

951 Swan Valley Drive , Forsyth, MO 65653

phone: 417.546.5208 Website: www.ourladyoftheozarks.com

Email: ourladyoftheozarks@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00am to 2:00pm

Weekend Mass Time: **Confession:**

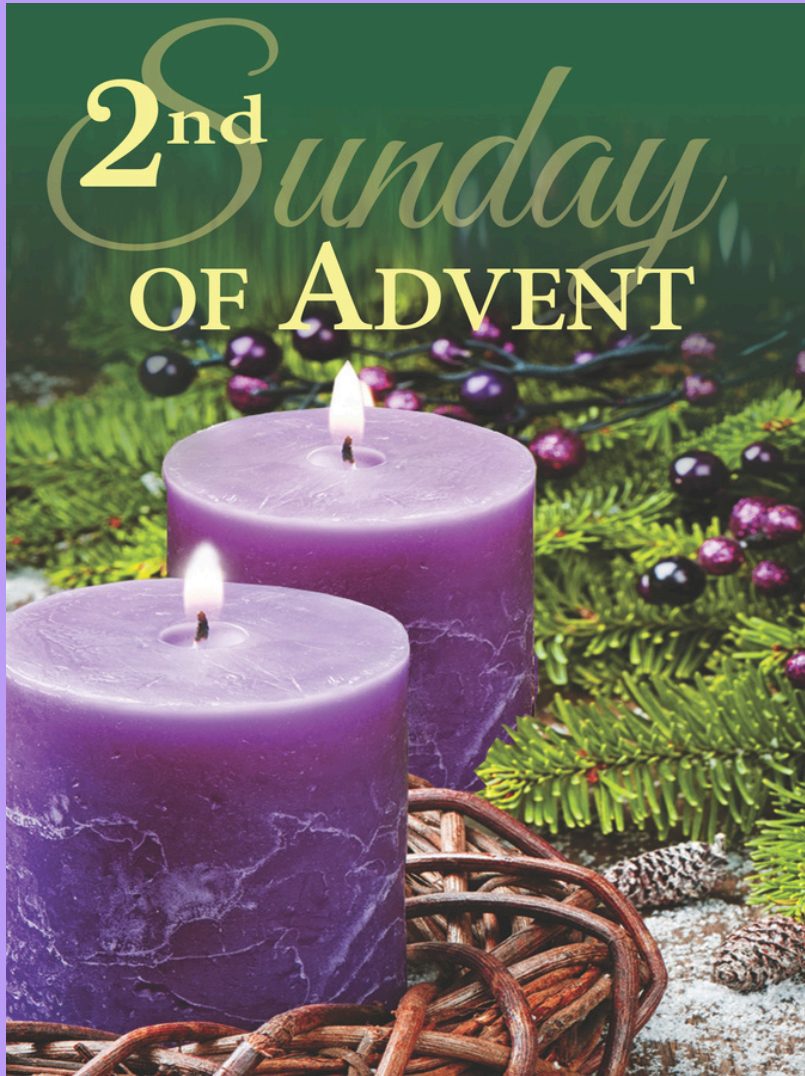
Sunday 8:30 am

Sun - before Mass & Wed after Mass

Weekday Mass Times: **Holy Hour Adoration:**

Wed & Fri - 9:00 am

Wed - after Mass



Welcome Blessings

Whether you are visiting, recently moved here or are returning to your Catholic faith, we want to welcome you to Our Lady of the Ozarks.

Our parish is committed to inviting and supporting every parishioner to become a disciple of Christ, building His Kingdom through prayer, fellowship and service to others.

We look forward to meeting you and encourage you to connect with the people and ministries of our parish community. Please call the parish office and let the friendship begin.

