds the ALL TIME Record of going out 11 times in one game! Last week she went out 7 times and the week before 9 times!



Talk about Bragging Rights, Julie has the RIGHT to BRAG!



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

Those who eat my flesh & drink my blood remain in me & I in them. - Jn 6:56

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

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!

OCIA NOTES

The OCIA program here at Our Lady of the Lake is year-round.

The program begins in June, and concludes in May.

Our summer sessions are the first part of the Inquiry portion where those who have questions about the Catholic Faith are encouraged to attend with absolutely no commitment required.

If you have been talking with someone about our Faith, please invite them to attend our first summer session on

June 2, 2026

6:30-7:30pm

**In the Heritage Room,
(lower level of the Church)**

For more information, please contact the Church office.
(417) 334-2928

Memorial Day Mass with Bishop Rice

Join Bishop Rice for a Mass of Remembrance!

Monday, May 25 at 9:00 am

Resurrection Cemetery, Springfield

Memorial Day is a special day set aside to remember our dearly departed brothers and sisters, especially those who have died serving our country in the cause of freedom.

Please join Bishop Rice for a Mass of Remembrance on Mon., May 25, 9 a.m. at Resurrection Cemetery, located at 4528 W Division St., Springfield.

Seating will be available under a large tent. Refreshments will be provided by the Knights of Columbus.

Happy Graduation

Heavenly Father,
We come before You today with hearts full of gratitude for the gift of learning, the blessing of growth, and the joy of accomplishment. We thank You for guiding these graduates through years of study, challenges, and discovery.

Lord, as they step into a new chapter of life, we ask You to bless them with wisdom to discern the right path, courage to face the unknown, and perseverance to follow Your will. May they carry the light of Christ into every place they go, becoming instruments of peace, hope, and love in the world.

Protect them from discouragement, strengthen them in times of trial, and remind them always that their worth is found not in titles or achievements, but in being Your beloved children.

May the Holy Spirit inspire their minds, guide their decisions, and fill their hearts with compassion.

And may the Blessed Virgin Mary, Seat of Wisdom, intercede for them, so that they may live lives that glorify You in all things.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



The

Holy Trinity

Our True Family

Join us for a Spirit-filled weekend and experience a spiritual journey that will leave you feeling renewed and strengthened!

Friday, June 5: 4:00 pm for Mass - 8:30 pm
Saturday, June 6: 8:30 am for Mass - 8:30 pm

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
2200 West Republic Road, Springfield, Missouri

Experience transformation and healing of your soul through
Inspirational Talks, Holy Mass, Adoration, Healing Service
Whether you can come both days or just one, come... You WILL be blessed!!!

www.strengtheningandhealing.org

\$30 or \$50/couple, Lunch & Dinner provided for donation

(Conferences generally cost us \$60/person)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Shelly: 417-838-2730 or Jan: 417-763-1579

FEATURING:

- Fr. Philip Scott FJ
- Fr. Martin Scott SDM
- Michael McGlinn
- Judy Brown
- Relics of St Charbel

and more



CALLING ALL VENDORS

AUGUST 15 2026

WEST PLAINS CIVIC CENTER

We are seeking Catholic vendors and artisans to participate in the Exhibition Hall at our Diocesan Eucharistic Congress as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary!

BOOTH REGISTRATION OPENS **FEBRUARY 18**
SCAN QR TO REGISTER



MORE INFO: (417) 866-0841 pwright@dioscg.org

<https://dioscg.org/diocesan-eucharistic-congress/>



An Evening FOR THE SEPARATED & DIVORCED

SUPPORT & HEALING

CO-SPONSORED BY THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU & ABOUNDING JOY MINISTRY

Are you or someone you know struggling with separation or divorce? You are not alone. You're invited to a free online event offering hope, healing, and community for those facing the pain of marital strife, separation or divorce.

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 7:00pm

Join from the comfort of your home via Zoom or join others at The Catholic Center in Springfield

Presenter:

Carolyn Klika Catino,
Catholic Divorce Healing Coach,
Founder, Abounding Joy Ministry

Topics Include:

- ✓ Coping with anger, guilt, and shame
- ✓ Overcoming loneliness and fear
- ✓ Finding your identity after divorce
- ✓ Forgiveness of self or others
- ✓ Healing spiritually and emotionally

Co-Host: Lynn Melendez,
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

REGISTER TODAY to receive the Zoom link or access the recording after

Questions? Contact
Carolyn@AboundingJoyMinistry.com



Please invite anyone who might benefit. This night of encouragement and support is for those seeking guidance and healing.

