



# Our Lady of the Ozarks Catholic Church

951 Swan Valley Drive, Forsyth, MO 65659  
417-546-5208 | [ourladyoftheozarks@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyoftheozarks@gmail.com)  
[www.ourladyoftheozarks.com](http://www.ourladyoftheozarks.com)

Tradition + Community + Mission



January 11<sup>th</sup> 2026

+

The Baptism of the Lord

## Welcome!

### Mass Schedule

Weekend Mass

Sunday | 8:30am

Weekday Masses

Wednesday | 9:00am

Friday 9:00am

### Confession

Wednesday | After Mass

Sunday | Before Mass

Other | By Appointment

### Holy Hour Adoration

Wednesday | After Mass

Donate Online

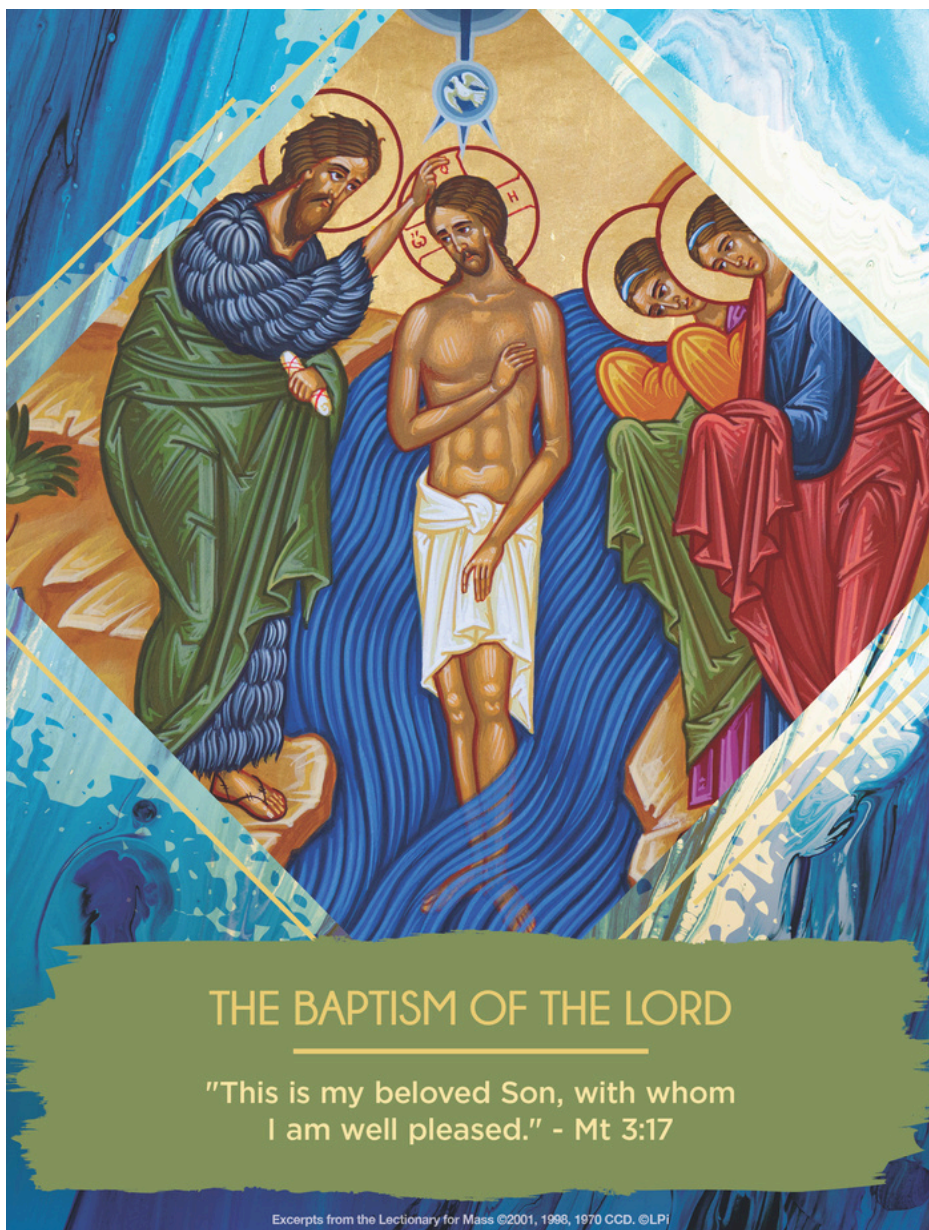


Donating online  
is easy!



