

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

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Father Dhaneesh Thomas

Associate Pastor

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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



17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” - Mt 13:44

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

7/21/2026

	Last Week	Month To Date July	Budget for Month July
Regular Collections:			
Envelopes	\$1,848.00	\$6,700.64	\$7,920.00
Plate (loose)	271.00	594.00	1,000.00
Maint. & Repair Fund	320.76	2,565.76	2,560.00
Total	\$ 2,439.76	\$ 9,860.40	\$ 11,480.00
Operating Expenses:			
Salary & Benefits	936.00	3,173.00	6,571.00
Maintenance	1,664.25	2,229.28	1,410.00
Telephone & Utilities		1,262.54	2,032.00
Insurance			0.00
Other Expenses	20.82	220.08	584.00
Total	\$ 2,621.07	\$ 6,884.90	\$ 10,597.00

Please keep Carla's Schmitz and family in your prayers. Carla's father-in-law, Robert J. Schmitz, passed on to eternal life last Sunday. Robert was 92 years old. He was preceded in death by his parents and Carla's husband Marvin. Carla asked that we especially keep her mother-in-law, Joanne, in our prayers. His Mass of Christian burial will take place Saturday, July 25, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Parnell, Missouri.



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, Jackie Nieukirk, Carolyn Townsend, Norma McKee, and Joe Enno.

For family & friends: Sandy Schumacher's brother, Kirk and niece Lisa, Carolyn Townsend's husband Bud, Patt Strom's niece Shannon, granddaughter Jennifer, and daughter Patricia, 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, Deacon Dan and Beth's friend, Marilyn Mattione, Vickie Ploshay's brother Joe Ploshay, and her friend Normand Roy, and for former parishioner Dee Vincent,

Prayers for restored health and successful medical treatment.

For our homebound, including those in care facilities: Dorothy Althof, Janice Elledge, Ann Forster, Leonard Gross, Mary Lamp, Fred & Verlone Matlage, Trini Scholefield, Joyce Stenger and Norma McCoy Harris.

Parish Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event
Sun 7/26	9:45 am	Faith Formation - Q&A on upcoming Eucharistic Congress
Tue 7/28	10:45 am	Mass with Fr. Stoverink and the Seminarians
Wed 7/29	9:00 am	Mass with Bishop Rice and the Seminarians
Wed 7/29	9:30 am	Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour
Wed 8/5	9:30 am	Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour

Check each week for updates as things do change.

Date	Mass Intention	Lectors	Gift Bear
Sun 7/26.	Arliss Stillings +	Marilyn / Charlene	Laura and the Choir
Wed 7/29.	Marvin Schmitz +.	Carla	
Fri 7/31.	John Loughner +.	Nancy	
Sun 8/2	Sang Lee Booth +	Carla / Dennis	Mo Booth
Wed 8/5	Ted Strom +	Charlene	
Fri 8/7	First Friday Deceased Souls +	Kay	



Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn

Is St. Christopher, the Christ-Bearer, still considered a saint?

A couple of weeks ago a friend of mind was having a 'spirited' discussion with a friend regarding the 'saintliness' of St. Christopher. His friend argued that St. Christopher is no longer considered a Catholic saint due to the lack of credible information surrounding his life. The timing of the question was quite good as St. Christopher's feast day is on July 25, the same as St. James the Apostle. Now the rest of the story...

St. Christopher is one of the most beloved figures in Catholic devotion. A martyr of the third century, almost nothing certain is known historically about his life yet the Church has never stopped honoring him. A church built in the early 450s in Bithynia (modern-day Turkey) provides early testimony to his veneration, as does ecclesiastical evidence from the 500s and 600s.

The Name: His very name says everything. From the Greek *Christos* (Christ) and *pherein* (to bear), Christopher literally means Christ-bearer - a name that perfectly captures his legendary mission and his call to every Christian who venerates him.

The Legend: Christopher was a man of extraordinary size and strength who resolved to serve only the greatest master. He served a mighty king, then the devil himself but found both lacking in true courage. A hermit eventually pointed him toward Christ, instructed him in the faith, and baptized him.

