

Our Lady of the Ozarks Catholic Church

951 Swan Valley Drive, Forsyth, MO 65653

417-546-5208 | ourladyoftheozarks@gmail.com

www.ourladyoftheozarks.com

Tradition + Community + Mission



January 25th 2026

+

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Parish Leadership

Father J Friedel

Pastor

417-334-2928 ext 105

FrJFriedel@ollbranson.com

Mike Rivera

Bulletin

mikerivera@ollbranson.com

Barbara Peterson

PCCW President

Dcn Daniel Vaughn

Parish Administrator

Pastoral Associate

417-546-5208 or 812-204-2625

DcnDanVaughn@gmail.com

Marilyn Guy

Financial Administrator

Chris Gillen

Parish Pastoral Council President

Father Johny M. Augushty

Associate Pastor

417-334-2928 X 101

johnnyc@dioscg.org

Nancy Loughner

Office Associate

Buck Hartley

Grand Knight Council 7680

Father Dhaneesh Thomas

Associate Pastor

417-334-2928

Dhaneesh@dioscg.org

Laura Cairns

Music Ministry

Mass Schedule

Weekend Mass

Sunday | 8:30am

Weekday Masses

Wednesday | 9:00am

Friday 9:00am

Confession

Wednesday | After Mass

Sunday | Before Mass

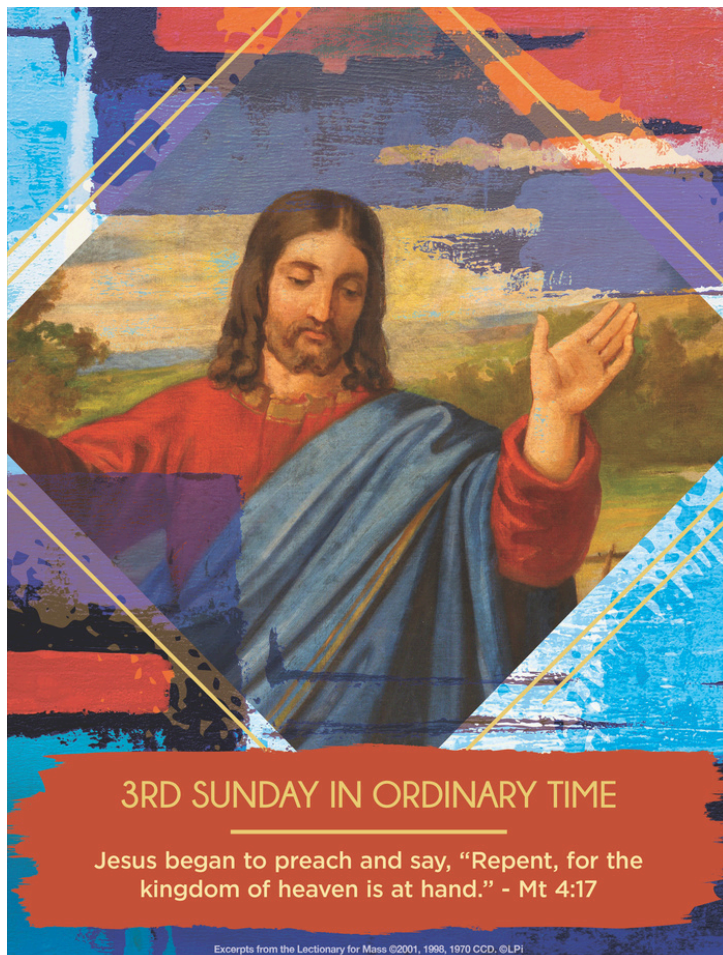
Other | By Appointment

Holy Hour Adoration

Wednesday | After Mass

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.



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." - Mt 4:17

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

Weekly Financial Report 1/20/2026			
	Last Week	Month Total	YTD
Income:		January	
Envelopes	\$835.00	\$4,594.50	\$52,528.33
Plate (loose)	159.00	546.53	7,060.23
Maint. & Repair Fund	210.00	1,415.00	18,293.00
Diocesan Collections		50.00	5,578.00
K of C & PCCW			13,439.73
Trust Fund Withdrawal			
Other Income	140.00	902.00	10,552.55
Total Income	1,344.00	7,508.03	107,451.84
Expense:			
Salary, Benefits, Mileage		3,082.50	35,659.16
Maintenance		1,049.83	6,555.42
Telephone & Utilities		4,016.81	11,652.95
Insurance		800.00	4,800.00
Diocesan & Special Collections		832.00	5,891.00
Trust Fund Deposit			14,605.00
Other Expenses	100.95	1,449.96	11,490.62
Total Expenses	100.95	11,231.10	90,654.15
Increase (Decrease) Funds	\$1,243.05	-\$3,723.07	\$16,797.69
Cash in Bank, 7/1/25			\$28,108.86
Cash in Bank, current			\$44,906.55
Unpaid Bills & Designated Funds			\$21,595.09



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, Gary Hickox's wife Sharon, Carla Schmitz's brother-in-law Roger, and Donna Covelli's niece, Brianne Trenado. Prayers for successful medical treatment and restored health.

