

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"This is my beloved Son, with whom
I am well pleased." - Mt 3:17



Baptism OF THE Lord

January 10 - January 16

Events

SATURDAY Jan. 10

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

SUNDAY Jan. 11

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

MONDAY Jan. 12

No events today

TUESDAY Jan. 13

Adult Bible Study
10:00am-Noon - Faith Formation Room
OCIA
6:30-8:00pm - Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY Jan. 14

Stitchers
9:00am-12:00pm - St. Francis Room
PSR
5:30pm - Mass
6:15-7:00pm - Dinner/Class

THURSDAY Jan. 15

OLL Game Day
1:00-3:30pm - Faith Formation Room

FRIDAY Jan. 16

K of C Red Cross Blood Drive
12:00pm-5:00pm - Parish Center
Spanish Charismatic Group
6:00-9:00pm - Faith Formation Room

SATURDAY Jan. 17

No AM events today

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](#)

[Click Here For FLOWER INTENTIONS](#)

 *Flower Intentions available for January*

Mass Intentions

Sat.	1/10	5:00pm	Carter Mitchell (Special Intention-Living)
Sat.	1/10	7:00pm	Taney County Parish Family (Living)
Sun.	1/11	8:00am	Marty Waller (Birthday Deceased) †
Sun.	1/11	10:30am	Larry Gardner †
Mon.	1/12	9:00am	Katie & Dominic Axelson (Special Intention-Living)
Tue.	1/13	9:00am	Kourtney Elizabeth McConnell †
Wed.	1/14	5:30pm	Andres Melendez †
Thur.	1/15	9:00am	Michele Chambers (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](#)

Collection through Jan. 4, 2026

Envelopes:		\$5,091.00
Plate:		\$ 400.00
Green Envelopes:		\$1,819.00
Total:		\$7,310.00

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA





Coffee & Christ Sundays

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



Jan. 11

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

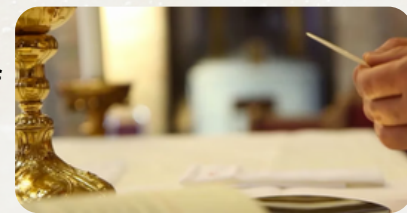
What is the connection between the Old Testament celebration of Passover and Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples—and how does that impact the Mass as we know it?



Jan. 18

Episode 9 -The Mass: Emmaus and the Mystery of the Eucharist

"The Eucharist affected the thinking of the early Church in all aspects of its worship and practices. But how did the Apostles put into practice Christ's command to "Do this in memory of me?" Two men and the miraculous encounter they had on the road to Emmaus could show us more than we realize.



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.

Jan. 13th

Season 5 Episode 2: House of Cards

Why kill Jesus when Rome can do it for you? As the Jewish High Priest schemes to bring Him down, Jesus strikes first: turning the tables.

Bible Roundtable:

It's time for some lively table talk—literally—as our Bible consultants discuss Jesus turning over tables. They discuss (and disagree over) whether Jesus cleansed the Temple once or twice. And along with explaining why He got so righteously angry, they also consider the deep meaning of his actions from a Jewish perspective—and how it revealed Him as the Father's Son.

Jan. 20th

Season 5 Episode 3: Woes

Jesus preaches one last time to the massive Passover crowd, and the religious leaders try to trap him in his words.

Bible Roundtable:

Episode 3 covered a lot of ground Biblically—and all of it pretty weighty stuff—so there's much to discuss. Our scholars address the religious leaders' attempt to publicly discredit Jesus, His equally public denouncement of them, and his private prediction to the disciples about the end of the age. And despite all the conflict and sadness throughout the episode, they point us to the words of hope and peace at the beginning and end.



JANUARY PSR CALENDAR



Wednesday PSR K-12th

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



SAINT OF THE MONTH

Saint John Bosco



His feast day is on
January 31

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

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

SERVICE PROJECT

Decorate
lunch bags
for Elevate
Branson



MENU

2026

1/14 - English Muffin Breakfast

1/21 - Chicken Nachos

1/28 - Pasta





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.

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

HOW TO BLESS THE HOME

Use blessed chalk to mark the frame of your front door:

20 + C + M + B + 26

While saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and fifteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

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



DIocese of SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU



SCAN HERE to learn more!

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!

