

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

#### **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 Johnny M. Augusthy**

Associate Pastor

417-334-2928 X 101

[johnnyc@dioscg.org](mailto:johnnyc@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**

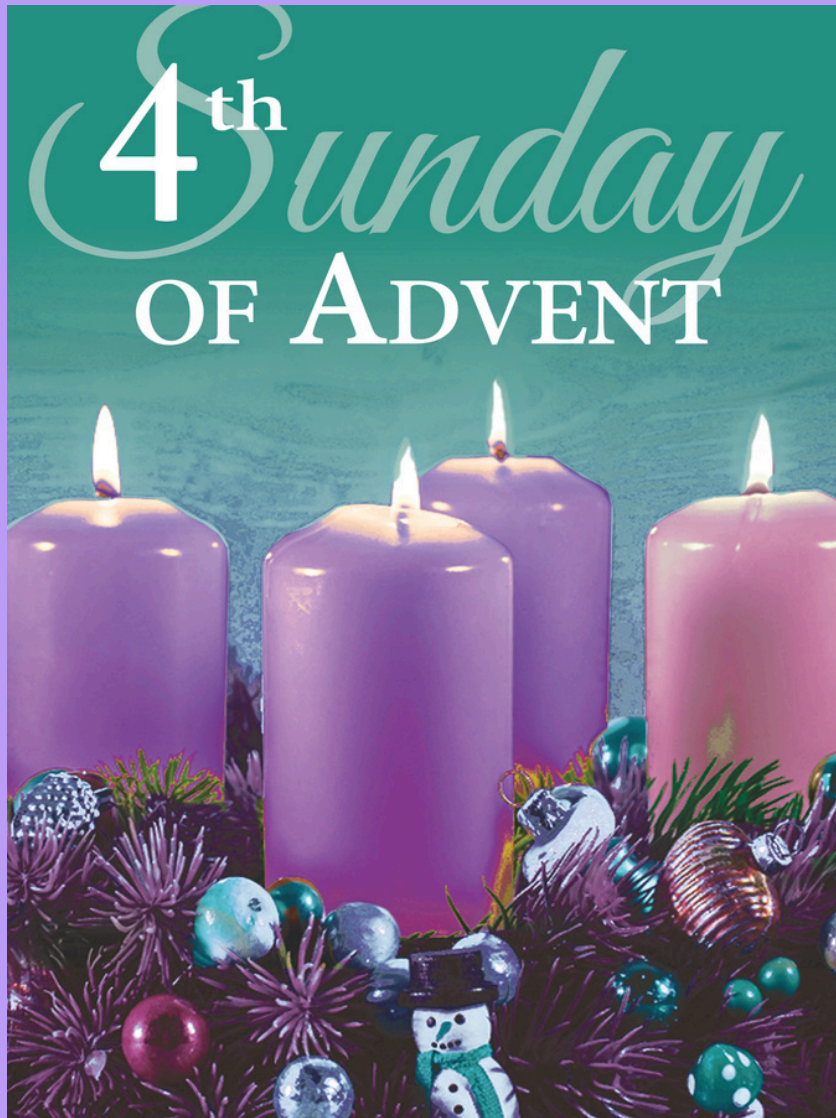
Parish Pastoral Council President

**Barbara Peterson**

PCCW President

**Buck Hartley**

Grand Knight Council 7680



### *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

#### **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.

Decrease)	\$2,688.48	\$4,854.09	\$16,603.19
nk, 7/1/25			\$28,108.86
nk, current			\$44,712.05
s & Designated Funds			\$35,636.13

Kinsella and Mary Little.

**For family & friends:** Sandy Schumacher's brother, Carolyn Townsend's husband Bud, Patt Strong's granddaughter Jennifer, David and Carol Sarver, Hickox's wife Sharon, and Carla Schmitz's brother

**Our homebound, including those in care facilities:** Forster, Leonard Gross, Mary Lamp, Trini Schmitz, Stenger.

## Environment - Report Abuse

If you suspect or have a concern regarding misconduct or abuse, use the Report Abuse online access via [www.missouri.org](http://www.missouri.org), then click on Report Abuse, and/or call the Director of Child and Youth Protection: William