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

Parish Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event
Sun 1/25	9:45 am	Family Faith Formation - St. Carlo Acutis 35-minute documentary & discussion
Mon 1/26	10:00 am	Repeat of Sunday's School of Faith Formation
Wed 1/28	9:30 am	Eucharist Adoration Holy Hour
Sun 2/1	8:30 am	Sunday Mass with Bishop Emeritus John Leibold
Sun 2/1	9:40 am	KofC Breakfast after Mass – stay and visit with Bishop Leibold
Sun 2/1	10:05 am	Faith Formation in Emmaus Room – February DEC material
Wed 2/4	9:30 am	Eucharist Adoration Holy Hour

Date	Mass Intention	Lectors	Gift Bear
Sun 1/25	Carol & Chester Haraf +	Charlene / Tom	Jennings Family
Wed 1/28	Isidore Neppl +	Carla	
Fri 1/30	John Loughner +	Nancy	
Sun 2/1	Jerry Strunk +	Marilyn / Carla	Pam Strunk & Sandra Kartheiser
Wed 2/4	Lester & Ronnie Droste +	Charlene	
Fri 2/6	1 st Friday Deceased Souls +	Kay	

PARISH POLICY FOR WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS



Our policy for canceling Mass and other parish activities due to weather, and unsafe driving conditions is:

Weekdays: If the Forsyth Schools are closed, the Church is closed (weekday Masses also cancelled). School closings are announced on TV, radio, and school website.

Sundays: If the Church is closed due to weather, a robocall will be sent to all parishioners who have authorized being called. Calls will be made between 6AM and 7AM. When in doubt, don't get out. We want you to stay safe and God does, too.

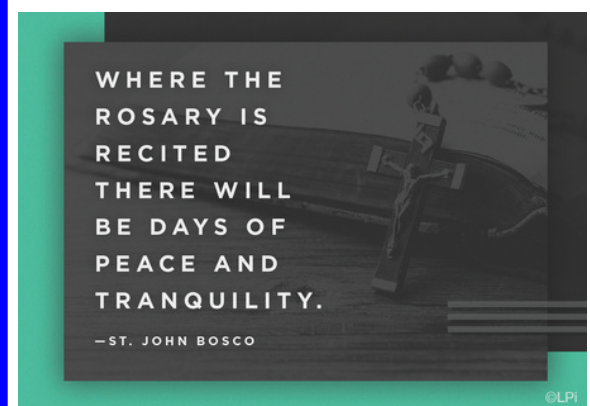
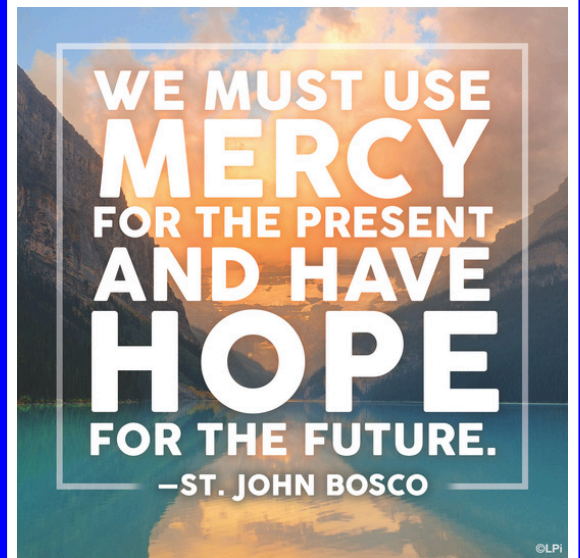
Staying Connected with PCCW

With each New Year we reflect on what has been and look forward to new beginnings. How appropriate that we chose Suitcases for New Beginnings as our Advent Giving project...our parish was very generous. The many donations will certainly bless the children going into Foster Care in this New Year. The duffle bags are not only filled with essentials like soap and toothbrushes but also with love and comfort in the form of a special book, toy or blanket provided by you.