Just aim your phone camera  
at the QR code and follow the link.  
Or go directly to -

<https://giving.myparishsoft.io//app/giving/WeShare-20001679?tab=home>



### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

### 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

1/6/2026

	Last Week	Month Total	YTD
<b>Income:</b>		<b>January</b>	
Envelopes	\$1,620.00	\$1,620.00	\$49,553.83
Plate (loose)	150.00	150.00	6,663.70
Maint. & Repair Fund	910.00	910.00	17,788.00
Diocesan Collections	50.00	50.00	5,578.00
K of C & PCCW			13,439.73
Trust Fund Withdrawal			
Other Income	742.00	742.00	10,392.55
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,472.00</b>	<b>3,472.00</b>	<b>103,415.81</b>
<b>Expense:</b>			
Salary, Benefits, Mileage	2,209.50	2,209.50	34,786.16
Maintenance	357.60	357.60	5,863.19
Telephone & Utilities	3,845.57	3,845.57	11,481.71
Insurance			4,000.00
Diocesan & Special Collections			5,059.00
Trust Fund Deposit			14,605.00
Other Expenses	714.49	714.49	10,755.15
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,127.16</b>	<b>7,127.16</b>	<b>86,550.21</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) Funds</b>	<b>-\$3,655.16</b>	<b>-\$3,655.16</b>	<b>\$16,865.60</b>
<b>Cash in Bank, 7/1/25</b>			<b>\$28,108.86</b>
<b>Cash in Bank, current</b>			<b>\$44,974.46</b>
<b>Unpaid Bills &amp; Designated Funds</b>			<b>\$21,606.73</b>

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:** Mary Bloomgren, Kenny & Penny O'Connor, Kathy Strader, Debbie Davis, Gary Hickox, 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, Leonard Gross, Mary Lamp, Trini Scholefield, and Joyce Stenger.

# Knights Corner



**Forsyth Council #7680**

**Knights Breakfast this Sunday  
January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 after Mass.**

**Come and enjoy a meal and fellowship,**



**Knights of Columbus Parish Breakfast**



### Parish Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event
Sun 1/11	9:40 am	KofC Monthly Breakfast after Mass
Sun 1/11	10:10 am	Worship space transformation (take down Christmas decorations)
Wed 1/14	9:30 am	Eucharist Adoration Holy Hour
Wed 1/14	10:00 am	PCCW Meeting
Fri 1/16	9:45 am	Parish Finance Council Meeting
Sun 1/18	9:40 am	Family Faith Formation: Eucharist – the Catechism & St. John Paul II
Mon 1/19	10:00 am	Eucharistic Monday session (repeat of Sunday)
Wed 1/21	9:30 am	Eucharist Adoration Holy Hour

### Date Mass Intention

Sun 1/11	Parish Family
Wed 1/14	Dee Walton +
Fri 1/16	Deceased members of the Perez Family +

### Lectors

Tom / Kay
Kay
Nancy

### Gift Bear

Kevin & Jennifer Hutchinson

Sun 1/18	Theo Strom +
Wed 1/21	Deceased members of the Sakowicz Family +
Fri 1/23	Joseph Leonard +

Craig / Hunter
Kay
Marilyn

Patt Strom



## *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.

## OLO'S PARISH SCHOOL OF FORMATION & THE DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

To help prepare the faithful for the DEC, the Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Family Ministry has put together a seven-part monthly series (one per month) of inspirational and educational resources.

Beginning on Sunday, January 18, after Mass in Marian Hall, we will begin renewing our understanding and devotion to the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith. We will meet two or three Sundays per month as per our regular PSR/ faith formation schedule. We will do so through July. Deacon Dan will also offer to repeat the Sunday session on the following Monday at 10:00 am.

