

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:**

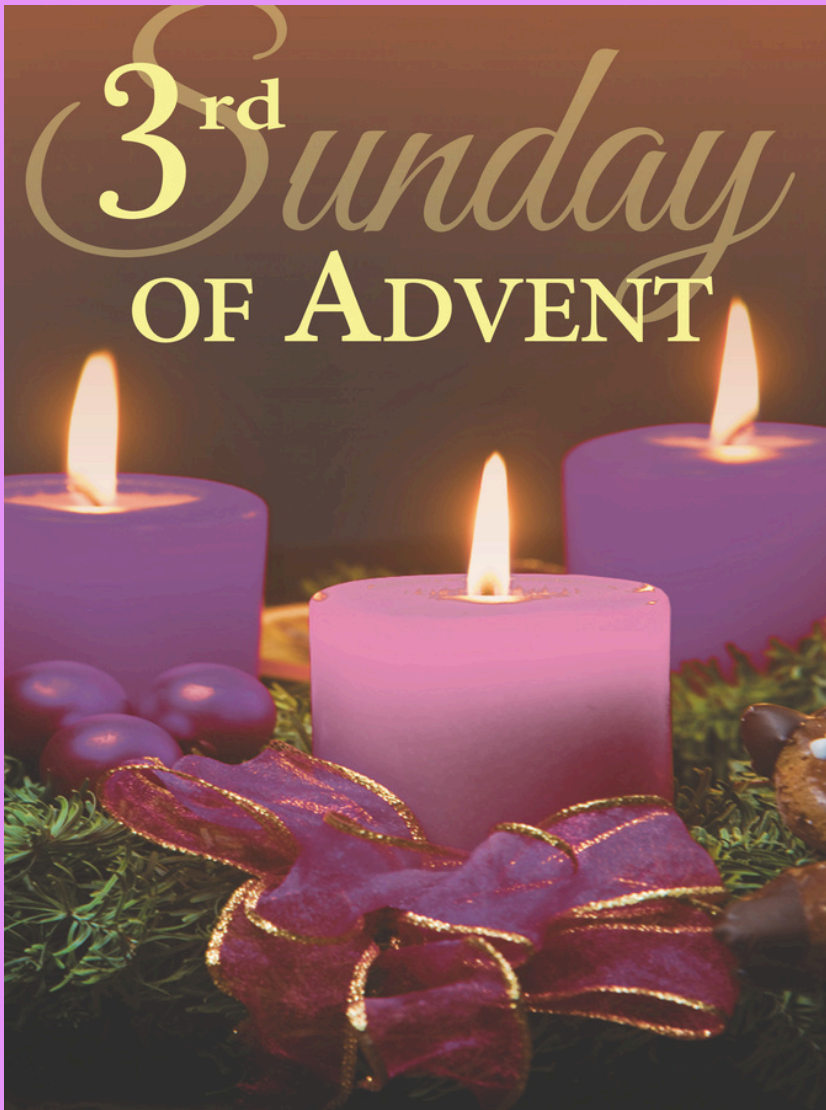
Sunday 8:30 am

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			
12/9/2025			
	Last Week	Month Total	YTD
		December	
Income:			
Envelopes	\$2,087.00	\$4,592.00	\$43,191.83
Plate (loose)	103.00	310.00	5,492.70
Maint. & Repair Fund	1,055.00	2,065.00	15,707.00
Diocesan Collections		20.00	4,746.00
K of C & PCCW	400.00	539.73	13,439.73
Trust Fund Withdrawal			
Other Income	736.00	821.00	7,904.65
Total Income	4,381.00	8,347.73	90,481.91
Expense:			
Salary, Benefits, Mileage	947.00	3,008.50	30,271.95
Maintenance		214.50	5,505.59
Telephone & Utilities		942.64	7,247.53
Insurance	800.00	800.00	4,000.00
Diocesan & Special Collections	1,029.00	1,029.00	4,834.00
Trust Fund Deposit			14,605.00
Other Expenses	462.15	479.00	10,103.13
Total Expenses	3,238.15	6,473.64	76,567.20
Increase (Decrease) Funds	\$1,142.85	\$1,874.09	\$13,914.71
Cash in Bank, 7/1/25			\$28,108.86
Cash in Bank, current			\$42,023.57
Unpaid Bills & Designated Funds			\$35,542.61