THANK YOU for the generous donations to our Advent Giving Project...your response was overflowing. Many children going into Foster Care will indeed be blessed by your generosity. Jackie Niekirk and Sandy Soderstrom took a car-load of items to Cheryl Adair who founded Suitcases for New Beginnings. As luck would have it, Cheryl also operates the Foster Care Thrift Shop in Forsyth, so the journey to deliver was a short one. According to Sandy "Cheryl was thrilled and over-come with joy".

Several of our parishioners made a monetary donation which Jackie used to purchase 10 duffle bags of assorted designs. May we continue to say "Yes Lord, your servant is listening" making 2026 a year for spiritual growth and service. At our January meeting we viewed the video "The Boy from Milan" a documentary on Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint. (Deacon Dan will be showing it this Sunday after Mass.) The documentary was not only informative but also very inspirational ... His mother said "Carlo opened his heart to Jesus and his ordinary life became extraordinary. In 2026 may we be transformed from ordinary to extraordinary.

Our next service project will be our Lenten Food Drive, be sure to check the bulletin for a list of needed items by CAM. We'd like to extend an invitation to the women to join us at our next PCCW meeting- Wednesday, February 11th at 10:00am. Until then, stay informed and stay connected. -Barbara S. Peterson



Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn

Why do priests receive Holy Communion before the laity?

At every Mass, the priest receives Holy Communion before anyone else. To some, this can look like privilege or hierarchy. But in the Church, nothing at the altar is about status, this moment is about order, responsibility, and sacrifice.

At every Mass, the priest acts in persona Christi—in the person of Christ—when he consecrates the bread and wine. This means he is not simply a leader of prayer but the sacramental presence of Christ the High Priest. He does not stand outside the sacrifice; he is deeply bound to it. By receiving first, he completes the offering he has made on behalf of the people. Because he offers the sacrifice, he must also partake of it. The Church teaches that the priest's Communion is not optional; it is necessary for the Mass to be complete.

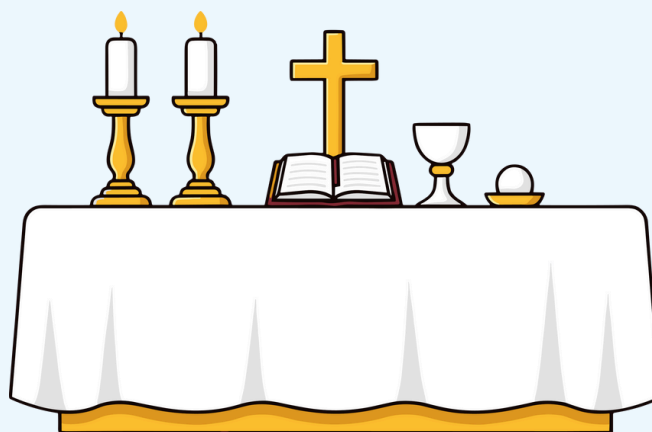
This practice reaches back to Scripture. In the Old Testament priests who offered sacrifice were commanded to consume part of it. In the New Covenant. Christ, the true High Priest, both offers Himself and receives Himself. When the priest communicates first, he mirrors Christ's priesthood, not his own importance. It is not about human protocol but is based on the integrity of the sacrament and the priest's role in the liturgy.

There is also a pastoral meaning. The priest cannot give what he has not first received. Just as he proclaims the Word before the people hear it, he must be nourished by the Eucharist before distributing it. His Communion is not separate from the people's; it is for them. It strengthens him to serve, to bless, and to feed the flock entrusted to him.

This moment also carries a silent burden. The priest receives first because he will answer first. With the grace of the Eucharist comes accountability. He stands before God not only for himself, but for the souls he serves. His Communion is a reminder that leadership in the Church is not privilege, it is sacrifice.

The Church is also very clear that the faithful receive the same Christ in Holy Communion as the priest does. Receiving the same Sacrifice at the Mass -- a liturgical norm that Fr. J is very passionate about.

So, when you see the priest receive Communion first, do not see rank. See responsibility. See his sacramental role. See a man who must be strengthened before he can strengthen others.



EUCCHARISTIC REFLECTION – Reflection quote for January

"Christ is reserved in our churches as the spiritual center of the heart of the community, the universal Church, and all humanity, since within the veil of the species, Christ is contained, the invisible heart of the Church, the Redeemer of the world, the center of all hearts, by Him all things are and of Whom we exist." —Pope St. Paul VI
Mysterium Fidei



The 7th Annual CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE
In cooperation with the diocesan Office of Evangelization.