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### Mass Intention

John Kartheiser +  
Parish Family  
Shirley Lang +

### Lectors

Marilyn / Charlene  
Toni / Kay  
Marilyn

### Gift Bear

Sandra Kartheiser  
Mike & Linda Knight

Joe Placzck + & Francisca Lampong+  
Theo Strom +  
Sang Lee Booth +  
1<sup>st</sup> Friday Deceased Souls +

Toni / Tom  
Nancy  
Carla / Marilyn  
Kay

Carolyn Carr, Gloria & Mike O

## Calendar of Events

Time	Event
9:40 am	Decorate the worship space for Christmas
6:00 pm	Christmas Vigil Mass at OLL Branson
11:59 pm	Christmas Mass at Night at OLL Branson
9:00 am	Christmas Day Mass here
9:00 am	Daily Mass – Feast of St. Steven Martyr
9:00 am	Holy Day obligation – Mary, Mother of God
9:00 am	Daily Mass

of Dec 28-Jan 2 the parish office will be closed.

in week for updates as things do change.

Extra prayers requested for a woman who was involved in an accident back from St. Louis over the holiday. She broke a few ribs in the hospital. She will be staying in St. Louis as she diligently continues her therapy.

You can send cards of condolence via her son's address:  
Mary Bllomgren c/o Parish Office  
Omega Dr. St. Louis, MO 63105

## What time is Midnight Mass (and why)?

Liturgically speaking, the Catholic Church has four different Christmas liturgies: the Vigil Mass, Mass during the Night, Mass at Dawn and Mass during the Day. When the “Mass during the night” occurs at midnight, it receives the distinct title of Midnight Mass. For many Christians, attending Midnight Mass is not only a cherished ritual but one of the most spiritually meaningful moments of the year.

The significance of Midnight Mass for Catholics is layered. It taps into the human experience of anticipation and wonder. It symbolizes the transition from darkness to light. As we gather in the dark of night, there is a palpable sense of expectation – much like the shepherds who waited in the fields for news of the Christ child. The late hour creates an atmosphere of mystery and awe, helping us enter more fully into the miraculous nature of the Incarnation.

### Why Midnight?

Midnight Mass is deeply symbolic in Christian theology and liturgy. The timing is intentional and meaningful:

1. **Light Breaking into Darkness:** Christian tradition teaches that Jesus’ birth brought hope and salvation into a world in darkness. Holding Mass at midnight, when the world is deepest in shadow, serves as a dramatic reminder of Christ as the “Light of the World.”
2. **Historical Jewish Timing:** The Gospel accounts suggest that Jesus was born at night. Shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks by night when the angels announced His birth. This nighttime context shaped early Christian celebrations. By the fifth century, celebrating Mass at midnight became the tradition in Rome.
3. **Liturgical Significance:** In Catholic theology, liturgical days begin at sunset, so the Christmas celebration starting at night carries ancient biblical roots. The midnight hour became a natural point for celebrating the Nativity. The birth narrative from Luke’s Gospel allows us to spiritually place ourselves at the manger in Bethlehem.

### What Happens During Midnight Mass?

While traditions vary, most Midnight Mass celebrations include candlelight processions or dimmed lights, Nativity readings, Christmas carols such as Silent Night, a solemn Eucharistic celebration; incense (smells & bells), and blessings and communal prayer. The atmosphere is typically reverent, peaceful, and filled with anticipation. For many, this is the most spiritually filled moment of the Christmas season.

### The Significance of Midnight Mass

Midnight Mass remains beloved because it offers something timeless. The late hour encourages stillness and quiet contemplation, an increasingly rare experience. For many families, attending Midnight Mass Christmas Eve is a tradition passed down through generations. The shared experience of candlelight, hymns, and prayer often brings a sense of unity. Not to mention the symbolic power in celebrating Christ’s birth precisely at midnight as it reinforces the message of hope and renewal at the heart of Christmas.

Midnight Mass encapsulates the joyful anticipation, powerful mystery, and communal celebration at the core of our Christmas faith. It is a reminder that at the heart of this feast is not material gifts. But rather, the greatest gift of God’s own begotten Son.

Mass Intention		
MASS FOR _____	<input type="checkbox"/> LIVING	<input type="checkbox"/> DECEASED
DATE IF REQUESTED _____	TIME _____	
REQUESTED BY _____		
_____		
STIPEND _____	DATE RECEIVED _____	
RECEIVED BY _____		
NO _____	F. J. REMY CO.	