In preparation for the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress, all are invited to join Bishop Edward Rice for an hour with Jesus



Deanery Four
St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield

Thursday, January 22
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Learn more about the

Diocesan Eucharistic Congress at
<https://dioscg.org/diocesan-eucharistic-congress/>

Prayer and Adoration

Thursday, January 22 6:00pm-7:00pm

St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield

Thursday, February 19 6:30pm-7:30pm

Sacred Heart Parish, Bolivar

Thursday, March 19 10:00am-11:00am

Sacred Heart Parish, Dexter

Sunday, April 19 4:30pm-5:30pm

SEMO - St. John Henry Newman Center, Cape Girardeau

Monday, May 18 6:30pm-7:30pm

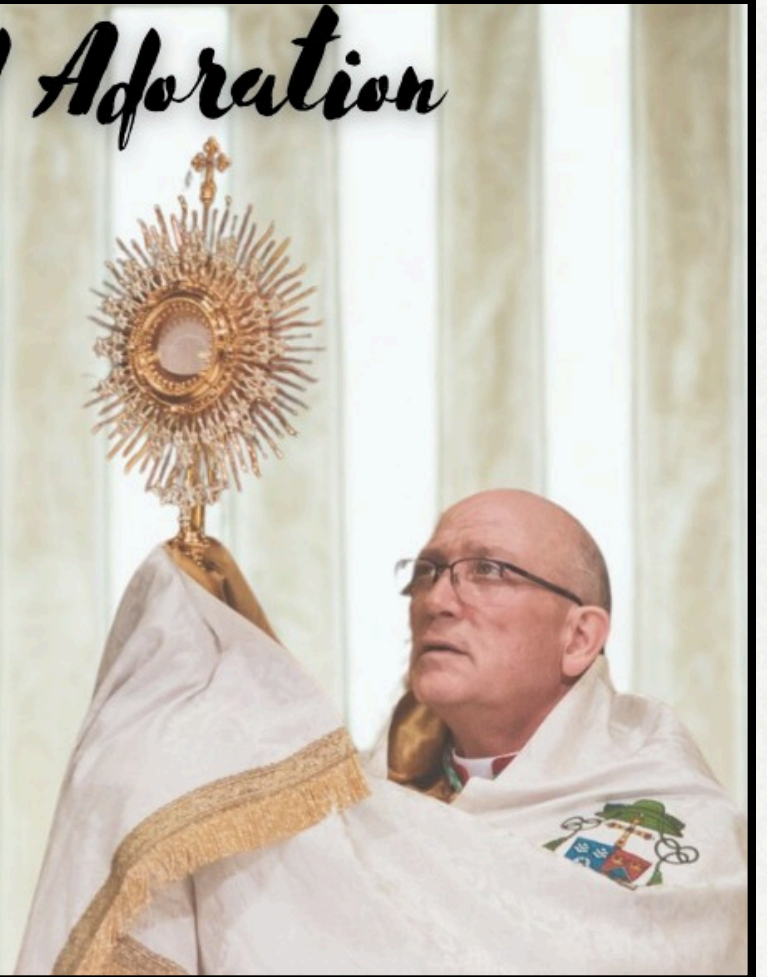
St. John Vianney, Mountain View

Thursday, June 18 4:45pm-5:45pm

St. Ann Parish, Carthage

Wednesday, July 15 6:30pm-7:30pm

Holy Trinity Parish, Aurora



W H Y N O T

DRAW CLOSER

TO JESUS IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST?

Learn from the Catechism

#1322 - 1327

Get to know St. John Paul II's Mind

Ecclesia de Eucaristica Introduction

Give Praise to God

through the "Tantum Ergo" hymn

Reclaim Sunday for God & the Family

Take a fun Catholic online quiz

Watch an uplifting movie

The Boy from Milan

I am with You - A documentary on Carlo Acutis

Contemplate Sacred Art

The Pelican and the Eucharist



70
YEARS
1948-2018

DIocese of SPRINGFIELD-
CAPE GIRARDEAU

JANUARY

resource page. Find more ideas at dioscg.org/diocesan-eucharistic-congress



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Diocesan Eucharistic Congress

AUGUST 15, 2026

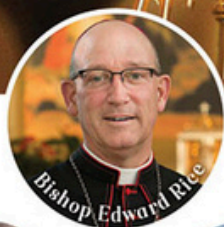
WEST PLAINS CIVIC CENTER

REGISTRATION OPENS

JANUARY 12, 2026!



