

951 Swan Valley Drive, Forsyth, MO 65653  
417-546-5208 | ourladyoftheozarks@gmail.com

[www.ourladyoftheozarks.com](http://www.ourladyoftheozarks.com)

**Tradition + Community + Mission**



**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

**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@dioscrg.org](mailto:johnyvc@dioscrg.org)

**Father Dhaneesh Thomas**

Associate Pastor

417-334-2928

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

**Dcn Daniel Vaughn**

Parish Administrator

Pastoral Associate

417-546-5208 or 812-204-2625

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

**Mike Rivera**

Bulletin

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

**Nancy Loughner**

Office Associate

**Marilyn Guy**

Financial Administrator

**Barbara Peterson**

PCCW President

**Chris Gillen**

Parish Pastoral Council President

**Laura Cairns**

Music Ministry

**Buck Hartley**

Grand Knight Council 7680

FIRST SUNDAY OF  
**LENT**



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**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.

**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 canceled). 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.

**Weekly Financial Report**

2/17/2026

	Last Week	Month To Date	Budget for Month
<b>Regular Collections:</b>		<b>February</b>	<b>February</b>
Envelopes	\$790.00	\$5,670.00	\$7,500.00
Plate (loose)	194.00	799.00	1,000.00
Maint. & Repair Fund	330.00	2,365.00	2,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,314.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,834.00</b>	<b>\$11,300.00</b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>			
Salary & Benefits		3,292.50	5,489.00
Maintenance		593.13	1,245.00
Telephone & Utilities	228.34	2,501.78	1,991.00
Insurance		800.00	800.00
Other Expenses	4.71	725.03	826.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 233.05</b>	<b>\$ 7,912.44</b>	<b>\$10,351.00</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 and Sharon Hickox, Tom and Ethel 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, 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. ...and Norma Harris, who recently was placed in a care facility in Texas. Please keep Norma and Louis in your prayers.

**Parish Calendar of Events**

Date	Time	Event
Sun 2/22	9:45 am	Faith Formation – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Attempt – CCC on the Eucharist
Sun 2/22	3:00 pm	OCIA Rite of Election with Bishop Rice – SEAS Springfield
Tue 2/24	10:00 am	Funeral Mass for Nancy Moore, 9:30 visitation, lunch to follow Mass
Wed 2/25	9:30 am	Eucharist Adoration Holy Hour
Wed 2/27	8:45 am	Divine Mercy Chaplet
Fri 2/27	4:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Wed 3/4	9:30 am	Eucharist Adoration Holy Hour

Date	Mass Intention	Lectors	Gift Bear
Sun 2/22	Deceased member Johnson Family +	Tom / Charlene	Charles and Evangelina Johnson
Wed 2/25	Darrell, Carey, Valirea Shriver +	Carla	
Fri 2/27	Ted Strom +	Charlene	
Sun 3/1	Charles Gerkin +	Toni / Carla	Duane and Kay Gerken
Wed 3/4	Deceased members of the Sakowicz Family +	Marilyn	
Fri 3/6	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Deceased Souls +	Kay	

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**



## DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS – Registration is open



Please sign up for the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress (DEC). Over 500 participants have already registered in the first two weeks. Seating is limited to 3,000.

The Congress is being held in West Plains on Saturday, August 15, 2026. No need to be concerned about driving as Fr. J has OLL's staff coordinating the bus transportation from Branson / Forsyth. Plans are to leave around 6 am return around 8:30 pm.

The cost for registration is only \$10 per individual with a maximum cost of \$25 per household. Visit the official Diocesan Eucharistic Congress webpage to access the registration portal at <https://dioscg.org/diocesan-eucharistic-congress>.



# Knights Corner

Forsyth Council #7680



Your Knights of Columbus – Lenten Ministry Baby Item Drive

Our parish Knights of Columbus are collecting new baby items to support new mothers and families in need. This Lent, the Knights are partnering with Options Pregnancy Clinic in Forsyth, ensuring that your donation goes directly to moms who could use a helping hand. Items most needed include:

- Diapers (4 & 5 sizes)
- Baby wipes
- Baby wash and lotions
- Hooded bath towels
- Nose syringes
- Crib Sheets
- Bassinet Sheets
- Thermometers
- Pack & Play sheets
- Sleepers up to 24 months



Look for the port-a-crib in the gathering space to place your donated items. Your questions can be directed to Gary Hickox, 913-645-6659. Thank you for your generosity and for helping our parish stand with life in a practical, loving way.



Lenten Stations of the Cross – Fridays at 4:00

We will walk the Stations using a different meditation each week.



## Questions about Lent: the obvious and not so obvious – Part 1 of 2

I was on the Catholic Answers website the other day, one of my go-to resources regarding questions about the faith, and I came across an article “Top 20 Questions about Lent: Traditions, fasting, and Biblical Insights.” I found some of the Q&A entertaining and others more insightful. As we begin our Lenten journey, I thought I would share a few that grabbed my attention over the next couple of Hey Deacon articles.