Serving with the joy of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Parish Leadership

Father J Friedel

Pastor

417-334-2928 ext 105

FrJFriedel@ollbranson.com

Deacon Daniel Vaughn

Parish Administrator

Pastoral Associate

417-546-5208 or 812-204-2625

DcnDanVaughn@gmail.com

Father Johnny M. Augusthy

Associate Pastor

417-334-2928 X 101

johnnyvc@dioscg.org

Father Dhaneesh Thomas

Associate Pastor

417-334-2928

Dhaneesh@dioscg.org

Mike Rivera

Bulletin

mikerivera@ollbranson.com

Marilyn Guy

Financial Administrator

Nancy Loughner

Office Associate

Laura Cairns

Music Ministry

Chris Gillen

Parish Pastoral Council President

Barbara Peterson

PCCW President

Buck Hartley

Grand Knight Council 7680

Our Lady of the Ozarks Mission Statement

We are called to walk with Christ, serving with joy, love and mercy. We bring our talents and shortcomings, our histories, and our hopes.

But most of all, we bring our shared faith and love of Jesus. We are blessed to belong to Our Lady of the Ozarks Catholic Church.

Weekly Financial Report

12/2/2025

	Last Week	Month Total December	YTD
Income:			
Envelopes	\$2,505.00	\$2,505.00	\$41,104.83
Plate (loose)	207.00	207.00	5,389.70
Maint. & Repair Fund	1,010.00	1,010.00	14,652.00
Diocesan Collections	20.00	20.00	4,746.00
K of C & PCCW	139.73	139.73	13,039.73
Trust Fund Withdrawal			
Other Income	85.00	85.00	7,168.65
Total Income	3,966.73	3,966.73	86,100.91
Expense:			
Salary, Benefits, Mileage	2,061.50	2,061.50	29,324.95
Maintenance	214.50	214.50	5,505.59
Telephone & Utilities	942.64	942.64	7,247.53
Insurance			3,200.00
Diocesan & Special Collections			3,805.00
Trust Fund Deposit			14,605.00
Other Expenses	16.85	16.85	9,640.98
Total Expenses	3,235.49	3,235.49	73,329.05
Increase (Decrease) Funds	\$731.24	\$731.24	\$12,771.86
Cash in Bank, 7/1/25			\$28,108.86
Cash in Bank, current			\$40,880.72
Unpaid Bills & Designated Funds			\$31,903.03

Sacrament Preparation

Have questions regarding the Sacraments or seeking information about the Catholic Church?

Please contact the Office / Dcn. Dan.

Marriage: Requires at least six months advance notice for preparation and scheduling. (If you have been married before, an annulment may be necessary.)

Infant/Youth Baptism: Your family needs to be registered in the parish and it is necessary to have had class / catechesis regarding baptismal preparation.

OCIA Adult Baptism/Confirmation: Interested in becoming a Catholic or are a Catholic adult who has not been Confirmed? Let's talk about your next steps.

Visitation of the Sick: If you know someone who is homebound and desires Communion, call Deacon Dan. Anointing of the Sick: please call Our Lady of the Lake Church (417) 334-2928 and request to speak to a priest.

Prayers Requested from Parishioners

We pray for those who are ill, those in despair, and the homebound. We ask for the heavenly intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. May she envelope them with her maternal protection.

For parishioners; for health-related issues: Denny & Darlene Bissell, Mary Bloomgren, Kenny & Penny O'Connor, Kathy Strader, Leonard Gross, Debbie Davis, Gary Hickox, Arlis Stillings, Tom Kinsella and Mary Little.

For family & friends: Sandy Schumacher's brother, Kirk and niece Lisa, Carolyn Townsend's husband Bud, Patt Strom's niece Shannon and granddaughter Jennifer, David and Carol Sanchez's nephew Julian, Gary Hickox's wife Sharon, and Carla Schmitz's brother-in-law Roger.

Our homebound, including those in care facilities: Janice Elledge, Ann Forster, Mary Lamp, Trini Scholefield, and Joyce Stenger

Safe Environment - Report Abuse

If you suspect or have a concern regarding misconduct or abuse, use the Report Abuse online access via the Diocesan webpage, www.dioscg.org, then click on Report Abuse, and/or call the Director of Child and Youth Protection: William Holtmeyer, 417-866-0841

Date	Mass Intention	Lectors	Gift Bear
Sun 12/7	Sakowicz Family +	Craig / Hunter	The Huffman Family and Paul Lautenschlager
Mon 12/8	Barbara Hein +	Marilyn / Charlene	
Wed 12/10	Lester Droste +	Kay	
Fri 12/12	Perez Family +	Nancy	
Sun 12/14	John Loughner +	Tom / Carla	Stech Family
Wed 12/17	Sang Lee Booth +	Charlene	
Fri 12/19	Phil Harter +	Marilyn	