Bishop James Conley



Bishop Edward Rice



Fr. Leo Patallangui



Dr. Scott Hahn



Fr. Elvis Gonzalez



Dó Ministries



Mari Pablo



Brian Mijler



Sr. Karolyn Nunes, FSCM

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



DIocese of **SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU**



70 YEARS
1956-2026



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

OLL Games

Join us on January 15th
OLL Game Day
1:00pm Faith Formation Room

OLL Train - Little Women
BIG Winner is Julie -232
Tied Brenda & Pam -271
Lil' Winner is Mary -369



OLL Train - The Carolers
BIG Winner is Judy E -280
Remy -295 Kevin -302
Eva -304 Joe -345
Lil' Winner Ed -347

Swoop - Fabulous Five
BIG Winner is Julie W -348
Tied Sharon S & Margaret -393
Sharon A -590
Lil' Winner is Rosemarie -692



Swoop - @ Guys & @ Gals
BIG Winner is Judy H -121
Dan -144 Butch -157
Lil' Winner is Jeanne -467

Mahjong: Harry -75 Joyce -50 Judy O -50 Fr. J -0

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 gathering in mid February. 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.

37TH ANNUAL JACK FROST 5K

RUN/ WALK

Give-away & medal for all racers
Gold medals to 1st place in each men & women's age division

- \$25 STUDENTS
- \$25 GROUP (10+)
- \$45 EARLY REGISTRATION
- \$50 DAY OF RACE



BEGIN AT MSU STRONG HALL
847 S HOLLAND AVE. SPRINGFIELD, MO 65806

SAT

RACE BEGINS

JANUARY
24, 2026

9 AM



(417) 865-0802
@CCM_847
CCM847.ORG



GIVE SOMETHING
That Means
Something

Blood Drive

Our Lady Of The Lake Catholic Church

Parish Center
202 Vaughn Drive
Branson, MO 65616

Friday, January 16, 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.

Come to give Jan. 1-25 for chance to win trip for 2 to Super Bowl LX in Cali! rcblood.org/SuperBowl



Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

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

[www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=OURLADYBranson)
[zipSponsor=OURLADYBranson](#)

You are Invited

to the Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration

For couples celebrating their
1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, or 50+ anniversary
anytime during 2026

Join Bishop Edward M. Rice

FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY MASS
FOLLOWED BY A LIGHT LUNCH RECEPTION

01 | FEB | 2026

Sunday at 1:30-3:30 p.m.
St. Mary of the Annunciation Cathedral
Cape Girardeau



08 | FEB | 2026

Sunday at 1:30-3:30 p.m.
St. Agnes Cathedral
Springfield

Kindly RSVP by January 23, 2026 online by scanning the QR code above
or call Sharon in the Diocesan Family Life Office at (417)866-0841.

Family members are welcome!



Why Apostolic Succession is essential to the Catholic faith.

What does the Church mean by Apostolic Succession?

Apostolic Succession is the unbroken transmission of sacramental authority from the Apostles to today's bishops through the laying on of hands. This is not by symbolic hands nor remembered hands. This is by real hands by a real bishop.

Jesus did not write a book and tell the Apostles to figure it out. He chose Apostles and gave them authority and they passed it on. "Do this in memory of me." (Luke 22:19)

This is why a bishop is essential. Only a bishop possesses the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders. A priest cannot ordain a bishop. A deacon cannot ordain anyone. Likewise, a community cannot ordain itself. If there is no valid bishop, there is:

- no valid ordination
- no Eucharist
- no sacramental absolution

This is a sacramental reality.

What is required for a bishop to be validly ordained?

For a bishop to be validly ordained, at minimum of three bishops is required to ordain (consecrate) a new bishop; one principal consecrator and at least two co-consecrators. This requirement was formally established at the Council of Nicaea (325 AD) to ensure the new bishop was accepted by the wider community of bishops and to safeguard against unauthorized or "secret" ordinations.

