

951 Swan Valley Drive , Forsyth, MO 65653

phone: 417.546.5208 Website: [www.ourladyoftheozarks.com](http://www.ourladyoftheozarks.com)

Email: [ourladyoftheozarks@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyoftheozarks@gmail.com)

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

**Weekend Mass Time:** **Confession:**

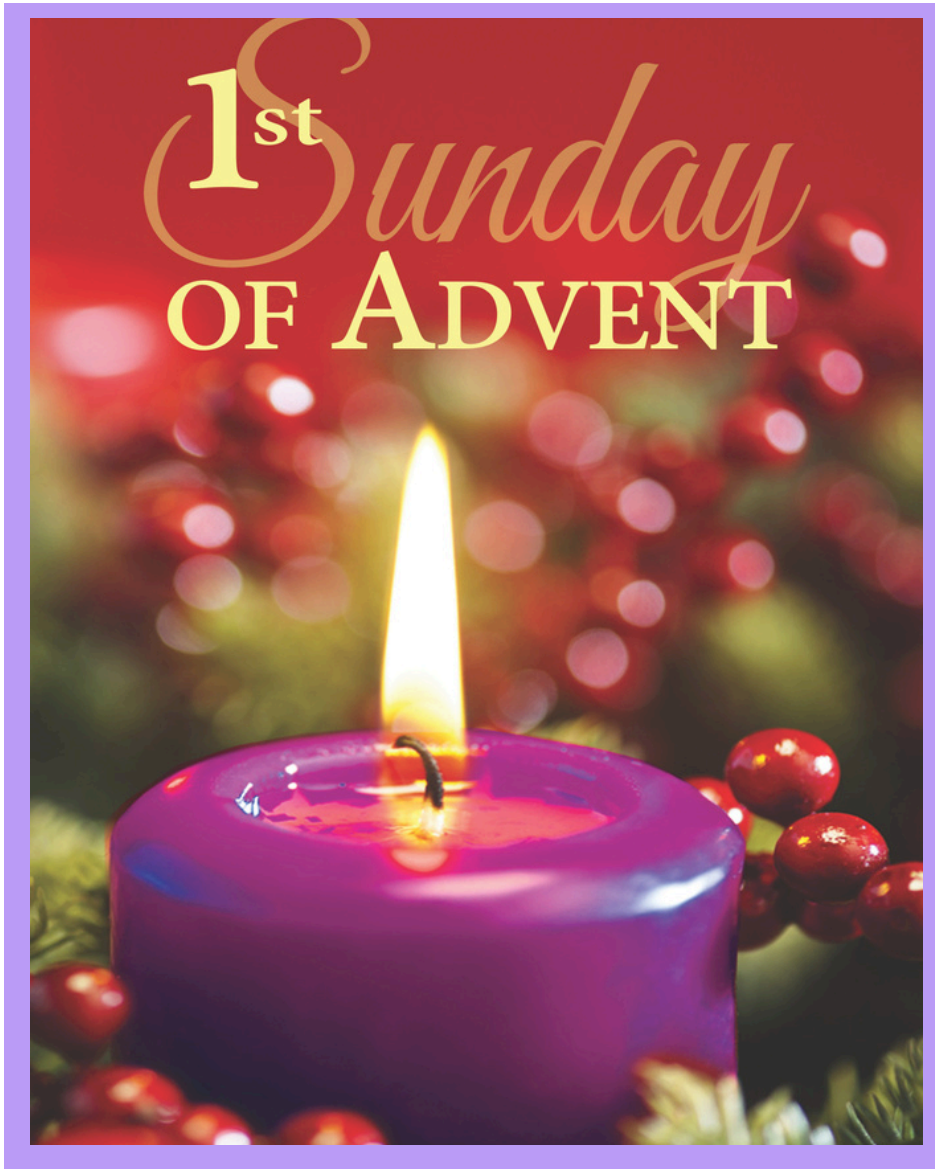
Sunday 8:30 am

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](mailto:FrJFriedel@ollbranson.com)

**Deacon Daniel Vaughn**

Parish Administrator

Pastoral Associate

417-546-5208 or 812-204-2625

[DcnDanVaughn@gmail.com](mailto:DcnDanVaughn@gmail.com)