Parish Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event
Sun 12/7	8:30 am	Celebrating the Catechumens & Elect entry into the Church
Sun 12/7	9:45 am	Parish Advent / Christmas Party
Mon 12/8	9:00 am	Holy Day Mass – The Immaculate Conception of the BVM
Tue 12/9		Parish Mission at OLL Branson (also on Wed 12/10)
Wed 12/10	9:30 am	Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour
Thu 12/11	6:30 pm	KofC Council 7680 Mtg, Rosary at 6:10 pm
Sat 12/13	6:00 pm	Forsyth's Christmas Parade featuring OLO's participation
Sun 12/14	9:45 pm	PSR -- Youth Safe Environment annual refresher requirement
Sun 12/14	3:00 pm	Communal Penance Service at OLL Branson
Wed 12/17	9:30 am	Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour (last one until January 2026)

Check each week for updates as things do change.

‘Mater Populi Fidelis’ brings clarity to the role of Mary in the Church

In early November the Vatican’s Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a document, *Mater Populi Fidelis* (“Mother of the Faithful People of God”), which clarifies how Catholics should understand Mary’s cooperation in salvation. It affirms her unique maternal role but rejects titles like “Co-Redemptrix” that could obscure Christ’s sole mediation.

The purpose of the document is to bring clarification on Marian titles, especially as they relate to Mary. It aims to deepen devotion to Mary while safeguarding the centrality of Christ’s saving mission (Christ alone is the one who saves).

The document opens by recalling that “The Mother of the Faithful People of God is viewed with affection and admiration by Christians because, since grace makes us like Christ, Mary is the most perfect expression of Christ’s action that transforms our humanity.” The tone is pastoral rather than apologetic.

The Dicastery states that titles such as *Mediatrix*, *Mediatrix of All Graces*, *Co-Redemptrix*, and *Redemptrix* have appeared frequently in popular devotion, in petitions for new dogmas, and even in online movements. The concern arises when these titles are used without precision. The document observes that such expressions “often sow confusion among ordinary members of the faithful” when they circulate without a theological context.

The document highlights Mary’s cooperation in salvation history. Her “yes” at the Annunciation, her faithful discipleship, and her maternal closeness at the cross. These acts show her cooperation in God’s plan, but always as a creature dependent on Christ’s grace.

Mater Populi Fidelis acknowledges Mary’s intercessory role (*Mediatrix*) but stresses that Christ is the only universal Mediator. Christ’s Unique Mediation The document insists that all Marian devotion must remain rooted in Christ’s unique salvific work. Mary’s role is inseparable from Him but never parallel or equal.

Perhaps the most important take away from the document is its overall intent. It states, “Rather than proposing limits, the present Note (explanation) seeks to accompany and sustain the love of Mary and trust in her maternal intercession.” The Dicastery affirms the vitality of Marian devotion and asks theologians to ensure that teaching about Mary always reflects her dependence upon Christ.

This approach aligns with the Catechism’s statement that “*Mary’s function as mother of men in no way obscures or diminishes this unique mediation of Christ but rather shows its power.*” (CCC 970) *Mater Populi Fidelis* reinforces that same truth: Mary magnifies the Lord; she does not replace him. Her dignity flows entirely from the grace of her Son.

The Dicastery encourages Catholics to honor Mary as the first disciple, model of faith, and mother of believers. Nothing in this document alters Mary’s dignity or her mission. She remains the Immaculate Mother of God, full of grace, intercessor for the Church, and queen who reigns beside her Son.

The Church continues to venerate her as the highest of creatures and the perfect model of faith. The teaching of *Mater Populi Fidelis* simply urges precision in language and depth in understanding. Devotion to Mary must never drift into sentimentality detached from theology. Love for her must always lead to love for Christ. In honoring Mary, we learn to keep Christ at the center of our lives.



