

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**

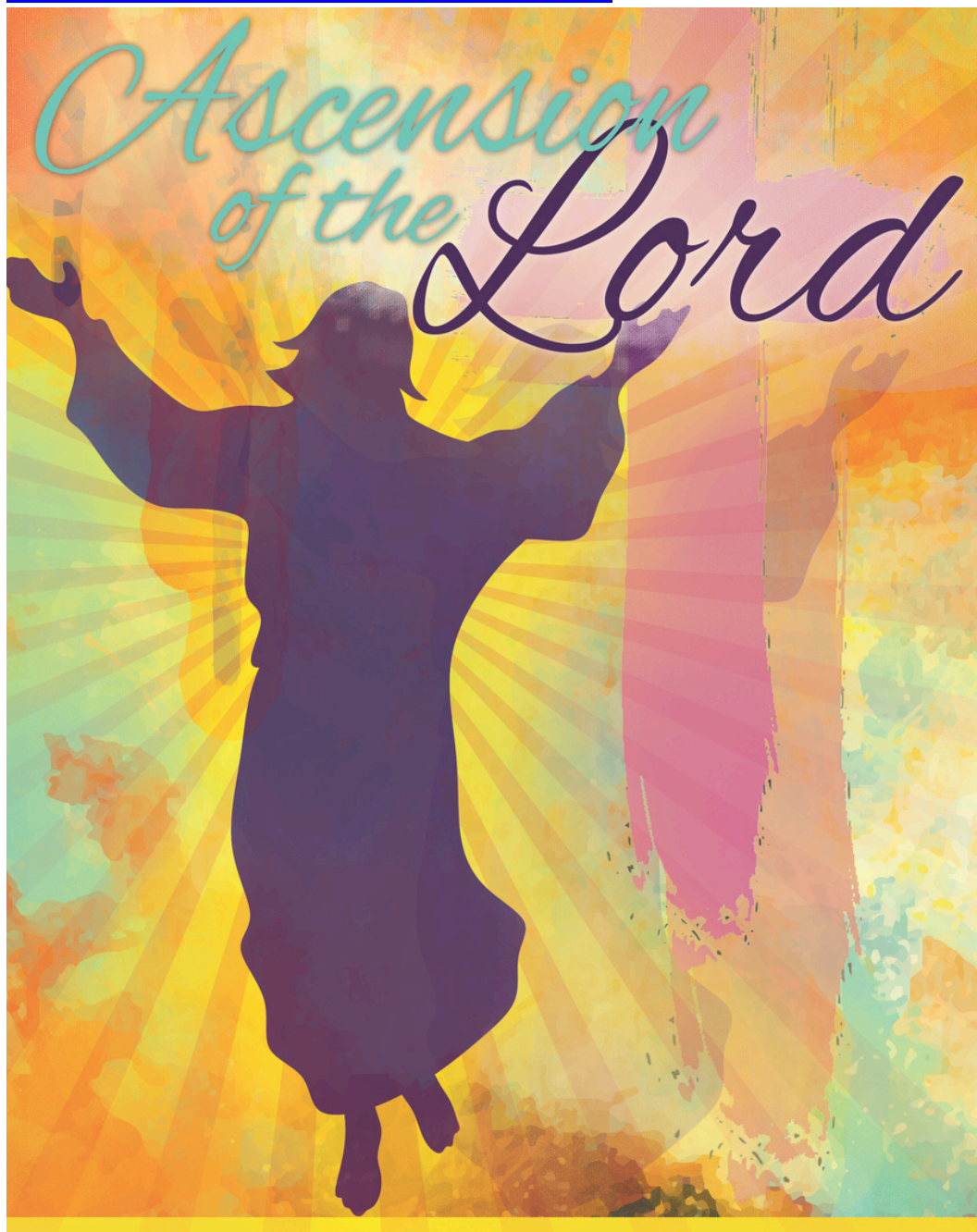
Parish Pastoral Council President

**Laura Cairns**

Music Ministry

**Buck Hartley**

Grand Knight Council 7680



#### 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**

5/12/2026

	Last Week	Month To Date	Budget for Month
<b>Regular Collections:</b>		<b>May</b>	<b>April</b>
Envelopes	\$1,040.00	\$8,193.00	\$7,500.00
Plate (loose)	359.00	726.00	1,000.00
Maint. & Repair Fund	391.00	5,541.00	2,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,790.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,460.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,300.00</b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>			
Salary & Benefits		3,082.50	5,563.00
Maintenance		137.04	2,125.00
Telephone & Utilities	305.85	1,427.11	1,991.00
Insurance			800.00
Other Expenses	160.36	252.92	1,351.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 466.21</b>	<b>\$ 4,899.57</b>	<b>\$ 11,830.00</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, Mary Little, Eric Peterson, and Jackie Nieukirk.

**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, Ann Forster's daughter, Susan Wright, James & JoAnn Roach's friend Leslie Floyd, Jackie Nieukirk's sister-in-law Diana Leonard, and Deacon Dan and Beth's friend, Marilyn Mattione

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 McCoy Harris.