**Father Johny M. Augusthy**

Associate Pastor

417-334-2928 X 101

[johnyvc@dioscg.org](mailto:johnyvc@dioscg.org)

**Father Dhaneesh Thomas**

Associate Pastor

417-334-2928

[Dhaneesh@dioscg.org](mailto:Dhaneesh@dioscg.org)

**Mike Rivera**

Bulletin

[mikerivera@ollbranson.com](mailto: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

11/25/2025

	Last Week	Month Total November	YTD
<b>Income:</b>			
Envelopes	\$2,755.00	\$7,290.00	\$38,499.83
Plate (loose)	204.00	1,242.00	5,182.70
Maint. & Repair Fund	776.00	3,038.00	13,612.00
Diocesan Collections	884.00	1,271.00	4,726.00
K of C & PCCW			12,900.00
Trust Fund Withdrawal			
Other Income	265.00	4,085.00	7,029.85
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,884.00</b>	<b>16,926.00</b>	<b>81,950.38</b>
<b>Expense:</b>			
Salary, Benefits, Mileage	2,304.71	5,313.21	27,263.45
Maintenance		1,808.74	5,291.09
Telephone & Utilities	100.53	1,500.39	6,304.89
Insurance		800.00	3,200.00
Diocesan & Special Collections	250.00	821.00	3,805.00
Trust Fund Deposit		2,605.00	14,605.00
Other Expenses	517.68	1,083.23	9,621.89
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,172.92</b>	<b>13,931.57</b>	<b>70,091.32</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) Funds</b>	<b>\$1,711.08</b>	<b>\$2,994.43</b>	<b>\$11,859.06</b>
<b>Cash in Bank, 7/1/25</b>			<b>\$28,108.86</b>
<b>Cash in Bank, current</b>			<b>\$39,967.92</b>
<b>Unpaid Bills &amp; Designated Funds</b>			<b>\$32,821.67</b>

## 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 includes 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](http://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 11/30	Phil Harter +	Tom / Craig	Knights of Columbus
Wed 12/3	Dee Walton +	Nancy	
Fri 12/5	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Deceased Souls	Kay	
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	

## Parish Calendar of Events

Sun 11/30	9:45 am	OCIA – Initiation rehearsal in worship space
<b>Wed 12/3</b>		<b>No Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour</b>
Sun 12/7	8:30 am	Celebrating the Catechumens & Elects entry into the Church
Sun 12/7	9:45 am	Parish Advent / Christmas Party
Thu 12/11	6:10 pm	Knights Rosary with business meeting starting at 6:30pm

Check each week for updates as things do change.



## Why Advent, Why it Matters

Advent is one of the most beautiful and meaningful seasons in the Catholic Church, yet it's often overshadowed by the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations – shopping, setting out a “calendar” of hidden chocolates, and untangling strings of Christmas lights. Advent can seem more like a four-week journey on a whirlwind roller coaster rather than a season of waiting and longing for the Messiah.

The word Advent comes from the Latin *ad-venire*, meaning “to come to” or “arrival.” It marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year and spans the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. While many think of it simply as a countdown to December 25, Advent is much more than that—it's a sacred time of waiting, hope, and preparation.

At its heart, Advent is about preparing for the coming of Christ in three distinct ways. First, we remember His first coming over 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem, when the Son of God took on human flesh to save us. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Advent aims to rekindle “ancient expectancy of the Messiah ... by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming.”

Besides reflecting on Jesus' role in salvation history, we also prepare our hearts for His coming into our lives here and now—through prayer, the sacraments, and acts of love. And finally, we look forward to His second coming at the end of time, when He will return in glory to judge the living and the dead.

This threefold focus makes Advent a season of both joy and solemnity. It's a time to rejoice in the gift of salvation, but also to reflect on our lives and turn back to God where we've strayed.

### The Symbols of Advent

One of the most recognizable symbols of the season is the Advent wreath. Traditionally made of evergreen branches, it holds four candles; three purple and one rose. The purple candles represent penance and preparation, while the rose candle, lit on the third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday), symbolizes joy as we draw nearer to Christmas. Each week, the lighting of a new candle reminds us that the Light of the World is coming closer.