"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



Our Lady of the Lake

Tuesday, Dec. 9th
10:00am & 6:30pm

Both presentations on Tuesday will be the same, you're invited to come back on Wednesday for a different presentation

Wednesday, Dec. 10th
10:00am & 6:30pm

Both presentations on Wednesday will be the same, but different from Tuesday

We will begin with the Rosary, followed by Tony guiding us through a musical mission of Advent

"Prepare the way of the Lord"

December Reminders:



Advent Giving Tree- Suitcases for New Beginnings

This year our Giving Tree will focus on Foster Children and a program called "Suitcases for New Beginnings". Founder, Cheryl Adair, a former Special Ed Teacher's Aide at Forsyth Elementary and now a Taney County CASA

Supervisor knows what it is like to enter foster care, as a result Cheryl's program, Suitcases for New Beginnings, focuses on supporting foster youth with dignity starting with providing new duffle or diaper bags filled with essential items along with some items of "comfort". Many enter foster care with their belongings in a plastic trash bag, a common practice which Cheryl took on to change in our Community. More information on Cheryl and her program can be found online at <https://www.suitcasesfornewbeginnings.org/>

Thank you to Donna Covelli & Kathy Strader for bringing this wonderful opportunity to us. Donna just happened to stop by the Suitcases for New Beginnings Foster Closet Thrift Store one day looking for books...a conversation was started, a seed was sown. Our tree with handmade ornaments by Marcia Franko will be set up in the Gathering Space by November 30th. Take an ornament or two and return the gifts by December 17th. The gift does not need to be wrapped. If you do not feel that you have the time to shop, no problem. Just give your monetary donation to either Jackie Nieuirkirk or Sandy Soderstrom and they will shop for you! You may keep the handmade ornament...they make a great bookmark.



Decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas Sunday, December 21
after Mass we will gather to decorate the Sanctuary and Gathering Space. We will be putting up the Nativity Set, Christmas Trees, hanging the garland and enjoy some holiday treats. Please join us.

A Christmas Day invitation from Nancy Loughner

When you see Christmas in the movies, it's usually that magical season spent with family. Some years, though, it's just not possible to be with the family you grew up with. Fortunately, we are blessed with a wonderful, faith-filled community here at Our Lady of the Ozarks. This is our "family by choice."

For those here at OLO who are staying home this Christmas with no family coming to town to visit, my home is open. I would be thrilled if you would spend this Christmas Day with me at my place.

Here are the specifics: 435 Cope Lane, Forsyth. Starting at noon. I will provide the meat and drinks. Please consider bringing something to make it a meal. God bless, Nancy Loughner

Mailing Addresses for our Homebound Parishioners, Friends, Religious and Clergy...stay connected

Here is the list of our homebound parishioners, former clergy and religious. If you'd like to send a Christmas Card, we have five-pack card bundles in the gathering space to use or feel free to send your card or note of holiday joy. You may mail directly or drop off the homebound cards at the parish and Deacon Dan will have them delivered.

Homebound parrishioners and friends

Ann Forster Th Bungalows 5351 Gretna road Apt 201 Branson, MO 65616	Forsyth Nursing and Rehab Attn: Mary Lamp room 103 477 Coy Blvd Forsyth, MO 65653	Sandy Schumacher 289 Schofield ave. Apt 3 Forsyth, MO 65653
Deborah Davis PO Box 514 Forsyth, MO 65653	Delores Steinmetz 1100 Journeys Blvd Kissee Mills, MO 65680	John Nicholas 113 Summit Ridge Forsyth, MO 65653
Janice Elledge 162 Persimmon Rockaway Beach, MO 65740	Joyce Stenger 539 Cascade Rd. Forsyth, MO 65653	Mary Luberdia 551 S. Chase Lombard, IL 60148
Leonard & Darcy Gross 245 Kallarney rd Forsyth, MO 65653	Trini Scholdefield 336 Sundown Lane Forsyth, MO 65653	Ken & Panny O'Conner 205 Eagle Dr Forsyth, MO 65653

Clergy and Religious

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



Christmas Flower Offering in Thanksgiving, in Honor or Memory of...



There is a special collection envelope (and online via our website) that allows the parish offset the expense of our Christmas poinsettias. If you wish to make a donation, you can do so in honor of a loved one or simply as a gift of thanksgiving for God's many blessings. Those making a donation will be acknowledged in our 3rd and 4th Sunday of Advent bulletins, unless you prefer to remain anonymous. Thank you.