AboundingJoyMinistry.com/events

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 dioscg.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



FIRST FRIDAY MASS for VOCATIONS

Bishop Rice will celebrate the *Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart* for Vocations each First Friday of the month, followed by the Rosary.

All parishes are invited to celebrate **First Friday Masses for Vocations** as we continue to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese.

BISHOP RICE'S SCHEDULE FOR FIRST FRIDAY MASS:

Fri., June 5	St. Canera Church, Neosho	6:00 p.m.
Fri., July 3	St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield	5:30 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 7	St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield	5:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 4	St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield	5:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 2	St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield	5:30 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 6	St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield	5:30 p.m.



Knights of Columbus®

Knights' Corner ~ Council 6470



Major Fundraising Project

No COLD Kids!

Our Southwest K of C Chapter Coats for Kids program has been growing! Year after year they are exceeding their distribution goals, with over 5,000 NEW coats given to kids in need across SW MO.

With the need for coats continuing to grow however, they finished last year with their reserves depleted and their storage almost empty. They have called upon the local councils to help raise money and collect NEW coats so that they can be stocked up and ready for winter this year.

~ HOW YOU CAN HELP ~

DONATE FINANCIALLY

The K of C Chapter regularly hunts for bargains on new coats, stretching every dollar to get the most coats.

See a Knight or contact Grand Knight Lee Berhorst for more information.

DONATE NEW COATS

There is a Coats for Kids collection box in the gathering space of the church near the Blue Bin for donations to the food pantry, behind the information desk. New kids coats or gently used adult coats only please.



MAY TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

Your Knight's of Columbus will be under the bell tower every weekend in May, your donation to the Tootsie Roll drive helps raise money for developmentally disabled individuals.

Save the DATES!

More Events Coming...

Breakfast
June 21st

Talent Show
August 2nd

Breakfast
November 8th

Food Drive Update



As of 5/4/26, Our Lady of the Lake has donated over 4298 lbs of food and \$1355 to the Salvation Army Food Pantry for the Fraternal year 7/1/24 - 6/30/25.

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 Pantry 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:
Knights of Columbus S. A. Food Pantry: Our Lady of the Lake
203 Vaughn Dr. Branson, MO. 65616

The next blood drive is scheduled for

May 22nd

Noon to 5:00pm

at

Our Lady of the Lake Parish Center,
202 Vaughn Drive, Branson, Mo. 65616.

55 - units collected at the March 20, 2026 drive.

63 - drives successfully completed since Nov. 2015.

3112 - units of blood have been collected since Nov. 2015.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW OR GO TO –

www.redcrossblood.org use code **OURLADYBRANSON** to schedule appointment

**Red Cross
Blood Drive**

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!

Meeting Reminder

Membership meetings are every *first* Thursday in the Faith Formation Room in the Church, Rosary starting @ 6:30pm, mtg @ 7pm.

Don't forget! The Larry Konzen Social is on after the meetings too!

THE ASCENSION OF THE Lord



“Through the intercession of St. Joseph the Worker, May 1, may the unemployed and underemployed find fulfilling and life-giving employment.

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, may peace reign in our world.”

Bishop Edward M. Rice



May

PRAYER INTENTION



CELEBRATE MORE
Life

Blood Drive
Our Lady Of The Lake Catholic Church

Parish Center
202 Vaughn Drive
Branson, MO 65616

Friday, May 22, 2026
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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



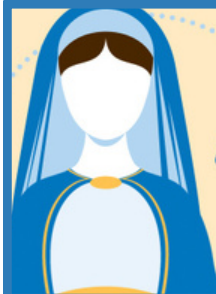
Get summer ready! Come to give blood May 18-31 for an exclusive Red Cross beach towel, ltd. qty!



Scan to schedule an appointment.

Give Blood.

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



ABANDON YOURSELF TO THE VIRGIN MARY.
She will take care of you.

- PADRE PIO

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 22 | 12 PM | Fremont Hills Country Club
Nixa, MO

Play a round of golf to support LifeHouse in Springfield! Sponsorships, team registrations, and individual player spots are available now for this year's tournament. Last year's event completely sold out, and we're looking forward to another incredible day on the course in 2026 so start building your team early!

Find out how to become a sponsor at ccsomo.org/events or scan the QR code.

Presented by Auto Parlor



Knights of Columbus

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH - COUNCIL 13681



For tickets and sponsorship information, visit ccsomo.org/events or scan the QR code.