Other traditions include the Advent calendar, which helps mark the days until Christmas, and the Jesse Tree, which tells the story of salvation history through symbols and Scripture. These practices are not just decorative—they are meant to draw us deeper into the mystery of God's plan.

### Living Advent Well

In a culture that often rushes straight from Thanksgiving to Christmas, Advent invites us to slow down. The Church encourages prayer, Scripture reading, and acts of charity during this time. Many Catholics attend daily Mass, pray a novena (St. Andrew Prayer), or take part in reconciliation to prepare their hearts.

Fasting or simplifying our lives during Advent can also help us focus on what truly matters. By resisting the urge to fill every moment with noise and activity, we make space for Christ to enter.

Advent is not just a prelude to Christmas—it's a season with its own beauty and purpose. It teaches us how to wait with hope, how to prepare with intention, and how to welcome Christ not only into our homes but into our hearts.

When we embrace Advent fully, Christmas becomes more than a single day of celebration—it becomes the joyful culmination of a season spent drawing closer to the One who is our greatest gift.





## **PCCW Women's Christmas Luncheon**

To all WOMEN of the Parish, December 10th is the PCCW Women's Christmas Luncheon. It will be held at Cedar Restaurant in Rockaway Beach. Time is 12:30. There is a sign- up sheet for attendance and two options to choose from for lunch. Please sign up prior to December 5<sup>th</sup>. We will once again enjoy the "My Three Favorite Things" gift exchange. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring three of the same item- wrapped (handmade or purchased, \$10 limit recommendation). You will in turn receive three unique gifts. This is a complimentary luncheon for the ladies of the Parish. We can car pool after the PCCW meeting.



## **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.



**SHARE YOUR FAVORITE NATIVITY SET** - you are invited to share and display your favorite Nativity Scene (set, plate, painting, figurine) during our Christmas Party. You may set up your Nativity Set in the Good Council

Room **Dec 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>** and take home after the party. If you would like to say a few words about your set, there will be blank cards.



## **Parish Christmas Party & POTLUCK Brunch Sunday,**

**December 7th** is our Parish Christmas Party and Potluck Brunch and **all are invited**. The Knights will test their "shopping skills" in finding the best spiral cut ham of all time and the PCCW will try their hand at mixing up a batch of Wassail! Potlucks are wonderful as they give us an opportunity

to share our favorite holiday dishes. **If you would like to bring something to share** (favorite casserole, pastry, fruit, other dish) there is a sign - up sheet in the gathering space, not to be confused with the sign- up sheet for Brunch attendance. Once again, Santa's helpers; (Toni and Jake ) invite the teens and adults to join them in this years' fun but optional gift exchange. To play, bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10 for teens to adults, no alcohol, and you must be there to play. The children will have special Christmas activities just for them.

## December Parish Festivities



### 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 30<sup>th</sup>. Take an ornament or two and return the gifts by December 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 Nieukirk or Sandy Soderstrom and they will shop for you! You may keep the handmade ornament...they make a great bookmark.

### Decorating Marian Hall for the Parish Christmas Party



**Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>** Children and their parents are invited to join us in decorating Marian Hall for our Christmas Party & Potluck Brunch. We will meet at 10am. Help is needed in putting up and decorating the Christmas Tree, putting up the Nativity Set and adding a bit of “Christmas Spirit.” Feel free to bring home-made ornaments for the tree...we may have to taste test the cookies we will be leaving out for Saint Nick!



# Advent & Christmas Novena Prayers

*It is never too late to start a novena prayer.*

I offer you two novenas to choose from and pray.

One choice is the **Saint Andrew Christmas Novena**. Which officially begins on November 30 and ends on December 24. Recite the prayer daily at least once a day, (15 times per day is the norm) and pray it for the 25 days. It is also okay to pray the novena for just the nine days leading up to Christmas.

## **Saint Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer**

*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment  
in which the Son of God was born  
of the most pure Virgin Mary,  
at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold.  
In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee,  
O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires,  
(mention your request)  
through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and of His Blessed Mother.  
Amen*



Another choice is this **Novena Advent Prayer** suggested to me by Shirley Lang. May she rest in peace. This prayer was passed down to Shirley from her grandmother.