For January, we will discuss key points in the Church teaching using the Catechism of the Catholic Church; discuss why only Catholics are permitted to receive Holy Communion at Mass; and look at some of the great devotions of Catholic saints, including Carlo Acutis' love for the Eucharist.

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

*Prayer and Adoration*

**Deanery Four**  
St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield

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



### BAPTISM OF THE LORD





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

*TAKING  
FAITH TO THE  
NEXT LEVEL!*

In cooperation with the diocesan Office of Evangelization.

**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.

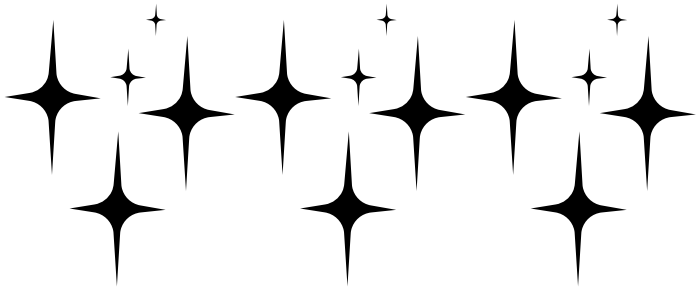
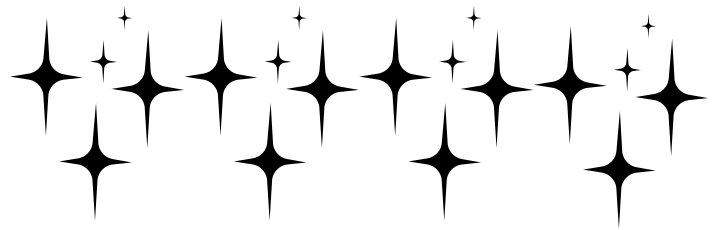
**Register for free now!**  
[www.CatholicConference.men](http://www.CatholicConference.men)  
f t @SOMOMensCon



**Is your life stuck in a rut? Is your faith feeling stale?**

Join hundreds of men for a day of life-changing motivation at the 7th annual Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at Catholic High School.

This year's Keynote speaker, Marcel LeJeune, will help you take your faith to the next level! He has decades of experience leading men closer to Christ — so they can lead those around them to Christ. No matter where you are in your faith journey, you will gain the knowledge and motivation you need to be a true disciple. We're building a culture of men who will transform our families & communities. Don't miss this opportunity. Register for free today by visiting [www.CatholicConference.men](http://www.CatholicConference.men).



**Welcome.**  
There is More to Life

Dynamic Catholic

**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, peace and love in their lives  
through Christ.  
It's a great opportunity to deepen your  
Lenten journey!*

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

SCAN TO  
REGISTER



OR GO TO:  
[OLLBRANSON.COM/  
WOMENS-WELCOME-RETREAT](http://OLLBRANSON.COM/WOMENS-WELCOME-RETREAT)

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

## January is Sanctity of Human Life Month



January is designated as Sanctity of Human Life Month, a time to reflect on the value of human life and to advocate for the protection of the unborn. This observance is aimed at raising awareness about the sanctity of life and the issues surrounding abortion. Catholics nationwide are invited to pray "9 Days for Life," an annual Respect Life novena starting Friday, January 16.

In the Catholic Church, a 'novena' consists of prayers over nine successive days, and this particular novena is an opportunity for prayer and penance in observance of the annual Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on January 22.

<https://www.usccb.org/january-22>

All are invited to sign up! Participants may access the novena or subscribe to receive the daily prayers by email or text message in English at <https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup>



## January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Since 2010, January has been designated as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness and take action to prevent human trafficking. This month serves to raise awareness about the realities of human trafficking, which affects millions of individuals globally, including in the U.S. This year's theme, "Stronger Connections. Stronger Futures." reminds us that our everyday connections play a vital role in preventing human trafficking.

Strong, supportive relationships at home, at work, and in our communities help protect people from human trafficking and other forms of abuse. When individuals are supported, valued, and connected to community, it is harder for traffickers to isolate, manipulate, or control them. Family members, friends, coworkers, and community members can notice when something is wrong and connect people to support and resources.