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 12/14	John Loughner +	Tom / Carla	Stech Family
Wed 12/17	Sang Lee Booth +	Charlene	
Fri 12/19	Phil Harter +	Marilyn	
Sun 12/21	John Kartheiser +	Marilyn / Charlene	Sandra Kartheiser
Thu 12/25	Parish Family	Toni / Kay	
Fri 12/26	Shirley Lang +	Marilyn	

Parish Calendar of Events

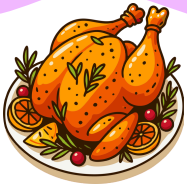
Date	Time	Event
Sun 12/14	9:45 pm	PSR -- Youth Safe Environment annual refresher requirement
Sun 12/14	3:00 pm	Communal Penance Service at OLL Branson
Wed 12/17	9:30 am	Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour (last one until January 2026)
Wed 12/24	6:00 pm	Christmas Vigil Mass at OLL Branson
Wed 12/24	11:45 pm	Christmas Mass at Night at OLL Branson
Thu 12/25	9:00 am	Christmas Day Mass here

Check each week for updates as things do change.



Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn



**You blessed your food;
You blessed your Advent Wreath –
What about your Christmas Tree?**



The Church has many beautiful rituals and customs to draw upon in Advent. There is the Advent Wreath, the Jesse Tree, Advent hymns, Mary on the Mantle, the Nativity Scene (properly staged) and the countdown to Christmas Advent Calendar. In my family, on the first night of Advent, I would pray the Advent Wreath blessing prayer -- no priest or deacon required. On other Advent evenings before dinner, Beth and I would lead our family in the daily Advent prayer with our children taking turns each night lighting the Advent candles.

A new tradition that Beth and I have is blessing our Christmas Tree on the first night that we set it up, usually the third Sunday of Advent. I emphasize that this is a fairly new tradition because we were unaware that the Catholic Church had such a wonderful ritual blessing for the Christmas Tree. And again, no priest or deacon required.

Below is the Christmas Tree Blessing if you wish to add this to your family tradition. I have included the complete blessing which can be found on the USCCB's website. [Blessing of a Christmas Tree | USCCB](#)

The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply "Amen."

Leader: Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.
R/. Amen.

Leader: My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

Then the leader can offer a short bible verse and add these intercessory prayers:

Leader: Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.
R/. Lord, give light to our hearts.

Leader: That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
R/. Lord, give light to our hearts.

Leader: That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.
R/. Lord, give light to our hearts.

Leader: That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
R/. Lord, give light to our hearts.

Following the intercessory prayers, the leader says the following prayer with hands joined together:

Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation; the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son. He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.

May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and forever.
R/. Amen.



Advent Penance Services

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



OLO's Christmas Outreach - Giving Tree
"Angel tags" –
Still a few needing adoption
Return gifts by Wednesday, December 17

Helping others -- Providing gifts for residents of Forsyth Nursing Home * Rehab.

If you forgot to bring in your Giving Tree gift(s) this Sunday, December 15, come by the parish tomorrow, December 16, and drop them off.

Your gift can be wrapped but it isn't necessary. Please remember to Re-tag your gift with the gift tag to help with the collection and distribution purposes. The PCCW will help make sure any requested gift items we fall short of will be covered by a December 17th shopping spree.



Christmas Flower Offering
in thanksgiving and/or in honor the memory of...



We remember: Lester Droste, Ronnie Droste, Andy & Genevieve Letz, Richard Forster, Phil Harter, John Kartheiser, Francesca Lampong, Cesario Lampong, Frank Carr, Kathlin Owen, Robert & Irene McLaughlin, C.L. & Una Mae Strader, Robert & Barbara Hein family, John Loughner, Shirley Lang, Mary Laverne Bosserman & Glenn, Bill & Ruby Houtchens, Dennis McCarthy, Lillian Keating, Mable Strom, the Keating sisters, deceased family members of the Ratermann & Beckmann families, William & Catherin Netherco, Jerry Strunk, Loretta Wilbur, Steve Taylor, Karen Taylor, Helen Tarnowski, Dee Walton, Fr. Phil Conlon and all other deceased OLO parishioners that we recall deep within our hearts.