## Taking requests for Mass Prayer Intentions for 2026

Catholic Mass intentions are specific prayers or purposes for which a priest offers the sacrifice of the Mass, a deeply meaningful practice for honoring the living or deceased, giving thanks, or seeking special graces, with the promise that the Mass is always for the whole Church but made particular through these requests. It is a profound spiritual act, uniting your personal prayers with the ultimate prayer of the Church, the Eucharist.

Mass intentions for 2026 can be requested now. A small offering stipend of \$10 each is suggested. Mass Intention envelopes are available on the side tables in the gathering space, or you can use any personal envelop and label it as "Mass Intention." Then drop it in the collection basket or give it to Nancy Loughner or Deacon Dan.



## Christmas Flower Offering in thanksgiving and/or in honor the 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.

We remember: Lester Droste, Ronnie Droste, Andy & Geneivieve 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**



## 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.

### Our Lady participates in City of Forsyth Christmas Parade

Our Lady of the Ozarks participated in the 2025 Forsyth's Chamber Christmas Parade. The elves helping out and tossing candy to the parade watchers were Ainsley and Eboni and Sequia and Paul. Santa's Head Elf is Craig Pollard who spearheaded the effort. Chuck and September Jennings were kind enough to provide the reindeer power (truck) and sled (trailer) featuring nativity scene. Deacon Dan walked along our float helping with crowd control. It was a cold but beautiful and joyous night. (Also, is a picture of Jackson Huffman performing at last week's Forsyth Elementary Christmas program.)



Giving Tree

Christmas indeed dwells in the hearts of many and pours out in the spirit of giving. THANK YOU for your generosity. The Advent Giving Tree was overflowing with gifts for the Foster Care's Suitcases for New Beginnings. May God continue to bless you and your families this Christmas Season.

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

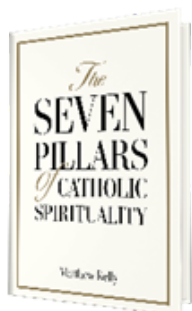
Here is the list of our homebound parishioners, former clergy and religious. If you'd like to send a Christmas Card, we have five-pack card bundles in the gathering space to use or feel free to send your card or note of holiday joy. You may mail directly or drop off the homebound cards at the parish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



On behalf of your clergy and those who help to serve you, we take the opportunity to wish all of you Christmas Blessings at this special time of the year. Most days, it is a pleasure to serve you and all of our visitors in our three parishes and in Stone and Taney Counties.

We are grateful for the many blessings which you bestow upon all of us at Christmas time and throughout the year!

Please know that you will be remembered at our altars during this Holy Season! Blessings to you and your loved ones now and in the coming New Year!

Father J. Father Johnny Father Dhaneesh Deacon Dan

*[Signatures]*

And the staff of Our Lady of the Lake, Our Lady of the Cove, and Our Lady of the Ozarks Parishes



## Mass Schedule For Christmas & New Year's

### Christmas Eve Wednesday, Dec. 24

**Our Lady of the Cove**  
20 Kimberling Blvd. - Kimberling City  
**5:00PM**

**Our Lady of the Lake**  
203 Vaughn Dr. - Branson  
**6:00PM & Midnight**

### The Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day Thursday, Dec. 25

**Our Lady of the Ozarks**  
951 Swan Valley Dr. - Forsyth  
**9:00AM**

**Our Lady of the Cove**  
20 Kimberling Blvd. - Kimberling City  
**10:00AM**

**Our Lady of the Lake**  
203 Vaughn Dr. - Branson  
**10:00AM**

### New Year's Eve Wednesday, Dec. 31

**Our Lady of the Cove**  
20 Kimberling Blvd. - Kimberling City  
**4:00PM**

**Our Lady of the Lake**  
203 Vaughn Dr. - Branson  
**5:30pm**

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day) Thursday, Jan. 1

**Our Lady of the Ozarks**  
951 Swan Valley Dr. - Forsyth  
**9:00AM**

**Our Lady of the Lake**  
203 Vaughn Dr. - Branson  
**Noon**

## THIS SEASON, GIVE YOUR GIFTS ONLINE



IT'S SAFE. IT'S SIMPLE. IT'S CONVENIENT.

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

- 1** Visit ourladyoftheozarks.com and click Give Online with WeShare.
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- 3** Set up your donation or payment. That's it!



Contact our Customer Support Team at  
**877-316-0260**

## 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 if 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.



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

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