**Rosary Leader**

5/17 Patt

5/20 Unassigned

5/22 Unassigned

**Parish Calendar of Events**

Date	Time	Event
Sun 5/17	9:40 am	Lector Workshop Training – in the Church
Sun 5/17	9:45 am	PSR - Family Faith Formation
Wed 5/20	9:35 am	Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour
Sun 5/24		Pentecost Sunday – wear your 'red'
Wed 5/27	9:35 am	Eucharistic Holy Hour

Check each week for updates as things do change.

Date	Mass Intention	Lectors	Gift Bear
Sun 5/17	Ted Strom+	Craig / Hunter	Pam & Angie Strom
Wed 5/20	Lester and Ronnie Droste +	Dennis	
Fri 5/22	Larry Morrissey +	Carla	
Sun 5/24	Sang Lee Booth +	Molly / Kay	Teagarden Family
Wed 5/27	Zeta Leonard +	Marilyn	
Fri 5/29	John Loughner +	Nancy	

The

# Holy Trinity

## Our True Family

Join us for a Spirit-filled weekend and experience a spiritual journey that will leave you feeling renewed and strengthened!

Friday, June 5: 4:00 pm for Mass - 8:30 pm  
Saturday, June 6: 8:30 am for Mass - 8:30 pm

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church  
2200 West Republic Road, Springfield, Missouri

Experience transformation and healing of your soul through Inspirational Talks, Holy Mass, Adoration, Healing Service  
Whether you can come both days or just one, come... You WILL be blessed!!!

[www.strengtheningandhealing.org](http://www.strengtheningandhealing.org)

\$30 or \$50/couple, Lunch & Dinner provided for donation

(Conferences generally cost us \$60/person)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Shelly: 417-838-2730 or Jan: 417-763-1579

### FEATURING:

- Fr. Philip Scott FJ
- Fr. Martin Scott SDM
- Michael McGlinn
- Judy Brown
- Relics of St Charbel

and more





# Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn

## Why Altar Servers fold their hands upright during Mass, and why we should, too.

Many years ago, before I was a deacon, a friend once remarked that I seemed “*very pious*” at Mass, and he didn’t mean it as a compliment. He told me he often noticed my hands folded upright in prayer. It was when we were at a men’s retreat when he finally shared this with me and offered an apology. He said, “Dan, I’ve come to understand that your prayer posture isn’t for show. It’s simply part of who you are.” I thanked him for that.

There was a time in high school and college when I stopped folding my hands because I thought it looked too childlike. Thankfully, when my wife and I had children, something in my heart compelled me to return the simple prayer posture I learned when I received Holy Communion for the first time and continued as an altar server. It felt like coming home.

One of the most recognizable signs of reverence at Mass is the way altar servers walk and stand with their hands folded upright, fingers together, thumbs crossed, held close to the chest. This gesture is simple, silent, and deeply meaningful. It teaches us something essential about prayer, and it’s a posture every Catholic can benefit from imitating.

At its heart, folded hands express readiness and devotion. In ancient times, a servant would place his hands together before his master as a sign of trust and willingness to serve. When altar servers fold their hands, they silently proclaim the same truth: *I am here for God*. Their stillness is not stiffness, it is attentiveness. Their posture becomes a living prayer.

The gesture also fosters interior unity. When the hands are brought together, the body mirrors what the soul is meant to do: gather itself, focus, and turn toward the Lord. Our bodies influence our hearts. When we fold our hands, we reduce distractions and signal to ourselves that something sacred is happening. In a world full of noise, this small act becomes a powerful tool for recollection.

For altar servers, the posture has a practical purpose as well. It prevents unnecessary movement and keeps their attention fixed on the altar. The faithful in the pews are not required to fold their hands in the same way, yet doing so can help cultivate a more prayerful disposition. The Church has always taught that the body participates in prayer. Our posture shapes our interior life. When we fold our hands, we are not just “looking prayerful”, we are *becoming* prayerful.

The upward orientation of the folded hands also subtly expresses lifting the heart to God. Though the hands are not raised high, they point upward, reminding us that our prayer is directed toward heaven. Many Catholics find that folding their hands during moments of silence, before receiving Communion, or during personal prayer helps them remain centered on Christ.

Finally, folded hands are a sign of humility and receptivity. They are hands that are not grasping or demanding, but resting and ready to receive. In the Mass, where God gives Himself completely, this posture becomes a beautiful expression of our identity as children before the Father.

Altar servers show us that reverence is expressed not only in words but in the language of the body. By folding our hands together and holding them upright, we join them in a posture of readiness, humility, and love -- one that draws us more deeply into the mystery of the Eucharist.

# LECTOR TRAINING

All lectors and those who have expressed interest in being a lector are asked to attend the half-hour training following today's Mass.

Please let Kay Gerken, 417.335.0271 know if you will not be able to attend or if you have any questions.