This practice is a visible sign of 'collegiality', symbolizing that no bishop acts in isolation but rather as a member of the global College of Bishops. However, the Pope can grant dispensation for exceptions, such as in missionary areas or during times of severe persecution. Regardless of the number of bishops present, a bishop may not lawfully ordain another unless it is certain that a pontifical mandate (approval from the Pope) has been issued.

Why is the Church so strict in this requirement?

The Church requires multiple bishops not because she doubts God, but because she respects history, continuity, and truth. This protects the faithful from: fake ordinations; self-appointed pastors; and invented ministries. It guarantees that when we receive the Eucharist, it is the same Christ handed on from the Apostles.

This is why Apostolic Succession Matters. For without it the altar becomes a table, the Mass becomes a service, the priest becomes a speaker, and the Church becomes an organization. With Apostolic Succession: Christ remains the High Priest, the Eucharist remains His Body, and the Church remains His Body.

The chain of Apostolic Succession is not fragile, but it is precise. God protects His Church and He does so through order, not shortcuts. While one valid bishop is enough to pass on the succession, without a bishop, nothing sacramental can happen. This is why Apostolic Succession is not optional. It is the bloodstream of the Church.

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

In cooperation with the diocesan Office of Evangelization.

**TAKING
FAITH TO THE
NEXT LEVEL!**

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



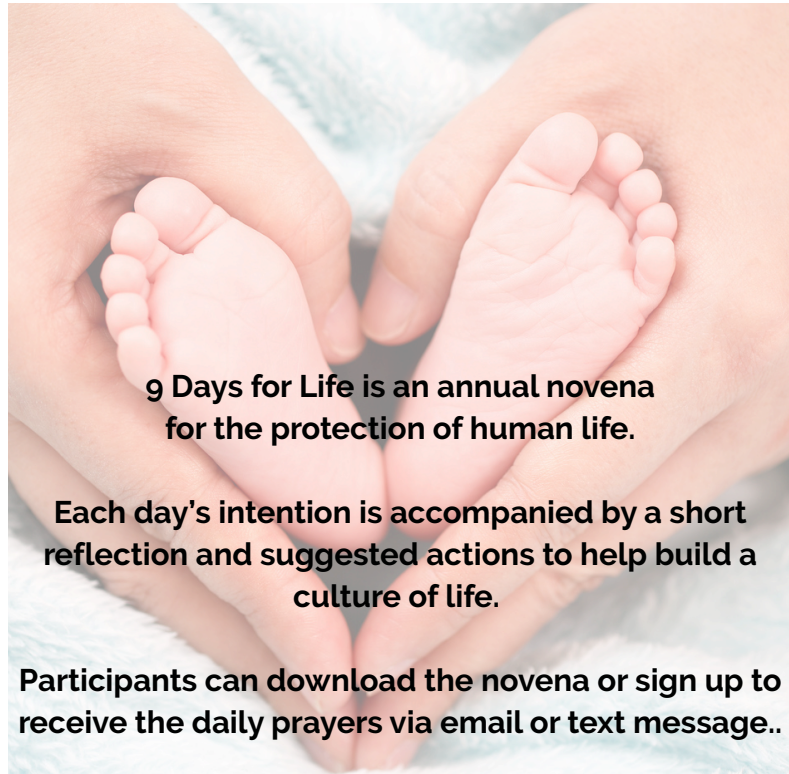
Doors open 7am. Mass 8am. Ends by 3:30pm.

Register for free now!

www.CatholicConference.men

@SOMOMensCon

January is Respect Life Month
Join Catholics Nationwide for the
9 Days for Life Novena, January 16-24, 2026



9 Days for Life is an annual novena for the protection of human life.

Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

Participants can download the novena or sign up to receive the daily prayers via email or text message..

Go to the link below to pray for life:

<https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup>

THANK YOU

A note of thanks from Fr. Dave Hulshof



Fr. Dave would like to express his gratitude for the many Christmas cards and well wishes he received from our parish community and the parishioners in Branson.


He truly enjoyed his time serving as pastor of both Our Lady of the Ozarks and Our Lady of the Lake. He offers his prayers and blessings to us in the year ahead.

• • ———— ♥ ———— • •

"Let us pray and work for the protection of all human life, from conception to natural death. May every parish put forth the necessary resources to walk with moms in need."

