

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	Confession
Weekend Mass	Wednesday   After Mass
Sunday   8:30am	Sunday   Before Mass
Weekday Masses	Other   By Appointment
Wednesday   9:00am	<b>Holy Hour Adoration</b>
Friday   9:00am	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**

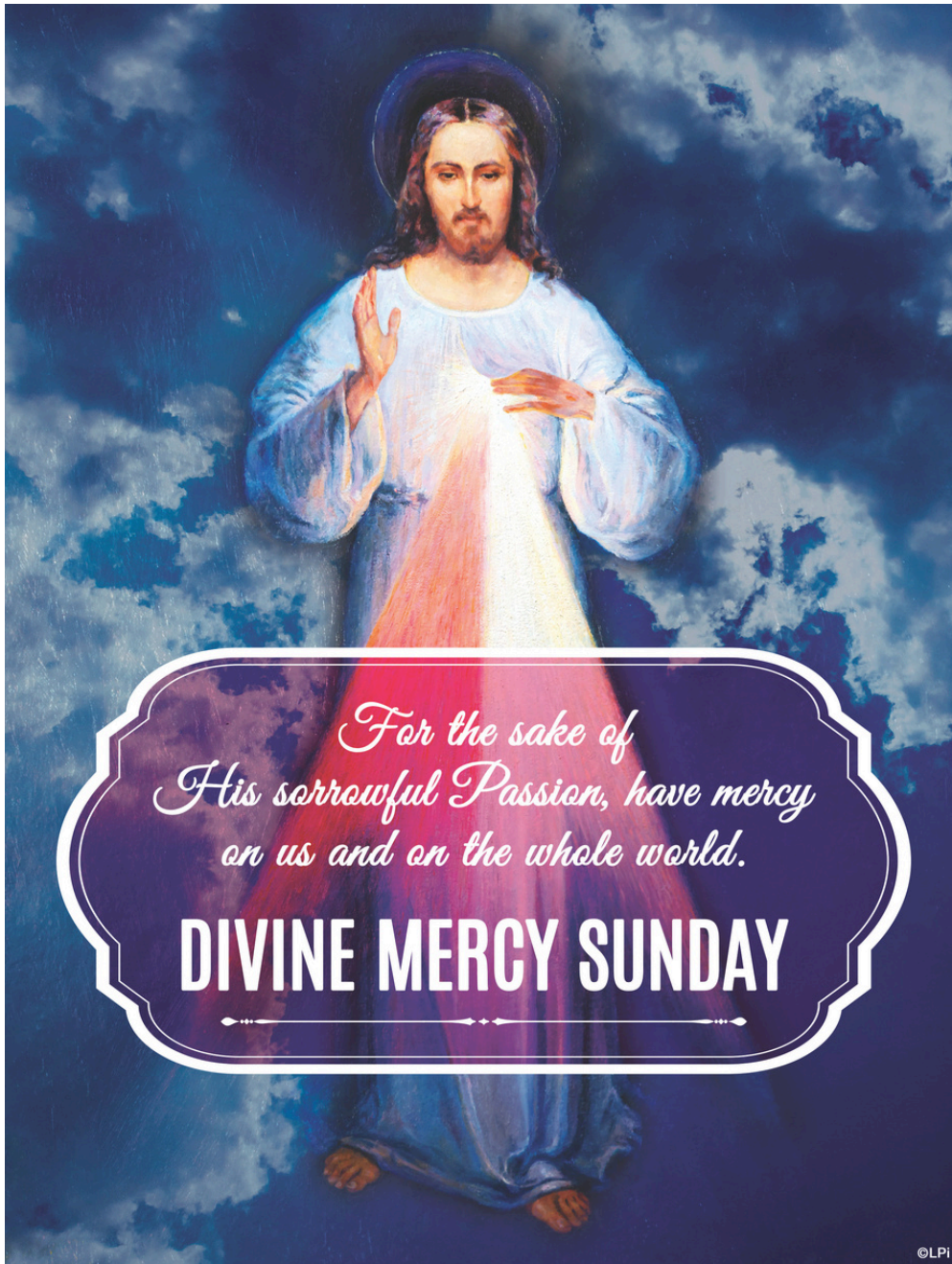
Parish Pastoral Council President

**Laura Cairns**

Music Ministry

**Buck Hartley**

Grand Knight Council 7680



*For the sake of  
His sorrowful Passion, have mercy  
on us and on the whole world.*

