



## Open Door

MIGUEL DULICK

It is “Good Shepherd Sunday,” and the gospel quotes Jesus: “I am the gate for the sheep.” It seems the oddest of Jesus’ “I am” identities, until you realize that the shepherd himself was often the literal gate of the sheep’s pen, as he would lay his own body across the entrance to keep the sheep secure and safe from any predators. Actually, the predators that worry Jesus the most are other shepherds—“strangers” who came before him, all of whom Jesus flatly denounces as “thieves and robbers.”

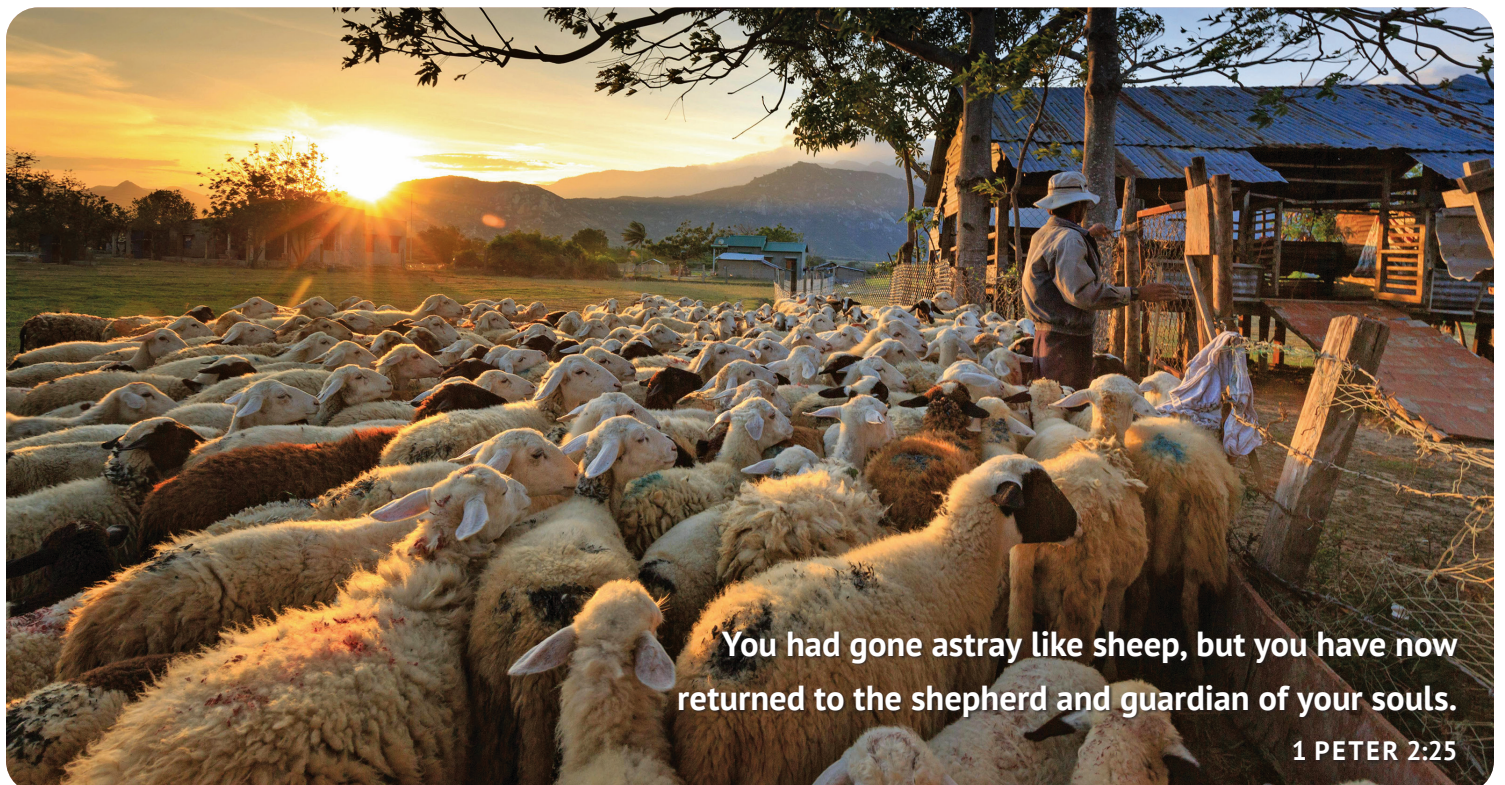
Does that scare us today? Are we vulnerable to attacks, even from those supposedly in charge of our care? When Jesus opens the gate, we go in and out through him, through Jesus, to find pasture. We follow

him because we recognize “his voice.” In the synodal Church that Pope Francis called us to, and to which we continue to be called by Pope Leo XIV, every voice is welcome and needed so that the Holy Spirit will fill the whole Church with truth.

