

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF  
**LENT**



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**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)

**Father Dhaneesh Thomas**

Associate Pastor  
417-334-2928  
[Dhaneesh@dioscg.org](mailto:Dhaneesh@dioscg.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

**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			
3/17/2026			
	Last Week	Month To Date	Budget for Month
Regular Collections:		March	March
Envelopes	\$1,135.00	\$4,417.00	\$7,500.00
Plate (loose)	392.00	942.00	1,000.00
Maint. & Repair Fund	110.00	1,455.00	2,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,637.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,814.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,300.00</b>
Operating Expenses:			
Salary & Benefits		3,045.50	5,489.00
Maintenance		121.88	2,070.00
Telephone & Utilities	228.34	228.34	1,991.00
Insurance		800.00	13,700.00
Other Expenses	69.68	698.35	951.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 298.02</b>	<b>\$ 4,894.07</b>	<b>\$ 24,201.00</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, Donna Covelli's niece, Brianne Trenado. And Marilyn Guy's sister, Rosemary Pawloski. Prayers for restored health and successful medical treatment.

**For our homebound, including those in care facilities:** Janice Elledge, Ann Forster, Leonard Gross, Mary Lamp, Trini Scholefield, Joyce Stenger and Norma Harris.

**Prayers for the repose of the soul of Jonas Stillings:** Jonas Stillings, the youngest son of Linda and Arliss+ passed away unexpectedly late last week. Please keep Linda and the family in prayer as they mourn the loss of Jonas. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord.



**OLL LENTEN MISSION  
WITH STEVE ANGRISANO**

**Thursday, March 26th  
Time: 6:00PM**

*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.*

**Parish Calendar of Events**

Date	Time	Event
Wed 3/25	9:30 am	Eucharist Adoration Holy Hour
Wed 3/25	10:45 am	Liturgy Planning committee Mtg.
Wed 3/25	7:00 pm	Bishop Liebrecht – 70th Priestly Anniversary Mass – SEAS Springfield
Thu 3/26	6:00 pm	Parish Mission OLL Branson – Steve Angrisano, musician & evangelist
Fri 3/27	4:00 pm	Stations of the Cross (our last one for Lent)
Sat 3/28	9:00 am	The Bishop Mass for CCSOMO – Holy Trinity, Springfield
Tue 3/31	7:00 pm	Chrism Mass – SEAS Springfield
Wed 4/01	9:30 am	Eucharist Adoration Holy Hour

Check each week for updates as things do change.

Date	Mass Intention	Lectors	Gift Bear
Sun 3/22	Carol & Chester Haraf +	Marilyn / Toni	Kevin & Jennifer Hutchison
Wed 3/25	Francisca Lampong +	Charlene	
Fri 3/27	John Loughner +	Nancy	
Sun 3/29	Phil Harter +	Craig / Tom	The Knights of Columbus
Wed 4/1	Ted & Mabel Strom +	Nancy	
Thu 4/2	Parish Deceased Souls +	Charlene / Carla	



## 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.



## The Knights of Columbus Recruitment Drive

**JOIN US!**

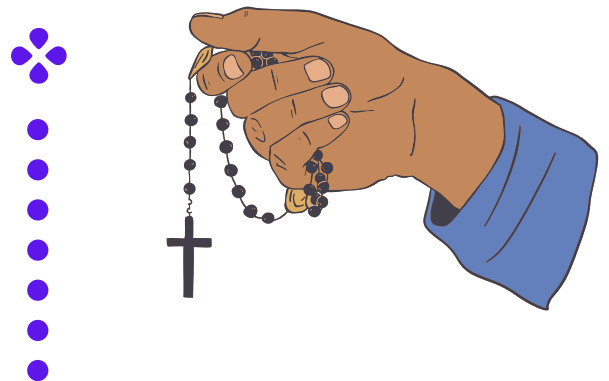
**Knights of Columbus**

Our Lady of the Ozarks Council 7680

**We are Catholic Men who LEAD, SERVE, PROTECT and DEFEND.**

**We share a desire to be better HUSBANDS, FATHERS, SONS, NEIGHBORS and ROLE MODELS and to put charity and community first!**