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

©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			
4/7/2026			
	Last Week	Month To Date	Budget for Month
Regular Collections:	April		April
Envelopes	\$3,125.00	\$3,125.00	\$7,500.00
Plate (loose)	336.00	336.00	1,000.00
Maint. & Repair Fund	1,430.00	1,430.00	2,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,891.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,891.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,300.00</b>
Operating Expenses:			
Salary & Benefits	3,351.81	3,351.81	5,526.00
Maintenance	259.70	259.70	1,195.00
Telephone & Utilities	4,473.75	4,473.75	1,991.00
Insurance		0.00	800.00
Other Expenses	157.65	157.65	1,126.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,242.91</b>	<b>\$ 8,242.91</b>	<b>\$ 10,638.00</b>
Quarterly Financial Report			
Quarter ended 3/31/2026			
	Actual for Quarter	Budget for Quarter	
Regular Collections:			
Envelopes	\$21,150.50	\$22,500.00	
Plate (loose)	3,239.53	3,000.00	
Maint. & Repair Fund	6,130.00	8,400.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 30,520.03</b>	<b>\$ 33,900.00</b>	
Operating Expenses:			
Salary & Benefits	15,989.12	16,540.00	
Maintenance	3,873.40	4,590.00	
Telephone & Utilities	7,004.32	5,973.00	
Insurance	17,302.00	15,300.00	
Other Expenses	4,425.97	3,388.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 48,594.81</b>	<b>\$ 45,791.00</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 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. Leslie Floyd friend of James & JoAnn Roach.

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



**Parish Calendar of Events**

Date	Time	Event
Sun 4/12	9:40 am	KofC Breakfast with Reception for our newest Catholics
Wed 4/15	9:30 am	Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour
Wed 4/15	10:00 am	PCCW Meeting
Sun 4/19	9:45 am	PSR Faith Formation in Marian Hall
Wed 4/22	9:30 am	Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour
Wed 4/22	10:30 am	Parish Council Meeting
<b>Sun 4/26</b>		<b>No PSR Faith Formation</b>
<b>Wed 4/29</b>		<b>No Eucharistic Holy Hour – Deacon away on retreat</b>
Fri 5/1	9:00 am	May 1 – Mary's May Crowning at the end of Mass

Check each week for updates as things do change.

Date	Mass Intention	Lectors	Gift Bear
Sun 4/12	Parish Family	Carla / Charlene	Mike & Linda Knight
Wed 4/15	Alec Hein +	Kay	
Fri 4/17	Phil Harter +	Marilyn	
Sun 4/19	Lester & Ronnie Droste +	Craig / Hunter	Stech Family
Wed 4/22	Dee Walton +	Charlene	
Fri 4/24	John Loughner +	Nancy	

# Knights Corner

Forsyth Council #7680



## The Knights of Columbus Recruitment Drive

JOIN US!

A QR code that likely links to the recruitment information.

**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!

April 12<sup>th</sup> Knights  
Breakfast after 8:30 Mass.



**Pancake  
Breakfast**



### Welcome Breakfast Reception – Divine Mercy Sunday Please welcome Debra, Janet, Garry, James, and Gene

Our Lady of the Ozarks parish family had five members that entered the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass at Our Lady of the Lake in Branson. They are Janet Johnson, Garry Hunt, Gene Ridings, Debra Philpott, and James Roach.

Please join me after Mass this Divine Mercy Sunday in welcoming the Fab Five. The Knights are hosting the breakfast and the PCCW is providing cake. There is also a basket for in the gathering space in case you wish to offer a congratulatory card.



**Please Join  
Cassandr  Haygood  
Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at  
Our Lady of the Lake, Branson  
for the Divine Mercy Chaplet  
after the 10:30 Mass  
(In the church)**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

# Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn

## **Divine Mercy Sunday: The Hidden Jewels of God's Tender Love**

The Second Sunday of Easter, known throughout the Church as Divine Mercy Sunday, is far more than a devotional observance. It is a radiant jewel set into the very heart of the Easter season. Many Catholics know the Chaplet or the Image, but fewer realize this beautiful treasure the Church invites us to contemplate on this day. Divine Mercy Sunday is the one day when the Hour of Mercy and the Feast of Mercy converge.