Seeking to serve, Christopher stationed himself at a dangerous river crossing and carried travelers safely to the other side. One day, a small child asked to be carried across. With each step, the child grew unbearably heavy, as though Christopher bore the weight of the entire world. The child revealed Himself as Jesus Christ, the Creator and Redeemer, and the crossing became a moment of divine encounter.

His witness led to many conversions, which enraged the local pagan king. Christopher was imprisoned, tortured, and beheaded a martyr's death. Even in death, his blood miraculously cured the king's blindness, prompting his conversion.

Patronage: St. Christopher is the patron saint of travelers, motorists, sailors, pilgrims, and all who journey far from home. He is counted among the Fourteen Holy Helpers (a topic for a future article). His image was traditionally placed at church entrances, bridges, and city gates, a guardian for those setting out into the unknown.

Was He "De-Canonized"? No. After Vatican II, a commission reviewed the liturgical calendar and removed feast days of a number of saints whose historical record was more legendary than provable. But this was never a de-canonization. **The Church cannot "un-saint" someone.** Christopher remains a saint. His feast on July 25 may still be celebrated by parishes and by the faithful with enduring devotion to him.

The Deeper Truth: Christopher's story is more than a pious legend; it is a mirror held up to every baptized Christian. The raging river, the unbearable weight, the hidden presence of God in what seemed like an ordinary act of service, all of it speaks to the Christian life. Every soul is called to be a Christophorus: a bearer of Christ into the world.

He didn't know he was carrying Jesus. Neither do we, most of the time.

Christopher carried a stranger across a dangerous river and discovered it was Jesus. Where in your daily life might Christ be disguised as the heaviest burden you're being asked to carry?



**Diocesan Development Fund (DDF)
11th-week update
Supporting the Mission of Our Diocesan
Church**

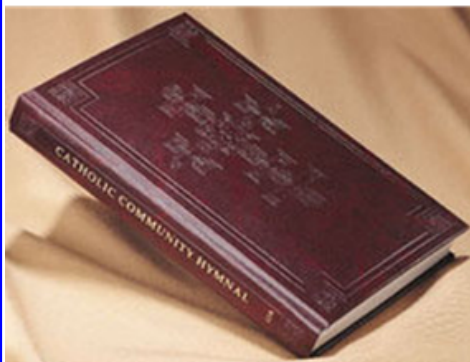
We have completed 11 weeks of the DDF campaign. As of July 21, our parish has pledged \$12,780 toward our \$15,645 goal (82%) from 42 households (82%) of our 51-household goal. Thank you to all of you who have turned in your pledge card.

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Supporting the Mission of Our Diocesan Church**

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Your DDF contribution helps support more than 45 ministries and services that strengthen the mission of the Diocese of Springfield–Cape Girardeau. Every gift helps ensure that our parishes, schools, and families have access to ministries that no single parish could provide alone.

For those parishioners who have not yet contributed, a reminder postcard from Fr J is in the mail. Please reconsider giving to the DDF. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.



**Do you want an historical piece of literature from
OLO's archives – free, no charge?**

Your wait is over!

OLO's has released stored away copies of our "Catholic Community Hymnal" from GIA Publications. These copies were published in 2002 and were used in the parish before switching over to our Breaking Bread Hymnals. The Community Catholic Hymnals are hardbound copies and should last another 25 years or more --- a timeless classic.

If you would like a copy for your home, grab "one" after Mass. They are in excellent condition. The hymnals are located on a table in the gathering space.

70
YEARS
1956-2026DIOCESE of SPRINGFIELD-
CAPE GIRARDEAU

Diocesan Eucharistic Congress

On August 15, 2026, we will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the foundation of our diocese (Aug. 24, 1956) during our first-ever Diocesan Eucharistic Congress to be held in the West Plains Civic Center.

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON JULY 31

DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS IS FOUR WEEKS AWAY!