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- **March 29<sup>th</sup>, Knights will lead the Rosary before Mass..**
- **Rosary starts at 8am, come join us**
- 



# Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn

## *The History and Meaning of Veiling Statues and the Crucifix During Lent*

This past week I was in Colorado to visit our 6- and 8-year-old granddaughters. We attended their Saturday Vigil Mass on Laetare Sunday. Two things caught my attention. First, the priest did not wear the traditional rose-colored vestment which is optional. Secondly, was that the church had already veiled their crucifix. During Lent, veiling the crucifix and statues is optional, but the more common practice is to veil beginning with the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Passion (Passiontide) Sunday.

Two years ago, I wrote an article on this ancient practice, but from the perspective on “why some Catholic churches veil their statues.” This time, I wish to go a little deeper and approach the topic from a historical perspective.

### **Historical Roots of Tradition**

The veiling of images during Lent can be traced to medieval Europe, where it emerged from a custom known as the Hungertuch or “hunger cloth.” Beginning as early as the 9th century, large cloths were hung in front of the altar during Lent to conceal it from view. These cloths served both a symbolic and practical purpose: the cloths emphasized the penitential nature of the season and were sometimes used to shield the sanctuary during public penances.



Over time, the practice evolved. Instead of covering only the altar, churches began veiling individual statues and crucifixes. By the 12th century, the custom had spread widely throughout the Western Church. The color purple—associated with penance, mourning, and preparation—became the standard for these veils.

Although the 1960s liturgical reforms made veiling optional, the tradition remains beloved in many parishes. Its endurance speaks to its powerful ability to shape the spiritual imagination.

### **Theological Meaning and Symbolism**

At its heart, veiling is a symbolic gesture that invites the faithful into deeper reflection. The final two weeks of Lent, known as **Passiontide**, shift the Church’s focus from general penitence to the contemplation of Christ’s suffering and death. Covering sacred images intensifies this shift.

Just as Lent encourages fasting from food, veiling encourages a kind of **visual fasting**. Removing familiar images from sight creates a sense of emptiness and longing. The absence of beauty mirrors the spiritual barrenness of sin and the solemnity of Christ’s approaching Passion.

The veils also build anticipation for Easter. When the coverings are removed at the Easter Vigil, the sudden return of color, light, and imagery becomes a powerful symbol of the Resurrection. The unveiling is not merely decorative—it is a liturgical revelation.

Some theologians connect veiling to the Gospel passage in which Jesus “hid himself” from the crowds as His hour approached. The covered crucifix reflects this sense of mystery and withdrawal. The faithful are invited to enter into the hiddenness of Christ’s suffering, contemplating the depth of His sacrifice.

### **A Tradition That Speaks Without Words**

In a world saturated with images, the simple act of covering them can be surprisingly moving. Veiling invites silence, reflection, and a renewed awareness of the sacred. It reminds the faithful that Lent is not merely a season of giving things up but of preparing the heart for the joy of Easter.

The tradition endures because it speaks a language beyond words—a language of absence, longing, and ultimately, revelation.

# Kitchen Upgrade on the way...

**Thank you for supporting our Soup Supper Fundraiser. We also want to thank those in our community who so generously donated to the raffle and silent auction.**

The proceeds from the soup supper, silent auction and raffle will go towards the purchase of new appliances for our kitchen. Soon you will see a new stove and our current three refrigerators will become one big reach in refrigerator. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus (Duane and Craig) and the PCCW for their work on this project.