Bishop Edward M. Rice



January
PRAYER INTENTION 



Catholic Recording Artist
Donna Cori Gibson
In Concert

Way of the Cross Concert
Friday, January 23rd at 7:00 p.m.
(inclement weather, January 30th)



Our Lady of the Cove
Catholic Church
20 Kimberling Blvd
Kimberling City, MO 65686
Info at 417-739-4700



Free music
download at
www.DonnaCori.com

The Way of the Cross
(a song and video for each station)

Make the Stations of the Cross like never before. This presentation is an intimate "walking" with the Lord in his last hours. Donna sings a meditation accompanied by a powerful video for each of the 14 Stations of the Cross. The lush arrangements and the words draw you into the depth, meaning and emotion of the passion of Christ. The contemporary style music includes a full band and over 40 string players.

You Are Not Alone
God's Kingdom is Here in the Eucharist



Women's Retreat

When: Saturday, January 24*
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: OLC Catholic Church

Lunch will be provided --

the retreat is free but please RSVP by 1/19 to bjgarlich@gmail.com or 847-721-4391 so we can get the right amount of food

**in case of inclement weather, the retreat will be on January 31*

Welcome.
CRHP 2.0
There is **More to Life**

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

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

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

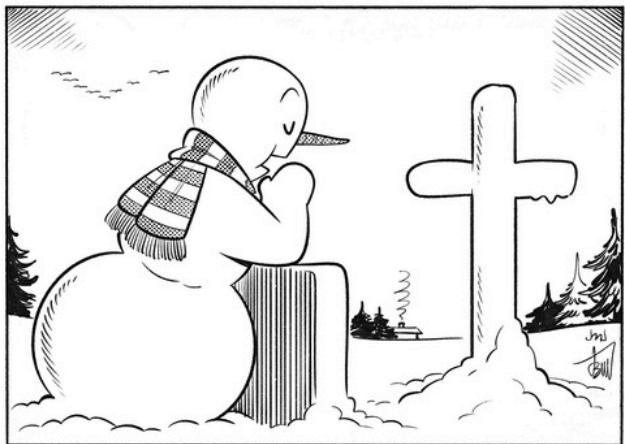
SCAN TO
REGISTER



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.

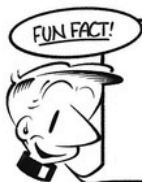
OR GO TO:
OLLBRANSON.COM/WOMENS-WELCOME-RETREAT

"What's a snowman's favorite devotion?"



THE FAITHFUL FUNNIES

"A Snow-vena!"



Novenas are a focused way of praying, often for nine days in a row. Give one a try!

©LPI

"Celebrate every victory, no matter how small; progress is progress."

CATHOLIC TRIVIA - JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the name for the formal letters in the New Testament sent to people and Christian communities?

Answer: Epistles.

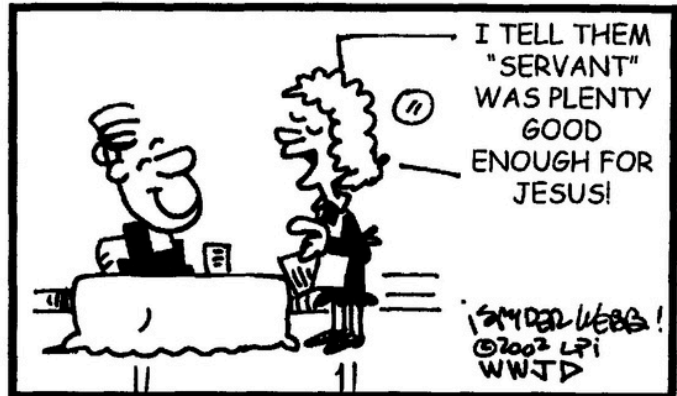
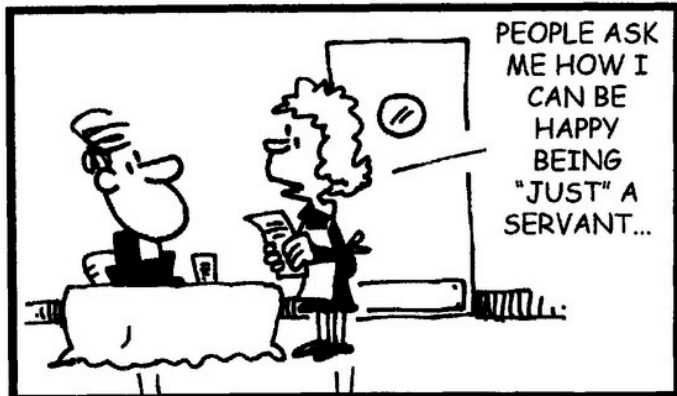
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BAPTISM OF THE LORD