### **What is Lent?**

Per the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Lent is a season of preparation for Easter, mirroring Jesus’ forty days in the desert and also anticipating His passion, death, and triumphant resurrection:

“By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.” (CCC 540)

Additionally, CCC 1438 describes Lent as a penitential season:

The seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church’s penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works).

Thus, Lent is a season of spiritual preparation, one that not only looks forward to the joy of Jesus’ Resurrection (beginning with the Easter Octave), but also provides the faithful—both Catholics and those joining the Church—an annual opportunity to fortify their faith and grow in holiness for the sake of Christ’s kingdom (John 13:34-35; Matt. 6:10; 24:14).

### **What is the official beginning of Lent? At what hour?**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Canon law considers a day to run from midnight to midnight (can. 202 §1). That would mean that Lent begins at 12 a.m. on Ash Wednesday.

### **Do Sundays "count" during Lent for fasting?**

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) says:

Apart from the prescribed days of fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and the days of abstinence every Friday of Lent, Catholics have traditionally chosen additional penitential practices for the whole time of Lent. These practices are disciplinary in nature and often more effective if they are continuous, i.e., kept on Sundays as well. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the Church, but by individual conscience.

### **Is it a mortal sin to break a personal Lenten sacrifice?**

Assuming that the action itself is not intrinsically a grave matter, then no, breaking one’s Lenten penance is not a mortal sin.

### **Can you eat turkey on a Friday in Lent?**

No. Birds are considered meat according to the abstinence guidelines.

As we begin this sacred season, may our hearts be quiet from the noise of the world and may our spirits be open to the gentle voice of God. Until next week. Happy Lent.



+You are invited to join the PCCW in praying “Mary’s Way” Stations of the Cross on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 4p.m.

+We also invite you to join us for a light supper following the Stations in Marian Hall.



**Sacred Heart, Springfield:**

Adoration & Reconciliation  
7-9pm Mondays during Lent

**Our Lady of the Lake, Branson**

Sunday, March 8 - 3:00pm

**St. Francis of Assisi, Nixa**

Monday, March 9 - 7:00pm

**St. Joseph the Worker, Ozark**

Tuesday, March 10 - 7:00pm

**Our Lady of the Cove, Kimberling City**

Sunday, March 15 - 3:00pm  
(Individual Confessions)

**Immaculate Conception, Springfield**

Sunday, March 15 - 4:00pm

**St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield**

Tuesday, March 17 - 7:00pm

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Springfield**

Monday, March 23 - 7:00pm

**Holy Trinity, Springfield**

Tuesday, March 24 - 7:00pm

**St. Joseph, Springfield:**

Thursday, March 26 - 7:00pm

**EUCCHARISTIC REFLECTION – Reflection quote for this week**

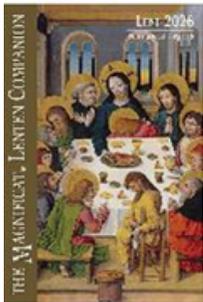
"God dwells in our midst, in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar." - St. Maximilian Kolbe

**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.dioscgo.org](http://www.dioscgo.org).

Then click on Report Abuse, and/or call the Director of Child and Youth Protection:  
William Holtmeyer, 417-866-0841

Lenten Reading Material



Pick up your free copy of “The Magnificat Lenten Companion”.

The booklets are located on the table in the gathering space. One per family unless you have more than four family members at home, then please feel free to take an additional copy. Next Sunday, any remaining unclaimed booklets are available to all others wishing for a second copy.

**Lent Light Supper**

Feb 27 - Light Supper following Stations of the Cross - No cost

March 19 - Soup Supper Fundraiser with Silent Auction & Raffle 4pm -6pm in Marian Hall.

**LENTEN FOOD DRIVE for C.A.M.Forsyth**  
**February 22-March 22, 2026**



Please join us this Lent as we collect food for our local Food Pantry. Below is a list of needed items. Monetary donations are also accepted and can be given to Sandy Soderstrom, Marilyn Guy or Barbara Peterson.

**SHOPPING LIST:**

- Personal hygiene items (i.e.- shampoo, razors, soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, feminine products, etc.)
- Paper Products (paper towels, toilet paper, plates, cups, etc.)
- Baby/Adult items (diapers size 3 or higher, diaper wipes, Depends)
- Protein shakes (i.e. - ensure, glucerna, premiere protein, etc.) (only given to people with diabetes etc.)
- Cleaning Supplies (laundry soap, dish soap, all-purpose cleaners, etc.)
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly (plastic or squeeze)
- Canned meat
- Pancake mix
- Fruit or pudding cups
- Granola bars/snack bars
- Pasta/Rice and sauces
- Pasta/rice mixes (i.e. Rice A Roni, Knorr's sides, etc.)
- Cereal (boxed/bagged, oatmeal)
- Spices (salt, pepper, cinnamon, etc.)