Over 2,500 have already registered. Visit the official Diocesan Eucharistic Congress Webpage to access the registration portal at

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

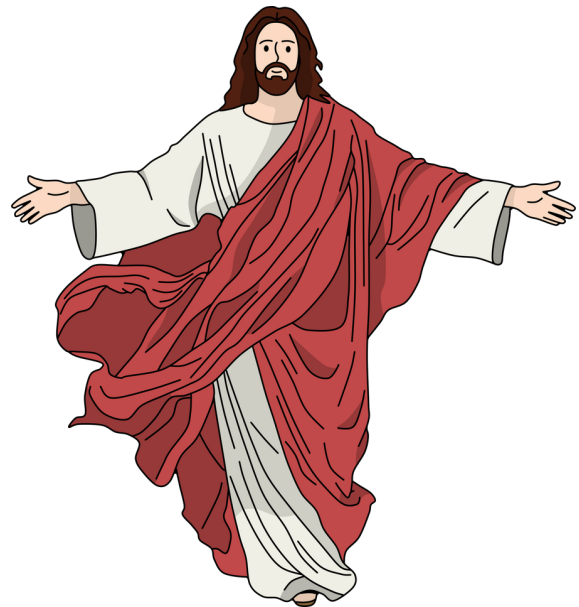
70 YEARS 1956-2026

DIOCESE of SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

Visit WWW.DIOSCG.ORG/DIOCESAN-EUCHARISTIC-CONGRESS or scan the QR CODE for more resources, including suggestions for the Year of Spiritual Preparation, updates to the Congress and to help promote the Congress!



Our Diocesan seminarians will be present at OLO this coming week, Monday – Wednesday, for their annual “before” back-to-seminaries annual gathering. This gathering returned to OLO two years ago on the recommendation of our Diocesan Vocation Director, Fr. Joseph Stoverink. Please keep them in your prayers. Feel free to join them for daily Mass on Tuesday at 10:45 am and Wednesday at 9:00 am.



SAVE THE DATE

Looking ahead toward the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Lake-area Mass schedule and the date for OLO's Annual Parish Feast Day Celebration.

The Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, August 15, falls on a Saturday this year, therefore not a Holy Day of Obligation but still a Holy Day we diligently observe. Because many of us will be in West Plans for the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress on August 15, Fr. J has instructed the parishes to celebrate the Holy Day with a Vigil Mass on Friday evening, August 14. Mass times are: 4 pm in Forsyth OLO), 5 pm in Kimberling City (OLC), and 6 pm in Branson (OLL).

Now, regarding the change in date for OLO's annual feast day celebration. Recently, we have been holding the parish celebration with a dinner and social after the Vigil Assumption Mass on August 14. Because of the Eucharistic Congress, the parish planning team as chosen to have this celebration on Sunday, August 30, after Mass with a Holy Brunch – more than your typical breakfast after Mass. Details are forthcoming but want to Save-the-Date on your calendar.

The Missouri Bishops, through the Missouri Catholic Conference, have issued a statement on Amendment 5, a ballot measure that would phase out the state's income tax and permit greater reliance on sales and use taxes. They urge voters to consider the moral principles that should guide their evaluation of the amendment.

The bishops emphasize that, "while the Church does not prescribe any particular tax model, she teaches that every system of taxation must serve the common good, be guided by justice and equity, and take into account each person's ability to contribute." They add that tax proposals should be judged by their impact on the poor and caution that systems relying heavily on regressive taxes, such as sales taxes, can place a disproportionate burden on lower-income households.

At the same time, they acknowledge that many supporters of Amendment 5 are motivated by a sincere desire to promote Missouri's long-term prosperity. The bishops encourage the faithful to discern the issue thoughtfully and urge elected officials "to ensure that the needs of the poor and vulnerable remain at the forefront of public policy "

To see the full article click or go to the link below

<https://mocatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/Statement-on-Amendment-5-Income-Tax-Elimination-and-Sales-Tax-Changes.pdf>



The St. Louis Review stated in a recent article that "Missouri's bishops are calling on the faithful to pray, fast and vote in support of Amendment 3 this November, saying the measure offers an opportunity to reinstate protections for unborn children and safeguards for women's health."

Jamie Morris, Executive Director and General Counsel of the Missouri Catholic Conference, stressed the need to educate voters through conversations with family and friends.

To see the full article click or go to the link below

<https://mocatholic.org/missouri-bishops-voice-support-for-amendment-3/>

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Parish Council of Catholic Women

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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.dioscg.org.

Then click on Report Abuse, and/or call the Director of Child and Youth Protection:
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