MAT 3:13-17

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



©2002 LPI WWJD

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations. (Is 42:6)

Psalm:

The Lord will bless his people with peace. (Ps 29)

Second Reading:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him
and acts uprightly
is acceptable to him." (Acts 10:34-35)

Gospel:

And a voice came from the heavens, saying,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am
well pleased." (Mt 3:17)

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International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

John could not believe that Jesus would seek baptism from him, a lowly mortal man. But our God is a humble God. He does not fear our weakness. He extends his hand, saying, "It is fitting." So take his hand. Begin the work he has set out for you.

Observances for the week of January 11, 2026

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
Tuesday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. Anthony, Abbot
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

Joy is the experience of achieving what we most desire — and what we most desire is love. God made us in love and for love, and so, in the same way that a flower seeks the sunlight, our souls seek the warmth of true, selfless love.

Blessing for Baptismal Grace

Dear God,
Through Baptism, You called and claimed us as Your own, chosen and loved.
Pour Your blessing upon us as we remember our Baptism.
Plant Your identity in our hearts.
Help us to live as Your beloved.
Amen.

Readings for the week of January 11, 2026

Sunday:

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/
Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

Monday:

1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/
Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday:

1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday:

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a,
8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday:

1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/
Mk 1:40-45

Friday:

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/
Mk 2:1-12

Saturday:

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday:

Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/
1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34



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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

Apple ran a commercial not long ago called “Behind the Mac – Greatness.” It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, “There’s a certain kind of person who doesn’t wait for greatness. They make it.” It’s a compelling message. There’s beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can’t anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today’s Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn’t preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: **“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”** It’s not a reward for success. It’s not earned. Before he does anything “great,” Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: “You are my beloved.” That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.

This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you, or visit the church where it happened. Let your identity be rooted there.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: When the voice of God declares, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.

When Jesus Wades In

Usually, when God comes to us, we aren’t ready.

We think we are. Like John the Baptist, we stand in our waters of baptism, certain of our mission. We know how it’s going to go. We know what’s going to be asked of us. We’re sure of it.

Christ wades into the waters. And he screws up all our plans.

To be clear, I don’t think John the Baptist lacks faith when he balks at the idea of baptizing Jesus. I think it is, in fact, a testament to his humility. But whatever motivated John’s actions, he is — if even for a brief moment — hesitating to do the will of God. Just a few chapters after this in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus will acknowledge that John is the greatest person “born of women” — with the caveat that even he is not perfect enough for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Not yet.

Jesus didn’t give John an explanation as the two stood in the River Jordan. He merely said, “Allow it for now.” John could have resisted further, demanding to understand why. He could have grown suspicious at the simplicity of Jesus’ answer, at the strangeness of this request. He could have clung desperately to his version of How Things Are Supposed To Be, and in doing so, fostered doubt in his heart. He could have even stormed off, confused and angry.

He did none of these things, because John is, as Jesus says, the greatest born of women.

When the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God declares, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

At times, temptation seems so powerful that it is almost impossible to resist. How can I be stronger in my resolve to avoid sin and temptation?

Answer:

The saints have written that every human person desires the good. In a sense, we don’t desire sin itself. Temptation is powerful because there is at least some bit of good in it. Even in the blackest of sin, there is something good that becomes twisted. We can look for good in sin when we feel it is lacking in our own life. When we lack true relational intimacy, it can be easy to turn to lust. When we lack confidence in God in our own lives, it can be easy to judge others or to grasp for control over situations. When we lack peace in the present moment, it can be easy to compete with others or to treat others poorly in our quest for success.

Overcoming temptation isn’t just about repressing our sinful desires. If that’s all we do, they’ll just burst out someplace else! If there is a recurring temptation in your life, prayerfully consider why this is so appealing to you. Submit this to God and bring it to a wise person. And in the meantime, continue to resist temptation to sin. If we fail to choose God in small choices, we’re several steps down the road towards failing in larger ones. Pray for the grace to persevere!

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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.

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