**Please avoid glass containers**

Thank you for being a blessing to someone in need.  
Make this your BEST LENT EVER  
Your Parish PCCW

**Lenten CRS Rice Bowl:  
History and Purpose**

Founded in 1975 in the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl began as a local Lenten response to a global hunger crisis. Its creation was tied to preparations for the 41st International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, whose theme focused on the "Hungers of the Human Family." The program quickly expanded nationwide under Catholic Relief Services, becoming the U.S. Church's primary Lenten solidarity initiative.

At Our Lady of the Ozarks, we try to live Lent with the same quiet strength and generosity that marks life – being neighbors helping neighbors, families sharing what they have, and faith expressed in simple, concrete acts of love. CRS Rice Bowl fits beautifully into that mission.

For our parish, Rice Bowl is more than a cardboard box, it's a way of living the Gospel with Marian humility and Ozarks practicality. Your donation supports CRS in more than 100 countries and our own diocese (25% stays in our diocese). Take a Rice Bowl home and bring it back before the end of Lent.



Moved by the Holy Spirit, a forth coming ministry gift from Chris Dana

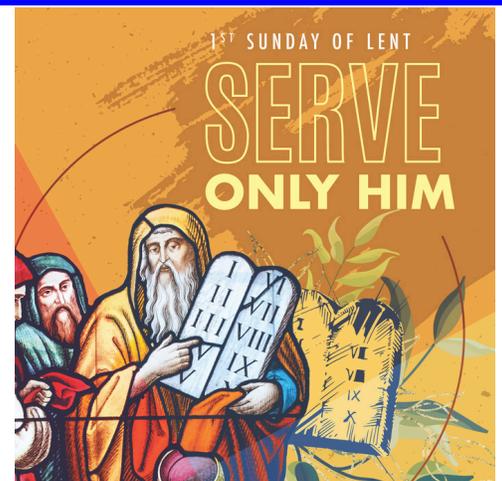


Chirs Dana, a longtime OLO parishioners who primarily attends the Saturday evening Mass in Branson with her husband Bob and their daughter Anna, recently reached out to me with a sentimental request.

Chris desires to gift parishioners with colorful Easter-colored keychains. She has been inspired by God to evangelize His love though this ministry. The keychains are a gift from her family to our parish family, That being the case, I did ask her if we could place a free will donation basket to help her defray some of the costs associated with the keychains. She humbly agreed but wished to be clear that a donation isn't part of her request. I have to admit that her ministry reminds me of the good work behind our beloved Mike Stenger and his wooden Jesus necklaces.

Chris shares God's message, which is:

"This keychain was made for you, because I (God) hear your prayers. I see your struggles; I see your tears but know that things are going to get better. This keychain is to let you know I love you and I hear you."



## Remembering parishioner Nancy Moore



Nancy passed into eternal life on Friday, February 13, at the tender age of 85. She was surrounded by her family. Many of you remember Nancy as she attended Mass regularly prior to the Covid shutdown in 2020. She was a dear friend of Dee Walton and assisted with Dee's homecare. Because of Dee's friendship and Catholic witness, Nancy converted to the Catholic faith.

Nancy was diagnosed with cancer a while back but elected not to share the severity of the cancer with her family or myself. Her health had been declining but had recently taken a sudden turn for the worse. Fr. Dhaneesh was able to anoint her earlier in the week and I was fortunately to visit with her a day later before God finally called her home.

Her Mass of Christian Burial will be Tuesday, February 24, at 10 am, visitation at 9:30 am. A lunch will be held after Mass in Marin Hall, followed by graveside service around 1:30 pm. There will also be a visitation service on Monday evening, February 23, at Greenlawn Funeral home in Branson.

May God grant Nancy eternal peace and may His perpetual light shine upon her.

## LENTEN WITH MISSION



### BOB SCHRIMPF

Through his workshops, books, speaking sessions, and life coaching, Bob continues to empower others and guide them on their spiritual paths.

Prepare to be captivated by his profound insights, authenticity, and the transformative power of faith, laughter, and genuine connection he brings to those he serves.

## SAVE THE DATE

Monday - Feb. 23rd

Our Lady of the Cove - 9:00am

Tuesday - Feb. 24th

Our Lady of the Lake (Part 1) - 10:00am  
Our Lady of the Lake (Part 1) - 6:00pm

Wednesday - Feb. 25th

Our Lady of the Lake (Part 2) - 10:00am  
Our Lady of the Lake (Part 2) - 6:00pm  
(after 5:30 Mass)

## ALL ARE WELCOME!

## OLL's Lenten Mission with Steve Angrisano



**Thursday**  
**March 26th**  
**Time: TBA**

Steve Angrisano is undoubtedly one of the most effective and versatile ministry leaders in the Church today.

Young and old alike embrace the passionate message of faith, hope and love woven throughout his music and storytelling.

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>

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For Appt 294-1984

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*Jesus, I trust in you.*

OUR LADY OF THE OZARKS PARISH  
FORSYTH

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Parish Council of Catholic Women

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