

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

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

Father Johny M. Augusthy

Associate Pastor

417-334-2928 X 101

johnyvc@dioscrg.org

Father Dhaneesh Thomas

Associate Pastor

417-334-2928

Dhaneesh@dioscrg.org

Dcn Daniel Vaughn

Parish Administrator

Pastoral Associate

417-546-5208 or 812-204-2625

DcnDanVaughn@gmail.com

Mike Rivera

Bulletin

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

I AM
THE GATE.

— JOHN 10:9 —



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

4/14/2026

| | Last Week | Month To Date | Budget for Month |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | | April | April |
| Regular Collections: | | | |
| Envelopes | \$2,087.50 | \$5,212.50 | \$7,500.00 |
| Plate (loose) | 215.00 | 551.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Maint. & Repair Fund | 767.00 | 2,197.00 | 2,800.00 |
| Total | \$ 3,069.50 | \$ 7,960.50 | \$ 11,300.00 |
| Operating Expenses: | | | |
| Salary & Benefits | | 3,351.81 | 5,526.00 |
| Maintenance | 26.59 | 286.29 | 1,195.00 |
| Telephone & Utilities | 228.28 | 4,702.03 | 1,991.00 |
| Insurance | | | 800.00 |
| Other Expenses | 6.23 | 163.88 | 1,126.00 |
| Total | \$ 261.10 | \$ 8,504.01 | \$ 10,638.00 |



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, Mary Little and Eric Peterson.

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, Marilyn Guy's sister, Rosemary Pawloski, and Ann Forster's daughter, Susan. 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.



Rosary Leader

- 5/1 Kay
- 5/3 Jake
- 5/6 Charlene
- 5/8 Marilyn

Parish Calendar of Events

| Date | Time | Event |
|----------|---------|---|
| Sun 4/26 | | No PSR Faith Formation |
| Wed 4/29 | | No Eucharistic Holy Hour – Deacon at NADD Deacon's Conference |
| Fri 5/1 | 9:00 am | May 1 – Mary's May Crowning at the end of Mass |
| Sun 5/3 | | 2026 Diocesan Development Drive begins |
| Sun 5/3 | 9:45 am | PSR Faith Formation |
| Wed 5/6 | 9:05 am | Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour |

Check each week for updates as things do change.

| Date | Mass Intention | Lectors | Gift Bear |
|----------|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sun 4/26 | Jerry Strunk + | Marilyn / Kay | Pam Strunk with Abigail & Chris Rock |
| Wed 4/29 | Deceased members of Sakowicz Family + | Carla | |
| Fri 5/1 | Parish Deceased Souls + | Kay | |
| Sun 5/3 | Wilma Guy+ | Dennis / Toni | Debbie Philpot, Vicki Ploshay, & |
| Wed 5/6 | Shirley Lang + | Kay | |
| Fri 5/8 | Living and Deceased + members of Schumacher family. | Marilyn | Janet Johnson |

Catholic Home Missions Appeal 2nd Collection Sunday, April 26

The U.S. bishops established the Catholic Home Missions Appeal in 1998 to support the missions here in America. The Appeal is taken up in most parishes on the last weekend in April each year. The money collected stays in the U.S. helping the mission dioceses --- like Springfield-Cape Girardeau.

Every year, parishes across the U.S. take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Because of those generous donations, the Appeal is able to provide +\$7 million in grants to nearly 75 dioceses in the U.S.



To support the collection with an online donation, visit:

<https://www.igivecatholic.org/story/USCCB-CHM>

To learn more about the appeal and those who benefit from it, visit

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/catholic-home-missions>

Thank you for strengthening
the Church at home.

A colorful logo for "Rainforest Falls" featuring a waterfall, tropical plants, and a parrot. The text "RAINFOREST FALLS" is in large, stylized letters, and "Exploring the Nature of God" is written below it on a wooden sign.

Save the Date

2026

Vacation Bible School

July 6,7 & 8

Our Lady of the Cove

IT'S TIME FOR

Catholic Night

AT THE SPRINGFIELD CARDINALS!

A logo for "Catholic Night 2025" at Hammons Field, Springfield Cardinals. It features two red cardinals perched on a stylized building with a banner that says "SPRINGFIELD CARDINALS".

\$15
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AVAILABLE FOR
THOSE WANTING TO
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CCSOMO EVENT!

THURSDAY, MAY 28

HAMMONS FIELD | 7:05 PM

CCSOMO.ORG/SPRINGFIELD-CARDINALS-CATHOLIC-NIGHT

SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR TICKETS
AND MORE
INFORMATION.

A QR code for ticket information.