*Knights Corner*

**Forsyth Council #7680**



**May 31<sup>st</sup> - Rosary**

\* Knights will lead the Rosary at 8am Mass, come and join us.

## **DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS – Registration continues for a little longer**

If you plan of attending the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress on August 15 in West Plains (and I hope you do), please don't procrastinate. Get signed up. Seating is limited to 3,000.

Our Lady of the Lake parish in Branson is leading the charge in securing bus transportation for the three area parishes. OLL needs a headcount on who wishes to ride versus drive from our parish. Deena Patterson is our liaison and in charge of working with OLL. Please let Deena Patterson or Deacon Dan know if you wish to reserve a seat on the bus. Plans are to leave around 7 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 DEC webpage to registration at <https://dioscg.org/diocesan-eucharistic-congress>.

**Diocesan Eucharistic Congress** **AUGUST 15, 2026**  
WEST PLAINS CIVIC CENTER

**DIOCESE of SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU**

**70 YEARS 1956-2026**

**REGISTER NOW: Seating is limited!**

Visit [WWW.DIOSCG.ORG/DIOCESAN-EUCHARISTIC-CONGRESS](http://WWW.DIOSCG.ORG/DIOCESAN-EUCHARISTIC-CONGRESS) or scan the QR CODE for more resources, including suggestions for the Year of Spiritual Preparation, and updates to the Congress!

## 2026 Diocesan Development Fund The Bishop Rice's Annual Appeal

As of May 10, the parish has received nine pledges totaling \$2,650 (17%) of our \$15,645 parish goal. Last year (as of May 11, 2025), we were further along with \$5,600 pledged.

I mentioned last week that the diocese changed the pledge card mailer this year. Instead of getting a letter with an information pamphlet and a pledge card, the diocese combined the pledge card into the body of the pamphlet. If you were like me, you probably tossed the pamphlet not knowing the pledge card portion was one of the three folded pages. Thus, if you need a replacement pledge card, grab one from the table in the gathering space. Remember no pledge is too small (or too large) but I encourage you to participate as a member of the body of this parish.

All financial pledges by check should be made out to "Our Lady of the Ozarks" and not the diocese unless you are paying directly to the diocese. Please drop off your pledge card in the collection basket. It is my hope to complete this campaign by the middle of June.

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

### Send a note of appreciation to our High School Graduates

Forsyth High School Graduation Notice

On Friday, May 15, Robbie Huffman, Kady Vanvolkenburg (Davien's girlfriend), and Sequoia Jennings graduated from Forsyth High School. We will recognize the three of them on Sunday before the final blessing at Mass. There is a basket in the gathering space for congratulatory cards and well wishes.

### Mother's Day donations

An additional THANK YOU for donations for the beautiful flowers that were on the altar on Mother's Day in honor of mothers, wives, daughters, and other important women in our lives

THOSE HONORED AND REMEMBERED: Jane Carr+, Josie Kelly, Sarah O'Connor, Kelly Bauer, Kasey Cieszlak, Kerry Pouliot, Penny O'Connor.

DONORS: Carr, O'Connor



*After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

*Acts 1:9*

# Staying Connected with PCCW



“The dignity of every human being and vocation corresponding to that dignity find their definitive measure in union with God. Mary, the woman of the Bible, is the most complete expression of this dignity and vocation. For no human being, male or female, created in the image and likeness of God, can in any way attain fulfillment apart from His image and likeness.” - These words of St. John Paul II were the topic of Bishop Leibrecht’s talk at our Women’s Day of Reflection this past Saturday . Bishop spoke on St. Paul John II’s letter to women known as Mulieris Dignitatem (The Dignity and Vocation of Women).

The perfect message for a Mother’s Day weekend . Bishop Leibrecht shared “Women have an intrinsic dignity and a specific mission to inject love into the world. We need only to look to Mary to find dignity in action.” The day was made extra special with lunch being served by the Knights of Columbus (Council 7680). Lynn Melendez was the afternoon speaker and reflected on the topic “I am not Equipped” offering us deeper insights into Mark’s Gospel, Chapter 6 , the feeding of the 5000. As a special treat, Tony Melendez, singer, songwriter, inspirational speaker and Lynn’s husband shared his beautiful music, his challenges, his blessings leaving us to consider and reflect on how God is working in our daily lives and the daily blessings He bestows.

The PCCW will take a short vacation and resume meetings in September. We would like to recognize and thank Marilyn Guy for her many years of dedicated service as the PCCW Treasurer (10 to be exact) and welcome Kay Gerken as Treasurer. We also thank Donna Covelli for serving as the PCCW Secretary and welcome Deena Patterson as Secretary. Carla Schmitz and I will look forward to continuing to serve as Vice President and President. Until next time, stay connected- Barbara Sakowicz Peterson

**P.S. SAVE THE DATES- OCTOBER 8,9,10,2026 – PARISH RUMMAGE SALE**



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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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).

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William Holtmeyer, 417-866-0841

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