We welcomed three Candidates discerning the call to become Catholic last Sunday

This past Sunday, November 30, we welcomed three members of our parish community that desire to become Catholic. The Rite of Welcoming that took place (part of the OCIA formation discernment) takes place to publicly recognize their desire to be Catholic and in turn, for our parish family to pray for them along their journey.

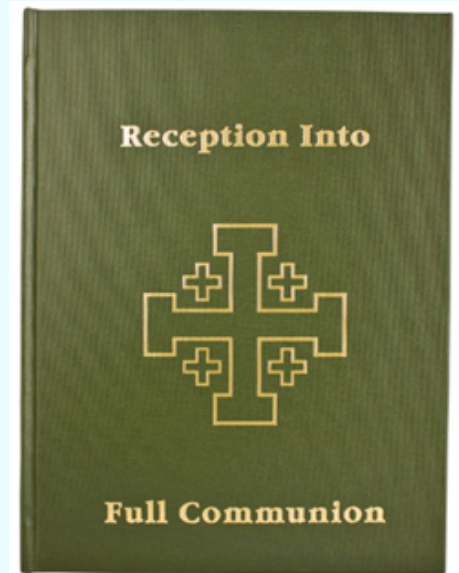
The three from our parish and their sponsors are: James Roach, (JoAnn, sponsor); Debra Philpott (Karen Heibert from OLL, sponsor), and Janet Johnson (Nancy Loughner proxy with Janet's sponsor TBD).



We will receive five new Catholics into our faith community on Sunday, December 7

This Sunday, December 7, the Church will receive five new members into our parish community – the Huffman family: Audra, Robbie, and Jackson (Rick, husband/father, is already Catholic). We also have Paul Lautenschlager, Sequioa's fiancé. And we have Christe Colburn who Deacon Dan has been providing spiritual formation outside our regular Sunday sessions. All five have been on a one-year (and more) personal and communal faith journey as they learned more about the beauty of the Catholic Church. While we never can grasp all the moving parts of our Catholic faith, we welcome and cherish their desire to be one with us.

There will be baskets in the gathering space if you wish to write a note or bring a card to congratulate them into reception into the Catholic Church. May the fullness grace by the Holy Spirit embrace their passion to be claimed by Jesus and the Body of Christ.



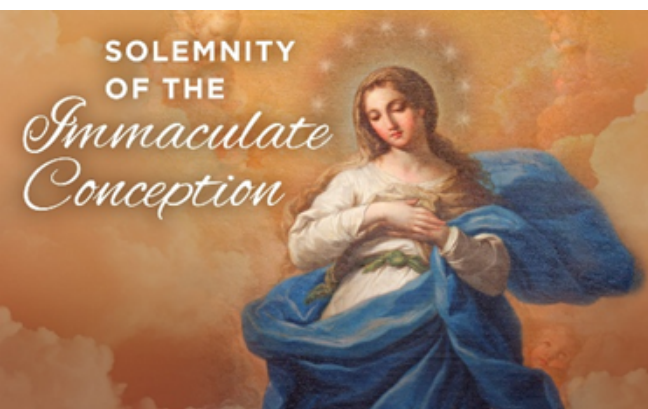
Holy Day of Obligation

The Immaculate Conception of the BVM Monday, December 8

Our Lady of the Ozarks
9:00AM

Our Lady of the Cove - 20 Kimberling Blvd. ~ Kimberling City
9:00AM

Our Lady of the Lake - 203 Vaughn Dr. ~ Branson
Noon & 7:00 PM (Bilingual)



Join Father J. on a Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes with Barcelona

September 20 - 30, 2026



About This Tour

Duration: 11days

Meals: 15

Spots Available: 32



Highlights

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

**Fatima
Aljustrel
Valinhos
Cathedral of Burgos
Lourdes
Grotto of Massabielle
Barcelona
Barcelona Cathedral**

page 8

<https://groups.gocollette.com/en-US/link/1364539>

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
a spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD. (Isa 11:2)

Psalm:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.
(Ps 72)