A special thank you to our donors:

*Cedar Café, Rockaway Beach  
El Lago, Forsyth  
Wagon Wheel, Forsyth  
Oaxaca, Forsyth  
John's Frosted Mug, Forsyth  
Yummy Donuts, Forsyth  
Forsyth Hardware, Forsyth  
SMC Family Café, Taneyville  
Baker Creek, Mansfield  
Springfield Cardinals, Springfield  
Piccolo Contemporary Italian, Nixa  
Sight & Sound Theatre, Branson  
Hollywood Wax Museum, Branson  
Aquarium at the Boardwalk, Branson  
Thousand Hills Golf, Branson  
Olive Garden, Branson  
Cracker Barrel, Branson  
Fr. J, Phil Harter, Angie Strom, The Knights of Columbus, PCCW  
Our Soup Chefs, Bakers and all those in attendance.*

## 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT





## DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Over 1000 pilgrims have already registered for this momentous gathering of the people of our diocese! Seating is limited to 3,000 and will be held on a first-to-register basis.

Our Lady of the Ozarks, as of March 6, has 13 parishioners registered. If you know you want to attend, please sign up. It helps Fr J decided on the final number of busses or passenger vans needed for the three area Catholic parishes. Presently, there are three buses reserved for 132 pilgrims.



<https://dioscg.org/diocesan-eucharistic-congress>.



### **Sacred Heart, Springfield:**

Adoration & Reconciliation  
7-9pm Mondays during Lent

### **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

### 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



**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>.**

***This session is being hosted by the  
Branson Area Chamber on Gretna Rd, Branson.  
Bring a friend and make some new ones too!***



***To register -  
Please use our QR Code  
or use the website address below.***

**<https://ollbranson.com/give5signup2026>**

**THE BISHOP MASS  
for Catholic Charities  
of Southern Missouri  
Saturday, March 25th –  
8:30 am -  
Holy Trinity Parish, Springfield**




Join Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri on Saturday, March 25, as Bishop Rice leads The Bishop Mas for CCSOMO at 8:30 am at Holy Trinity Parish. The intention of this Mass is not only our prayers for all the good work of CCSOMO but also to help kick off the campaign to support Missouri Constitutional Amendment 3 which limits abortion in our state.

Voting ‘YES’ on Amendment 3 will provide a broad and nearly absolute right to "reproductive health care." It likely opens the door to constitutional protection for surgical or medical gender transition on minors. Your vote to defend women’s health and child safety. While the amendment does not fully ban abortion in Missouri, a YES vote will greatly lessen the pressure on women to choose an abortion and instead choose life.

Throughout Lent, we ask that you consider your Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri as part of your Lenten almsgiving. Gifts to the Bishop’s Mass for CCSOMO support all clients across all programs. This offering is an opportunity for Catholics throughout our **Diocese to unite in Reaching Out, Providing Hope, and Changing Lives!**

Celebrating  
**Bishop John J. Leibrecht**  
*70 Years a Priest!*



*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you ..."*  
John 15:16

**Mass of Thanksgiving**  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026  
7:00 p.m.  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church  
2200 W. Republic Rd., Springfield, Missouri  
*Reception following*

**RUMMAGE SALE SURVEY**

This Sunday, March 22nd the PCCW will be distributing surveys regarding our rummage sale. We would like your input and ask that all adults take one and return the completed survey by April 12th. A basket will be placed in the Gathering Space for surveys. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.



**YES  
ON 3**  
Women's Health - Child Safety

PROLIFE MASS TO KICKOFF

**STATE-WIDE  
PRAYER CAMPAIGN**




Join the Missouri Bishops in "Vote Yes to Amendment 3" to defend Women's Health and Child Safety. [www.dioscg.org/respect-life](http://www.dioscg.org/respect-life)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026  
8:30AM MASS WITH BISHOP EDWARD M. RICE  
HOLY TRINITY PARISH, SPRINGFIELD



**Easter Flowers Reminder**

Let us remember your loved one in our Easter Bulletin. Consider donating towards our Easter Flowers collection.



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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**Knights of Columbus**  
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**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**  
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Highway 160, P.O. Box 808  
Forsyth, Missouri 65653

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

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wellness center

*Jesus, I trust in you.*  
OUR LADY OF THE OZARKS PARISH  
FORSYTH

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MMMMM GOOD STUFF!

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Parish Council of Catholic Women

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