Wheat Harvest Farmers Mass

Join Bishop Rice on the farm in Southeast Missouri to celebrate Holy Mass in honor and recognition of our farmers.

When: May 31st 2026 at 1:00 pm

Where: Hulshof Farms, 674 County Highway 506 Benton, MO 63736

Mass at 1:00 pm: This does count as your Sunday obligation.

Meal provided at 2:00 pm: Pork Steaks and Baked Potatoes following Mass.

Bring your own chair to sit in for Mass.

Bring any side dish to share in the meal following Mass if you would like.

All are welcome to attend!



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](https://ccsomo.org/springfield-cardinals-catholic-night)

SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR TICKETS
AND MORE
INFORMATION.



HOSTED BY:

Catholic Charities
of Southern Missouri



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

2026

Our Lady of the Cove

Vacation Bible
School

July 6, 7 & 8



Registration for the 2026 Vacation Bible School
"Rainforest Falls"
can be completed by going to
Ourladyofthecove.org

OR

Click on the link

Vacation Bible School

ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM -

Our Lady of the Cove - Kimberling City.





Stairway to Heaven

MIGUEL DULICK

Even by the Ascension, after forty days of eating and drinking with the resurrected Lord, the obtuseness of the Apostles still frustrates Jesus. In Acts, they're ready for a fight, "to restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Matthew reports that "they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Pentecost cannot come soon enough, when they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and all will be made known.

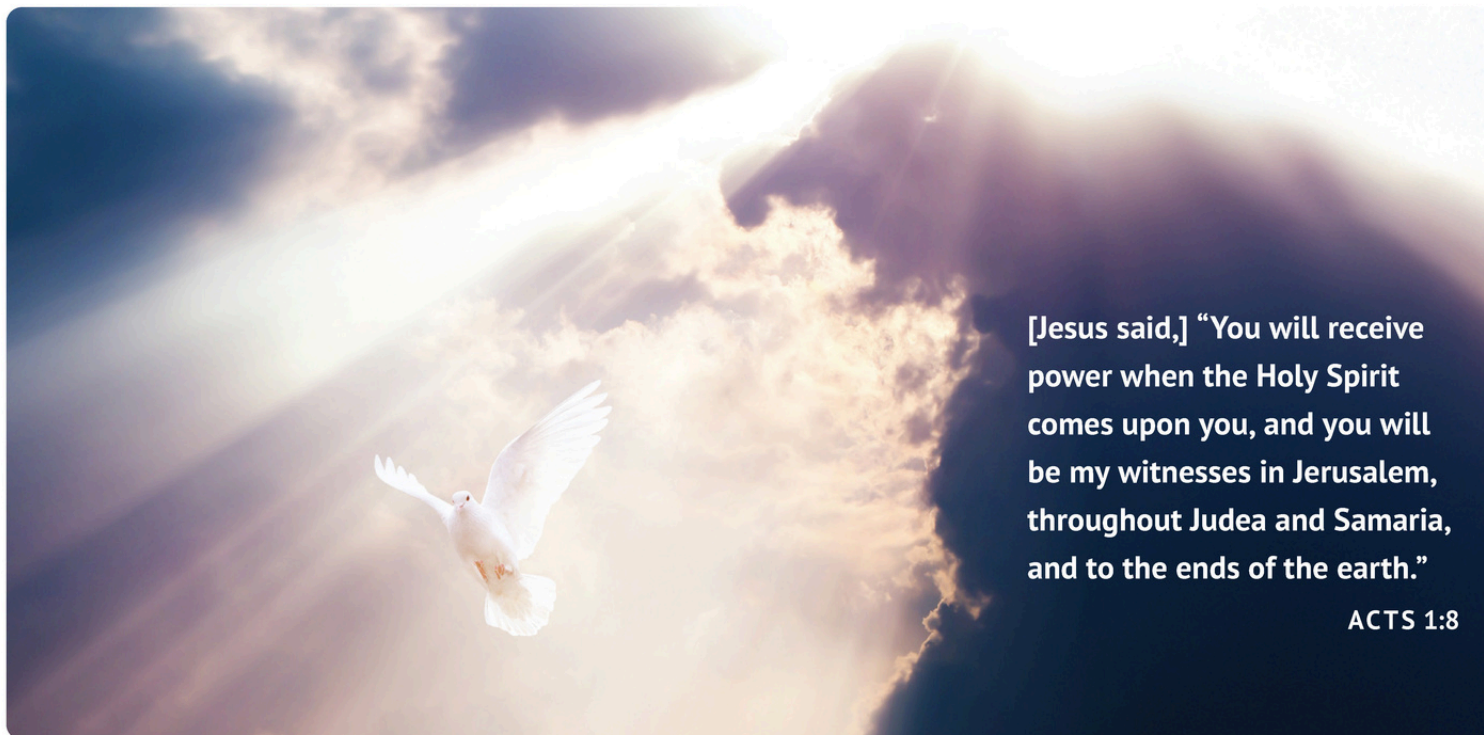
So the next nine days are crucial. The apostles and other disciples, 120 persons in all, prepare for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a spiritual retreat, the original "novena." Only then can the apostle go and "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus, who brought heaven down to earth in the Incarnation, now ascends, taking earth up to heaven, with his resurrection. Saint Paul gives us a hint of how special this interchange is when he wishes for the Ephesians to receive from Jesus "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Ephesians 1:17).