## **An Advent Novena Prayer**

*Come my little Jesus,  
come my sweet child.  
My heart is prepared,  
my arms are extended.  
Come my little infant and  
make you home in my heart.  
Amen.*

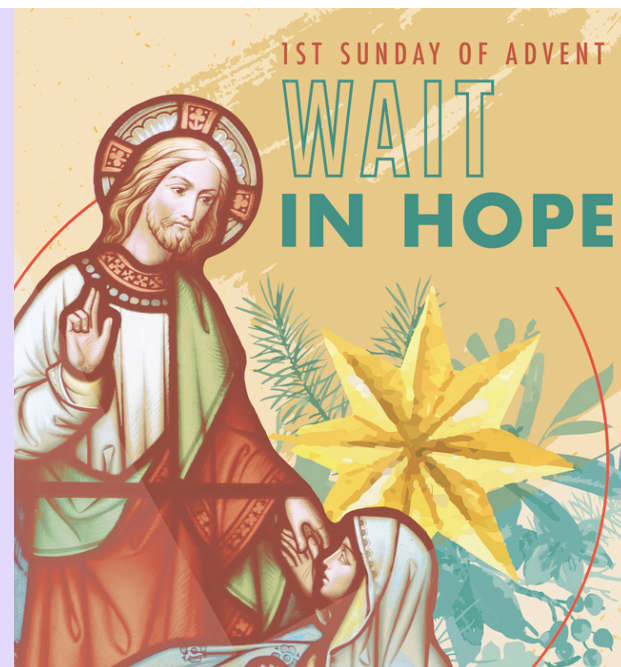


**"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."**

This week we hear that ominous Gospel passage where Jesus tells us about people being taken from where they are and what they are doing when they least expect it, while others remain. This has been distorted by some for support into a spectacular idea of rapture, leading to many books and movies. A profitable genre has been created that sometimes preys on people's fears.

But in following Jesus Christ, there is no fear. What we are called to do is live each day as it were our last. Be mindful of all the opportunities around you to share love and the gifts God has given you. We will all be held accountable in the end, but it is not what we have done that will save us. Our salvation lies in the grace freely given to us by Jesus. When we choose to receive that gift and intentionally follow him, we are led to giving over our entire being totally to him.

This Advent, let's not allow ourselves to be caught up in all the craziness of the season, but instead give ourselves over to God to use for his glory. The Incarnation born in a manger is calling you. Have no fear!





**Welcome.**  
There is More to Life

**Women of Our Lady of the Ozarks parish!**

**You are warmly invited to our next  
2-day Dynamic Catholic  
Welcome Retreat!  
Our Lady of the Lake, Branson, MO  
March 7 & 8, 2026!**

*Catholic women join together and share with  
one another ways they have found meaning, hope,  
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It's a great opportunity to deepen your  
Lenten journey!*

**For more information call  
Lisa Welko @ 417-830-3034**

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**Several women from your parish have previously  
experienced this amazing Retreat,  
and we hope you will come join us too!**

**Our Lady of the Lake**

**You Are Invited  
To Join  
Tony Melendez & Family**



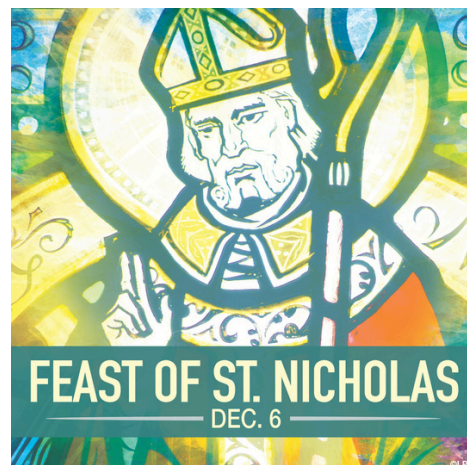
**Tuesday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:00am & 6:30pm**

**Wednesday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>  
10:00am & 6:30pm**

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

## Have Extra 2026 CALENDARS???

**We are collecting 2026 calendars for the  
Forsyth Nursing and Rehab. Last year these  
calendars were a big hit with the residents.  
There is a basket on the table near the CAM  
basket to place your calendars.  
Thank You!**





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*Jesus, I trust in you.*  
OUR LADY OF THE OZARKS PARISH  
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92.1 FM Carthage

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



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