Second Reading:

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,
for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

Gospel:

"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance,
but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I." (Mt 3:11)

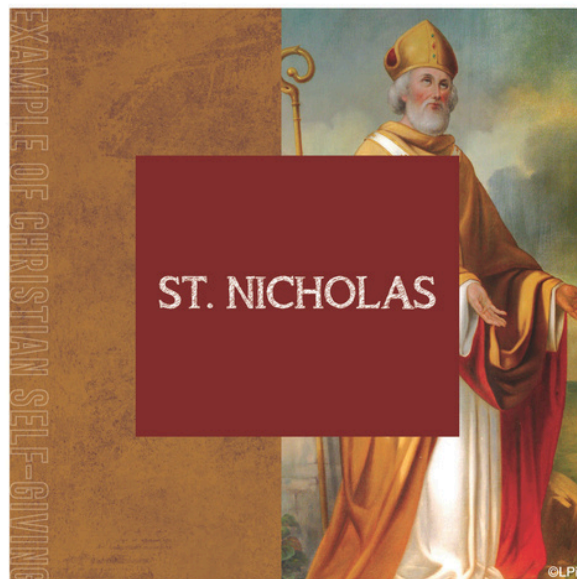
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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The story of Advent is a story of repentance. John the Baptist held up a mirror to the chosen people. He urged them to look at what they saw there. This Advent, will we look in the mirror? Will we choose repentance?

Observances for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday:	2nd Sunday of Advent
Monday:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday:	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Wednesday:	Our Lady of Loreto
Thursday:	St. Damasus I, Pope
Friday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Saturday:	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Next Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Advent



Devotions, *Explained!*

St. Nicholas is sometimes merged with the modern figure of Santa Claus in the collective imagination. But St. Nicholas was a real-life bishop, a follower of Jesus whose example of Christian self-giving endures hundreds of years after his death.

Prayer for Advent - Peace

Come, Lord Jesus!
Bring your peace to our world.
Inspire reconciliation, heal
divisions, bind wounds,
rewrite scripts.
You are the Prince of Peace,
bring that light into every space.
Amen.



YOU ARE INVITED!

December 9th or 11th - 10:00 AM

FREE ADMISSION for all Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese Catholic Churches!

Please mention Catholic Church Friends when making reservations.

15 Piece Live Band.

A fun filled experience for everyone!

Call 417-339-3003 for Reservations!

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TheVoiceofanAngel.com

Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas
from Timothy & Cassandr  Haygood!

Advent Penance Services

Our Lady of the Cove - Kimberling City

Sunday, Dec. 7 - 3:00pm
(Form "A") Individual confessions

St. Agnes Cathedral - Springfield

Tuesday, Dec. 9 - 7:00pm

St. Joseph - Springfield

Thursday, Dec. 11 - 7pm

St. Francis of Assisi - Nixa

Friday, Dec. 12 - 7pm

Mary Mother of God - Harrison, AR

Saturday, Dec. 13 - 9am-Noon

Our Lady of the Lake - Branson

Sunday, Dec. 14 - 3:00pm

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Springfield

Monday, Dec. 15 - 7:00pm

St. Joseph the Worker - Ozark

Tuesday, Dec. 16 - 7:00pm

Sacred Heart - Springfield

Wednesday, Dec. 17 - 7:00pm

Holy Trinity - Springfield

Thursday, Dec. 18 - 7:00pm

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For Appt 294-1984

Dan Guy, ENROLLED AGENT
D&M Accounting Service
Highway 160, P.O. Box 808
Forsyth, Missouri 65653

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OUR LADY OF THE OZARKS PARISH
FORSYTH

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K232FF 94.3 FM Cape Girardeau
KHJM 89.1 FM Dexter & the Bootheel
KFSS 94.5 FM Joplin
KJCW 1100 AM Joplin
92.1 FM Carthage

Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. *Romans 10:17*



Donate online
<https://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/WeShare-20001679?tab=home>

Our Lady of the Ozarks Catholic Ch...
Second Collections
In Memory Of
This fund is for the memory of deceased par...
Stations of the Cross and Memorial...
Our Lady of the Ozarks is in the midst of rais...

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