Our own obtuseness can block the Holy Spirit when we think we have all the answers. When I first preached in Honduras, in the village where I live, I was so prepared. I said everything I could think of, all that I had learned in my courses for a masters degree in divinity. But then, when I heard the prayers and insights of poor and simple folks, supported by a rich, personal knowledge of the Lord himself, I cut my sermons in half and let the "saints," as St. Paul liked to call the people, finish the job. Thank you, Holy Spirit! ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
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[Jesus said,] "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8

Reflect

How can I better cooperate with the Holy Spirit?

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: We do the best we have, with the words that we have, to express who God is. But saying the words isn't enough. We have to take them into the silence of our hearts and hold them there, inviting the Spirit to move among them. Liberate them. Unleash them.

When Words Fail

I love words (obviously; I'm a writer).

But sometimes, words are like teeny, tiny cages. They enclose and confine and restrict our understanding of supernatural realities that are, by their nature, bigger than language.

We do the best we have, with the words that we have, to express who God is. We use terms like "Father" and "Son" because they are the most accurate. But often, without really noticing, we give the words too much weight, and we find ourselves thinking of Jesus as a human son and the Creator as a human father, with all the implications those particular words carry for different people.

That's why I love hearing Christ speak to God the Father in the Gospels. These one-sided conversations (at least from our viewpoint) pull back the curtain just a little on the breathtaking intimacy that exists between the two. Our misunderstandings of their relationship — framed by our own human experience of fathers and sons, of time and place, of creation and death — are shattered.

"Now glorify me, Father, with you," Jesus says, "with the glory that I had with you before the world began."

Before the world began.

In our collective imagination, too often we imagine Jesus as being connected — tethered, really — to a certain time and place: the Incarnation, and all that came after. But let's not get confused: the Incarnation means that the Son became flesh, and dwelt among us. The Incarnation does not mean that the Son *became*.

The Son was. From the very beginning, He was. Begotten, not made. Consubstantial.

We say these words every week in the Creed. But saying them isn't enough. We have to take them into the silence of our hearts and hold them there. We have to invite the Spirit to move among them. Rearrange them. Liberate them. Unleash them.

Only then will we understand what words fail to explain.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Couldn't Jesus have done more good if he stayed on earth, rather than ascended into heaven?

Answer:

This is an interesting question! During his earthly life, Jesus gave sight to the blind, healed paralytics, drove out demons, and fed thousands with only a few loaves of bread. Imagine what he could have done if he'd never ascended into heaven! Imagine what our world could be! It's an interesting thought to consider, especially as the world faces challenges that only seem to deepen and expand. Yet at the Last Supper, Jesus says, "It is better for you if I go." Why? His response must have seemed strange to the Apostles at the time. In his place, Jesus says, he will send the Paraclete, the Comforter, the Advocate. He promises to send the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' departure allows the Apostles to become the leaders he has formed them to be. Jesus is no longer situated in only one geographical location, and his Church will never be a political kingdom. Soon after the Ascension, we celebrate Pentecost — the descent of the Holy Spirit and the radical empowerment of the followers of Jesus. We share in that empowerment and in that mission. Jesus is present in the sacraments, and he is present in us. Through our faith, hope, and love, we are called to be the good he does here on earth!