One of the most remarkable truths about Divine Mercy Sunday is that it is the only feast Jesus Himself explicitly requested. Through St. Faustina, the Lord asked that the Church dedicate the octave day of Easter to His mercy. This alone makes the feast extraordinary. It is not merely a pastoral initiative or a devotional preference -- it is a direct desire of Christ for His people.

Yet the feast is not separate from Easter; it is the completion of Easter's octave, the "eighth day" of the Resurrection. In biblical symbolism, the eighth day is the day of new creation. Divine Mercy Sunday proclaims that the Resurrection is not only a victory over death but the opening of a new world where mercy is the air we breathe. The Risen Christ does not return with vengeance or reproach. His first words to the apostles were simple and stunning: "Peace be with you."

The Gospel for this Sunday reveals another hidden jewel, it is the moment when Jesus institutes the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Risen Lord breathes the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and entrusts them with the authority to forgive sins. Divine Mercy Sunday is, in a real sense, the birthday of Confession in the New Covenant. The feast invites us to rediscover this sacrament not as a burden, but as a homecoming.

Perhaps the most astonishing grace of this day is the promise Jesus gave to St. Faustina that those who receive Holy Communion worthily on Divine Mercy Sunday receives complete forgiveness of sins. This is not the same as a plenary indulgence; but it is something even more far-reaching. It is a kind of spiritual renewal akin to a second baptism. It is Christ pouring the full power of His Passion and Resurrection into our souls.

The image of Divine Mercy, with rays of red and pale light streaming from Christ's Heart, reminds us that mercy flows from the very center of the Paschal Mystery. The water and blood symbolize Baptism and the Eucharist, the sacraments that make us new. Divine Mercy Sunday is not about a picture (or a welcoming Forsyth billboard); it is about the open Heart of Christ.



Finally, this feast is especially for those who feel lost or forgotten -- the discouraged, the ashamed, the fallen-away, the wounded. Jesus told St. Faustina that the souls who most need His mercy often fear Him the most. Divine Mercy Sunday is His answer: a day when He says to every soul, "Your misery is the vessel of My mercy." (Diary entry 1485 in *Divine Mercy in My Soul*.)

May this feast renew our parish, our families, and our hearts with the peace of the Risen Christ.

# REGISTRATION OPEN FOR THE DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

70 YEARS AS A DIOCESE ---Diocesan Eucharistic Congress - August 15, 2026

Over 1300 pilgrims have now 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. If you know you want to attend, please sign up. It helps Fr J decide on the final number of busses or passenger vans needed.

## Easter Vigil



*We want to thank everyone who helped us in welcoming in all our Elect and Candidates at the Easter Vigil!*

*Thank you to our Sponsors and godparents, to all of you who prayed for our Elect and Candidates, the music ministry and staff and Clergy who worked so hard to make everything perfect! Thank you!*



## The Importance of Child Abuse Prevention Month – All Year Long

Every April, many organizations and communities observe Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time devoted to renewing our shared commitment to safeguarding children and youth. For churches, schools, sports programs, and other youth-serving environments, this month serves as a tangible reminder that keeping young people safe is not just about “checking off a box” for compliance or meeting minimum standards. Rather, it’s about cultivating and maintaining cultures of safety within each program serving children and youth.



Child Abuse Prevention Month matters because it highlights the reality that abuse is often hidden or overlooked. Awareness efforts during April (and beyond) bring needed attention to the behavioral indicators of abuse in children and youth, the warning signs of inappropriate behavior of adults (which may be part of a grooming process), and the responsibility adults share in recognizing and reporting concerns. While April shines a spotlight on these efforts, the need for vigilance extends far beyond a single month. Abuse does not follow a schedule, and children require safe, attentive adults throughout every day of the year.

### Being a Safe Adult

This month can also be an opportunity for all adults to pause and reflect on their own behavior, and whether it contributes to a safe environment for children, the vulnerable and anyone else we may serve in our ministries. Even if your role does not involve directly teaching, coaching, mentoring, or supervising children and youth, you still play a vital part in creating and maintaining a safe environment. Every adult within an organization, whether an employee or a volunteer, helps shape the culture that protects children.

Children are safer when all adults understand the importance of boundaries, recognize signs of concerning behavior and most importantly communicate when they have any concerns or when something seems amiss. All adults can also serve as role models for healthy and appropriate behavior. If you are unsure of what types of behaviors are healthy and appropriate, refer to your organization’s policies and procedures, or ask someone in leadership for guidance. It’s not enough just to have policies and procedures in place, it’s up to all adults to not only be aware of them, but to implement and follow them. Policies alone cannot keep children safe; people who follow the policies do.