TAKING FAITH TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

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
f t @SOMOMensCon

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

UPCOMING MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CURSILLO WEEKENDS

The Cursillo® Movement pursues two purposes or objectives. The immediate purpose is to provide a conduit for living what is fundamental for being a Christian, namely, the on-going and total conversion of the person. The end purpose is to vertebrae Christianity in society by means of these persons who live what is fundamental for being Christian (the love of God and neighbor) in their daily lives.

Simply explained, the purpose of the Cursillo Movement is that we become the Good News, and that our actions naturally turn out to be evangelical in our daily lives.

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends in the diocese:

Men's Weekend: Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 2026 in Fredericktown.

Women's Weekends: March 19-22, 2026 in Fredericktown; April 23-26, 2026 in Carthage.

For more information and to Register Online:
<https://dioscg.org/cursillo/>



Support the collection for the Church in Latin America 2nd Collection - Sunday, January 25

The bishops of the United States established this annual collection as a practical expression of unity and love for their brothers and sisters in Central and South America and the islands of the Caribbean.

For more than 60 years, Catholics in the U.S. have answered the invitation to "share the faith" by supporting pastoral ministries that strengthen the Church in the present day and help pass on the Gospel to future generation.

Share your faith by supporting this collection.



Welcome.

There is **More to Life**

Dynamic Catholic
Parishes and Dioceses

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:
[OLLBANSON.COM/
WOMENS-WELCOME-RETREAT](http://OLLBANSON.COM/WOMENS-WELCOME-RETREAT)

Several women from your parish have previously
experienced this amazing Retreat,

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!

Knights Corner



Forsyth Council #7680

The next Knights Breakfast is Sunday
February 1st, 2026 after Mass.

Come and enjoy a meal and fellowship,



Knights of Columbus Parish Breakfast

Next Knights business meeting is
February 12th, 2026 at 6:30pm.

Rosary starts at 6:10pm. Come join us
for the Rosary.



“The Rosary is one of the most powerful devotions entrusted to us by Our Lady, and in these turbulent times, it remains a sure path to peace, conversion, and deeper love of Christ.
Pope Leo XIV”

We have Poinsettias desiring adoption

Christmas bells have rung and now is a great time to take home a memory.

Many of our poinsettias are now available for adoption. We will still keep a few around the worship space for another week or so as we await the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. We have plenty to be adopted this weekend and more to come.

Please, take one or two plants home with you. The plants are in the gathering space on the table next to the restrooms.





It's time to sign up for the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress (DEC) that will take place in West Plains on Saturday, August 15, 2026. The cost for registration is only \$10 per individual with a maximum cost of \$25 per household.

We will travel to DEC by commercial bus/coach. It is a day trip, leaving Branson and Forsyth around 6:00 am in the morning and returning that evening.

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

Healing Mass

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is a rite where a priest anoints a seriously ill, elderly, or struggling person with blessed oil, offering spiritual healing, peace, and strength, and sometimes physical recovery, by uniting their suffering with Christ's, not just for those near death but for anyone needing God's healing grace, incorporating prayers and laying on of hands.

Anyone in need of this Sacrament is encouraged to attend one of these Masses

**Our Lady of the Lake
Tuesday, February 3rd 9:00am**

**Our Lady of the Cove
Tuesday, February 10th 9:00am**

**If you cannot attend,
please contact the Parish office
to schedule a time to receive this Sacrament**

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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>

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

Darrel & Susan Bearden
Snapp Bearden
Funeral Home and Crematory
Ozarks Memorial Park **417-546-4757**

Knights of Columbus
PRO LIFE
Forsyth Council #7680

Shepherd of the Hills Estates Apartment Community
1 & 2 Bedrooms
1-1/2 & 2 Baths
417-546-3334
for Carefree Living
shepherdofthehillsestapts.com

MR. DON'S BARBER SHOP Don Carr
173 Shadowrock Drive, Forsyth, MO and
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

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

Caring

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

THE BROOK
wellness center

*Jesus, I trust
in you.*

OUR LADY OF THE OZARKS PARISH
FORSYTH

SHIRLEY'S KITCHEN

16039 Hwy 160
FORSYTH, MO
417-251-9588

HOME COOKED "COUNTRY" STYLE MEALS
MMMMM GOOD STUFF!

**GERKEN
& Associates**

Residential • Commercial Real Estate

Duane & Kay Gerken, Brokers
Duane: 417.335.0771 Kay 417.335.0271
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

To purchase an ad, contact:
Mike Rivera mikerivera@ollbranson.com 417-527-4367