Readings for the week of May 17, 2026

Sunday:

Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

Monday:

Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday:

Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday:

Acts 20:28-38/ Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday:

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26

Friday:

Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19

Saturday:

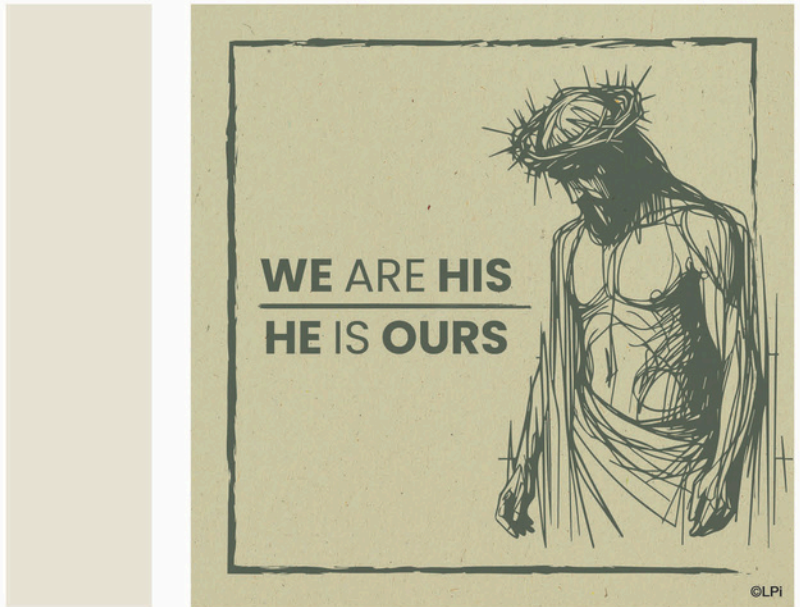
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25

Next Sunday:

Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24 and 35, 27-28, 29b-30/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 or, for the **Extended Vigil:** Gn 11:1-9/ Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Ez 37:1-14/Jl 3:1-5/ Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 (see Lectionary for Mass Supplement, 62) **Day:** Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1 and 24, 29-30, 31 and 34/ 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Not long after my brother's first child was born, a beautiful little girl named Mary Elise, I asked him what it was like. Was he nervous? Overwhelmed? He said, "When I first held her, I was in such shock. I think I just said, 'I am your dad. I am your dad.'" That moment marked a deep transformation for him. He was not just holding a baby; he was stepping into a new identity. Over the years, I have seen him live his fatherhood with quiet sacrifice, joy, and faithfulness. It started with that moment of truth.

This, I propose, is a glimpse of what Jesus means when he prays, **"Consecrate them in the truth."** (John 17:17) To be consecrated is to be set apart in love, not taken out of the world. Consecration sends us into it with a new identity, always one that binds us to him and to others in love. Our bond to Jesus and others is the deep truth that he continually renews.

Whenever we speak deep truths about ourselves, we experience this renewal: "I have sinned;" "I need help;" "I forgive you;" "I take you as my husband;" "I believe in one God..." Whether in confession, in the liturgy, or in a recovery group, truth heals and transforms.

And the deepest truth of all? That we belong to the Risen and Ascended Christ. Our lives are no longer just ours. We are his and he is ours.

Name one truth you need to step into more deeply, about yourself, someone else, or God. Maybe put it on a note on your mirror. Let that truth consecrate you this week.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

When they entered the city
they went to the upper room where they were staying.
(Acts 1:13)

Psalm:

I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the
land of the living. (Ps 27)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you,
for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. (1 Pt 4:14)

Gospel:

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said,
"Father, the hour has come.
Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you,
just as you gave him authority over all people,
so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave
him." (Jn 17:1-2)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Eternal life, Jesus tells us, is about knowing God.
It's not about power or accomplishment. It's not
earned or won. It's not a prize, and it's certainly
not a finish line. It's a relationship — one that is
ours to begin. How will we know God this week?

Observances for the week of May 17, 2026

- Sunday:** The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter;
World Communications Day
- Monday:** St. John I, Pope and Martyr
- Wednesday:** St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
- Thursday:** St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and
Companions, Martyrs
- Friday:** St. Rita of Cascia, Religious
- Next Sunday:** Pentecost Sunday



Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of loyalty is closely linked to the virtue of obedience, wherein we freely submit ourselves to rightful authority. We are called to be loyal to our bishops, to Scripture and Tradition, to the teaching authority of the Church, and to the Christian way of life.

Blessing for Communications

Dear Jesus,
On this World Communications Day,
bless each of us as we communicate,
whether by conversation, email,
text, post, letter, or phone. May our
words bring peace, comfort, healing,
promise, joy, and love. May we bring
your blessing wherever we go.
Amen.

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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.

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