HOSTED BY:
Catholic Charities
of Southern Missouri

Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn

Why Catholic retreats are important for our High School youth

For today's high school teens, life moves at a relentless pace. They navigate academic pressure, social expectations, digital noise, and the constant question of who they are becoming. In the midst of all this, faith can easily become something squeezed to the margins. A weekend retreat like the **Steubenville Youth Conference** offers something profoundly different: sacred time. It gives our young people a chance to step away from the noise and encounter Christ in a way that is personal, joyful, and transformative.

These retreats are crafted specifically for the spiritual and emotional needs of teenagers. Dynamic speakers address the real, everyday struggles that our youth face: identity, relationships, anxiety, and the desire to belong. Joy filled worship shows them that the Church is not only alive but vibrant. Eucharistic adoration becomes a moment of deep encounter, where many teens experience the presence of Jesus in a way they have never known before. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, offered with gentleness and encouragement, becomes a place of healing rather than obligation. For many, this is the moment when faith shifts from *"something I learned"* to *"Someone I know."*

One of the most important fruits of a retreat weekend is the strengthening of parish community. When teens travel, pray, laugh, and worship together, they form bonds that carry into the school year. They return home more connected to their youth leaders, more invested in parish life, and more aware that they belong to a family of faith. These shared experiences create a foundation of trust and friendship that supports them long after the retreat ends. A parish that invests in its youth is a parish that builds its future.

There is also a deeper, less obvious grace at work, one that is easy to overlook. A Steubenville weekend functions as a counter cultural reset. For 48 hours teens step out of the constant swirl of social media, comparison, and performance. They step into silence, sacraments, joy, and purpose. They rediscover who they are without the pressure to impress or compete. This brief but powerful shift can redirect the entire trajectory of a young person's spiritual life. Many return with a renewed sense of identity, clarity about their vocation, and a desire to live as intentional disciples.

As a parish, we want to give our young people every opportunity to grow in holiness, confidence, and community. A retreat weekend is not simply a trip or a youth activity, it is an investment in their spiritual foundation, their relationships, and their future as members of the Body of Christ. When we support our teens in attending retreats like Steubenville, we are planting seeds that will bear fruit for years to come.

Please encourage our youth to attend this year's Steubenville Conference. Our three Lady's parishes will be attending the July 10-12 weekend on the campus of Missouri State University. And pray for our youth, their chaperones, and all who will attend this summer. May the Holy Spirit move powerfully in their hearts and lead them ever closer to Christ.



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: We can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger. But where will he lead?

The Devil's Long Con

The algorithm on my streaming service has been suggesting a lot of romantic scam documentaries lately. If you're not familiar, romantic scams are a particularly cruel form of "the long con."

Some man presents himself to some woman as Prince Charming. He wines her. He dines her. He charms her mom and makes her friends jealous. Little red flags pop up here and there, but she shrugs them all off. She accepts convenient explanations.

She just wants to be happy.

And then one day, Prince Charming vanishes, along with the contents of the woman's savings account. Every victim says the same thing: "I should have known better, but I wanted it to be real."

I think the reason I'm so drawn to these shows is that I identify with these women. No, I've never been the victim of a romantic scam (if my husband married me thinking he would gain access to some kind of fortune, he's the one who got scammed). But we have all told ourselves that something *is* right because it *feels* right. We have shrugged off doubts about a choice, a relationship, a habit.

We have accepted easy answers that don't pass the sniff test — because we really, really wanted an answer, and we really, really wanted it to be easy.

The devil is a romantic scammer. A third-party retailer hawking knock-off joy and fulfillment. A wolf in sheep's clothing. A false prophet. A thief, a robber who has climbed the fence, knowing the gate will not admit him.

These are all different ways of saying the same thing: we can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger.

But where will he lead?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is the history behind the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross?

Answer:

Emperor Constantine's mother, Helena, is credited with having discovered the true cross around 330. She traveled to the Holy Land and uncovered the places associated with Jesus' life. Legend has it that Helena uncovered three crosses but was not able to detect the true cross until each of them was laid on a leper. Only one of them cured the leper, proving it to be the true cross. A great church was built at the site, and soon various portions of the cross were sent to other churches as relics to be venerated.

The day after the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, September 14, 335, the actual cross was displayed for veneration. Egeria, a women traveler to Jerusalem around the year 386, kept a diary that has survived. She tells of the unique veneration of the wood of the cross that took place on Good Friday, something maintained ritually to this very day.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross focuses on the gift of love that Jesus manifested by his total gift of self, offered for all. The cross, the ultimate form of capital punishment in its day, has become for us the ultimate symbol of love and triumph over evil and death.