Be intentional about deepening connections with people in your daily life—check in, listen, and build trust. Together, we can create a future free from human trafficking.

Stay informed by visiting our Human Trafficking Prevention Month webpage for more resources.

[https://acf.gov/otip/htpm?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://acf.gov/otip/htpm?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)





# GERKEN & Associates

Residential • Commercial Real Estate

Duane & Kay Gerken, Brokers

Duane: 417.335.0771 Kay 417.335.0271

[GerkenandAssociates.com](http://GerkenandAssociates.com) Office: 417.334.1892



PINEGAR CHEVROLET BUICK GMC OF BRANSON

N. Hwy 65 Branson, MO  
417-231-4599

<https://www.pinegarbranson.com>  
[Fletch@pinegarbranson.com](mailto:Fletch@pinegarbranson.com)



page 6





Bishop Rice is encouraging as many as all parishioners to participate in activities that will spiritually prepare us for Eucharistic revival in our diocese and for participation in the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress (DEC). It will take place in West Plains on Saturday, August 15, 2026. Online registration opens Monday, January 12. We will travel to DEC by commercial bus/coach to West Plains. It is a day trip, leaving Branson around 7:00 am in the morning 7:00 am and returning that evening.

Through the generosity of the Congress's sponsors, cost for registration is only \$10 per person or \$25 maximum per family (parents with minor age children). Registration includes all activities, event credentials, a conference tote bag and refillable water bottle, and lunch at the Congress!

Visit the official Diocesan Eucharistic Congress webpage to access the registration portal at <https://dioscrg.org/diocesan-eucharistic-congress>.



Learn more about senior living and senior care by calling 800-558-0653 or go to [www.caring.com](http://www.caring.com).



# Parish Leadership

## Father J Friedel

Pastor

417-334-2928 ext 105

[FrJFriedel@ollbranson.com](mailto:FrJFriedel@ollbranson.com)

## Father Johny M. Augusthy

Associate Pastor

417-334-2928 X 101

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

## Mike Rivera

Bulletin

[mikerivera@ollbranson.com](mailto:mikerivera@ollbranson.com)

## Nancy Loughner

Office Associate

## Chris Gillen

Parish Pastoral Council President

## Buck Hartley

Grand Knight Council 7680

## Deacon Daniel Vaughn

Parish Administrator

Pastoral Associate

417-546-5208 or 812-204-2625

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

## Father Dhaneesh Thomas

Associate Pastor

417-334-2928

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

## Marilyn Guy

Financial Administrator

## Laura Cairns

Music Ministry

## Barbara Peterson

PCCW President

Our sunday liturgies are both inspiring and challenging, reminiscent of the winding roads of the Ozarks. We strive to foster friendships, cultivate new connections, and share our love for Jesus Christ!

## 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

Darrel & Susan Bearden

Snapp Bearden

Funeral Home and Crematory  
Ozarks Memorial Park 417-546-4757

**Advertising available**



**MR. DON'S BARBER SHOP**

173 Shadowrock Drive, Forsyth, MO  
Tue — Fri 8:00 — 5:00 and Sat 8 — 12  
For Appt 294-1984

Don Carr  
and  
Wren Carr

**Dan Guy, ENROLLED AGENT**

**D&M Accounting Service**

Highway 160, P.O. Box 808  
Forsyth, Missouri 65653



10726 E 76, Suite E  
Forsyth, Mo 65653  
417-336-5465



shepherdofthehillsestsapts.com

**Mr. Bug Killer Inc.**  
PROFESSIONAL  
EXTERMINATING

Branson  
(417) 334-0009  
Forsyth  
(417) 546-2009



**Knights of Columbus**

**PRO LIFE**

**Forsyth Council #7680**

## Catholic Radio around the Diocese

KQOH 91.9 FM Springfield  
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*



BULLETIN ADVERTISING

**PLACE YOUR  
AD HERE**

BULLETIN ADVERTISING

**PLACE YOUR  
AD HERE**

**To purchase an ad, contact:**

**Mike Rivera** [mikerivera@ollbranson.com](mailto:mikerivera@ollbranson.com) 417-527-4367