For additional information regarding what you can do to help protect children and youth during April and all year long, please visit:

- <https://preventchildabuse.org>
- <https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventionmonth/>
- <https://www.thorn.org/>
- <https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/national-initiatives/>
- <https://www.missingkids.org/home>

Ultimately, Child Abuse Prevention Month is far more than a once-a-year reminder. It is an invitation to strengthen a community-wide commitment to protecting children and youth.





## **Annual Safe Environment Bulletin/Newsletter Announcement**

Noted below are two different announcements:

- 1) the Procedures for Reporting Abuse or Misconduct, and
- 2) The Safe Environment requirements for all diocesan personnel—clergy, employees, and adult volunteers.

Every year, we request that the following announcements be published in the parish and school bulletins. This public notification of the reporting procedures is to ensure that the diocese remains compliant with the Norms of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which is typically reviewed during the on-site audit. Please forward a copy of any publications where these appear to the Diocese Office of Child and Youth Protection.

### **Reporting Procedures of Known or Suspected Abuse or Misconduct**

Any known or suspected **abuse or neglect of a minor** must first be immediately reported to the **Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-3738**.

Any known or suspected **abuse or neglect of an adult** must first be immediately reported to the **Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-0210**.

***In situations of immediate danger, call 911.***

*Known or suspected abuse may also be reported to law enforcement in addition to making a report to the MO Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline or to the MO Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline.*

*Violations of The Code of Conduct should also be reported to the Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection at [childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org](mailto:childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org) or (417) 866-0841 or through the **TIPS** online reporting system available on the diocesan website [www.dioscg.org](http://www.dioscg.org).*

*Violations involving the Bishop should be reported to the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting System at 800-276-1562 or <https://reportbishopabuse.org/>.*

*The Safe Environment Policy and Procedures, the Code of Conduct for Clergy, Employees and Adult Volunteers and other important information, including a link to the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People are available on the webpage <https://dioscg.org/child-youth-protection/>*

### **Requirements for all diocesan personnel—clergy, employees and adult volunteers**

*The mission and ministry of creating a safe environment for all to flourish and thrive is a responsibility we all share.*

*Before regularly working or volunteering with minors or vulnerable adults, all diocesan personnel are required to first complete*

- 1) the Safe Environment Training**
- 2) have a Background Screening conducted**
- 3) submit the current and signed Code of Conduct**

*The Safe Environment training is now available online after creating an account in the VIRTUS system (through the VIRTUS webpage <https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/>).*

*The Code of Conduct, which is required annually and made available at the beginning of every school year, the Background Disclosure and Authorization, as well as all other required Safe Environment Policies and forms are available on the Diocese website, under the Office of Child and Youth Protection <https://dioscg.org/child-youth-protection/>.*

*Questions about these requirements may be directed to the Office of Child and Youth Protection at 417-866-0841 or by email: [childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org](mailto:childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org).*

Thank you!  
William Holtmeyer, Jr, MS, NCC, LPC, CEAP  
Director, Office of Child and Youth Protection

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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*Options* PREGNANCY CLINIC

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  
[shepherdofthehillsetsapts.com](http://shepherdofthehillsetsapts.com)

**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**  
417-546-5086  
Highway 160, P.O. Box 808  
Forsyth, Missouri 65653

*Mr. Bug Killer Inc.*  
**PROFESSIONAL EXTERMINATING**  
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](http://www.caring.com).

**THE BROOK**  
wellness center

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

**SHIRLEY'S KITCHEN**  
ORDERS TO-GO!!  
16039 Hwy 160 FORSYTH, MO 417-261-9588  
HOME COOKED "COUNTRY" STYLE MEALS  
MMMMM GOOD STUFF!

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**Our Lady of the Ozarks**  
Parish Council of Catholic Women

**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 BRANSON** 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)

**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.dioscrg.org](http://www.dioscrg.org).  
Then click on Report Abuse, and/or call the Director of Child and Youth Protection:  
William Holtmeyer, 417-866-0841

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To purchase an ad, contact: Mike Rivera [mikerivera@ollbranson.com](mailto:mikerivera@ollbranson.com) 417-527-4367