We pray for our entire parish family and thank those who have donated this year: C.Carr, Droste, Guy, Forster, Houtchens, Kinsella, Nieukirk, Ratermann, Stech, Strader, Strom, Strunk and Vaughn.

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

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 Niekirk 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.

Walking Sticks on Sale:

Mike Stenger was a craftsman who made unique walking sticks. You have seen them in the Gathering Space by the door. They make a unique gift! Walking sticks are on sale for \$10 each throughout this month of December. Please give payment to Marilyn or Barbara.

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

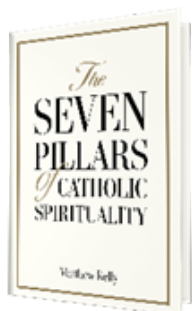
Here is the list of our homebound parishioners, former clergy and religious. If you'd like to send a Christmas Card, we have five-pack card bundles in the gathering space to use or feel free to send your card or note of holiday joy. You may mail directly or drop off the homebound cards at the parish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

Homebound parishioners 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 Lubarda 551 S. Chase Lombard, IL 60148
Leonard & Darcy Gross 245 Holly Way Kirbyville, MO 65679	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



Gift from anonymous donor – The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality

A parishioner from OLL Branson desired to share her love of her Catholic faith by providing us the book, The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality by Matthew Kelly of Dynamic Catholic. In the spirit of Christmas, she wanted to provide this book to parishioners of the three area Catholic parishes. We received 100 books. Please take home a copy. They are located in the gathering space.

Welcome to the five newest members of OLO's parish family

On Sunday, December 7, the Church received five new members into our parish community.

The three members receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion are:

Audra "St. Mary, Mother of God" Huffman with godparents Deena & Geroge Patterson.

Robbie "St. Gabriel Francis Posentti" Huffman with Deena & George as godparents.

Jackson "St. Carlo Acuris" Huffman with Deena & George as godparents.

The two members receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion are:

Paul "St. Paul" Lautenschlager with Sequioa Jennings as sponsor

Christe "St. Francis de Sales" Colburn with Marilyn Guy as proxy sponsor (Bernadette River, sponsor)



THIS SEASON, GIVE YOUR GIFTS ONLINE

WeShare - OLO's online Giving Platform

I recognized that many in our parish family are old school and prefer to give the traditional way with check or cash in their weekly church envelopes. Your donation is always appreciated. However, there are some of us, Deacon included, that prefer to make his tithe to the church using WeShare online giving. Yes, we do have an online giving platform. May 2026 be the year to make the electronic giving move.

It's easy to set it up with your checking account or even a credit card company. Have your donation drawn from your account on the same day each month, worry free.

Click on: [Give](#) and the weblink takes you to <https://www.ourladyoftheozarks.com/online-giving> or scan the QRCode below.

Question? Contact Deacon Dan or call WeShare's Customer Support team at 877-316-0260.

Support Our Lady of the Ozarks today using your debit or credit card or checking or savings account.

- 1 Visit [ourladyoftheozarks.com](https://www.ourladyoftheozarks.com) and click Give Online with WeShare.
- 2 Select the collection or event of your choice.
- 3 Set up your donation or payment. That's it!



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<https://www.pinegarbranson.com>
Fletch@pinegarbranson.com

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Forsyth (417) 546-2009

Knights of Columbus PRO LIFE
Forsyth Council #7680

MR. DON'S BARBER SHOP Don Carr and Wren Carr
173 Shadowrock Drive, Forsyth, MO
Tue - Fri 8:00 - 5:00 and Sat 8 - 12 Wren Carr
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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Options PREGNANCY CLINIC
10726 E 76, Suite E
Forsyth, Mo 65653
417-336-5465

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Darrel & Susan Bearden Snapp Bearden
Funeral Home and Crematory
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417-546-4757

Caring
Learn more about senior living and senior care by calling 800-558-0653 or go to www.caring.com.

THE BROOK wellness center
Substance Use Disorder & Mental Health Treatment
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Jesus, I trust in you.
OUR LADY OF THE OZARKS PARISH
FORSYTH

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Our Lady of the Ozarks Parish Council of Catholic Women



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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*



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

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Our Lady of the Ozarks is in the midst of rais...

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