Diocesan Development Fund
The Bishop's Annual Appeal kicks off next Sunday, May 3

What is the Diocesan Development Fund (DDF)?

The Bishop's Annual Appeal, our Diocesan Development Fund Campaign (DDF), is the annual campaign for the diocese and takes place the first weekend of May. The funds raised through the campaign advance our mission through a host of ministries that assist our families, our parishes, and every diocesan ministry in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.

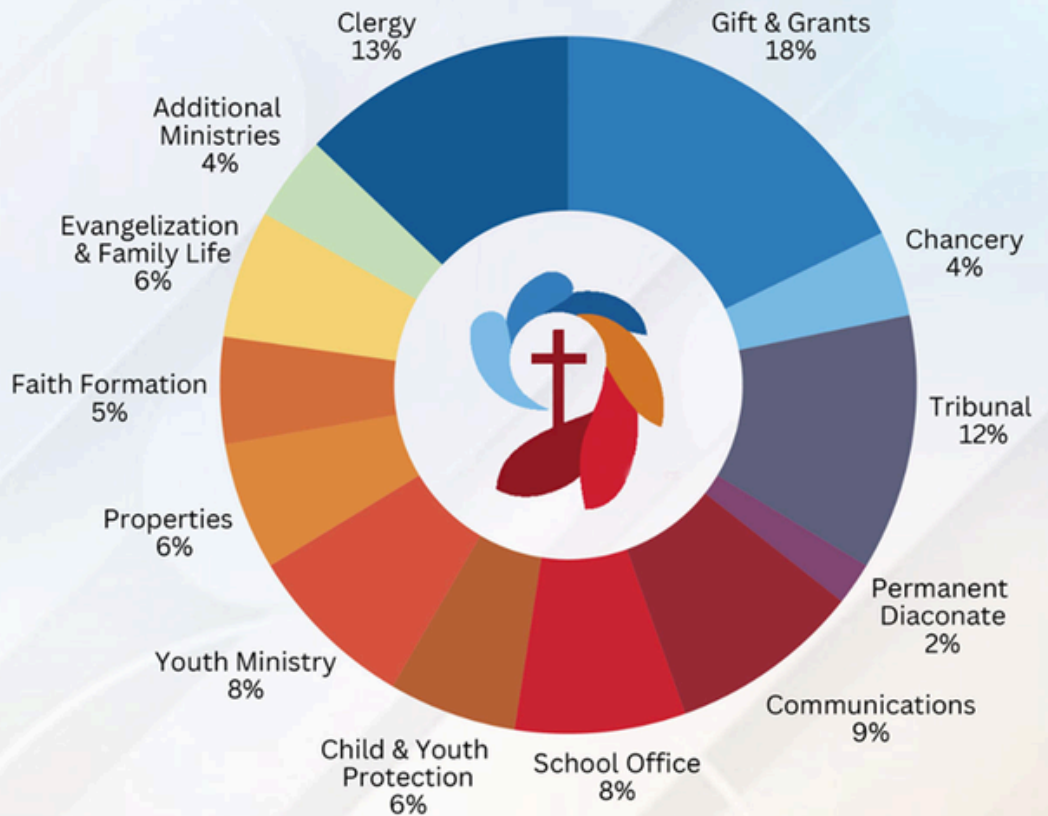
Our diocesan goal is approximately \$3 million. Our parish goal is \$15,700 -- the same as last year's goal. Our DDF chairs are George and Deena Patterson. On next Sunday we will hear a brief testimony on how DDF is a win-win for our parish.

Diocesan DEVELOPMENT FUND

YEAR 2025-2026

How Funds are Utilized

Contributions to the Diocesan Development Fund directly support the ongoing operations of the Diocese, ensuring that 45 vital ministries continue to thrive. These ministries are managed through diocesan offices at The Catholic Center.



<https://dioscg.org/ddf-2026/>

Women's Day of Reflection

Join the women of Our Lady of the Ozarks

With Bishop Liebrecht and Lynn Melendez



Saturday, May 9, 2026

9 am to 3 pm

Bishop Liebrecht presents St. John Paul II, Mulieris Dignitatem "The Dignity and Vocation of Women" and

Lynn Melendez presents "I Am Not Equipped" based on the Gospel reading on feeding the 5000

Registration \$10.00 (includes lunch)

Deadline May 3rd

Contact Kay Gerken to register. Phone 417.335.0271 or Email: Kay@GerkenandAssociates.com. Make check payable to PCCW and mail to Kay Gerken, 480 Woodsong Lane, Branson, MO 65616

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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Our Lady of the Ozarks
Parish Council of Catholic Women

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