Here in Honduras, where I live, folks with little education can offer profound witness to the love of God. It comes from their own intimacy with Jesus, recognizing his voice in their daily life. They are often the poor victims of widespread corruption, like “a thief [who] comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy.” Here in Honduras, we take refuge in Jesus, that we “might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). ●

### Reflect

***How can we recognize voices that speak the truth? How do we recognize Jesus’ voice?***



**You had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.**

**1 PETER 2:25**

**Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church**  
**1002 Convent Street Pocahontas, AR 72455**  
**Phone 870-892-3319 FAX 870-892-5199**  
**E-mail Address catholicillsecretary@gmail.com**

**Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church**  
**1415 Harb Street Corning AR 72422**  
**Mailing Address 800 Eleventh St**  
**Corning, AR 72422**

Pastor: Reverend Stephen Elser: 892-3319  
 Director of Religious Education: Monica Loyd 892-3319 catholicilldre@gmail.com  
 Parish Secretary: Christine Baltz 724-549-6324  
 St Joseph Secretary: Carol Selig 501-940-3506  
 School Principal: Rebecca Steimel 892-5639  
 School Secretary: Kim Hills 892-5639  
 Pastoral Council Chairperson: Allison Swann 870-219-9824  
 Pastoral Council Vice Chairperson: Jill Neely 501-658-6818  
 Adult Inquiry Class, OCIA: Jamey Sullinger 870-758-0246  
 Youth Minister: Dylan Clark 870-892-3319 catholicillym@gmail.com  
 Youth Ministry Core Team: Christie Yemma, Larry Weick, Rob & Michelle Olvey, Terri Jansen, Christina Thielemier  
 Lectors: Kathi Bergman 870-378-2081  
 Ushers: Joseph Difani & Doug Thielemier  
 Altar Servers: Tiffany Baltz: 870-810-2523  
 Catholic Outreach: Teresa Baltz 870-930-5700 & Rene' Tyler  
 Finance Committee Chairperson: Ben DeClerk 870-758-0546  
 Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight: Jeremy Stout: 810-2356  
 KC Website: pocahontaskofc.com  
 Hall rental email- PocahontasChristopherHall@gmail.com  
 A/V System: Joseph Jansen 870-202-9896  
 Gym rental: St Paul School 870-892-5639

**Mass Schedule**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Saturday April 25, 2026**

4:00 PM St Joseph Mass  
 Int: Parishioners  
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Herbert Throesch, d

**Sunday April 26, 2026**

8:00 AM St John Mass  
 Int: Delta Hausman, d;  
 Bob Wren, d  
 10:30 AM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Parishioners

**Monday April 27, 2026**

No Mass

**Tuesday April 28, 2026**

6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Dan Earsa, d

**Wednesday April 29, 2026**

No Mass

**Thursday April 30, 2026**

12:00 St John Mass  
 Int: Dr Albert Baltz, d; Glayds Zosso, d  
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Mike Creason, d

**Friday May 1, 2026**

9:00 AM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Robert Baltz, d

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Saturday May 2, 2026**

4:00 PM St Joseph Mass  
 Int: Parishioners  
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Henry Dust, d

**Sunday May 3, 2026**

8:00 AM St John Mass  
 Int: Edgar Throesch, d; Dick & Sarah Thielemier, d  
 10:30 AM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Parishioners



Text App to 55321 to download our parish app  
 1. download my Parish App  
 2. Select our Parish after opening



**Church Office Hours**

Monday – Friday- 8am -11:30 am; 12:30 pm- 4:30 pm  
 Closed on Holy Days of Obligation

If an emergency occurs requiring the sacramental ministry of a priest, please contact the parish office Monday – Friday. After hours or on week-ends, please contact Christine Baltz 724-549-6324.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** is offered Saturday 11 am-12 noon, Tuesday & Thursday 5-5:45 PM or most any reasonable time by request, (your identity need not be known). Come receive our Risen Lord's forgiveness & healing.

**Sacrament of Baptism** presupposes sufficient instruction & a desire on the part of the candidate/ parent to practice the faith. *Expectant parents please ask for the Church's blessing for a safe and healthy delivery.* Call the Church Office to schedule instructions & the service.

**Sacrament of Marriage** is a wonderful commitment of life & love, & involves much serious deliberation, prayer & planning. Engaged couples should contact the pastor at least SIX Months before setting a date.

**Sacrament of the Sick** is always encouraged for those who are seriously ill, elderly, or facing surgery. The Sacrament of Healing is available upon request. Family & friends are invited to attend & thus show their support, love, friendship, & Christian concern

**Bulletin announcement deadline is Wednesday, at noon**



The Catholic Diocese of Little Rock is committed to protecting children and young people. If you are aware of abuse or have been abused by Clerics, Church volunteers, or Church workers, please contact the State of Arkansas Hotline for Crimes against Children at 1-800-482-5964 and the Chancellor for Canonical Affairs, Deacon Matthew A. Glover, (501) 664-0340 ext. 361. For pastoral assistance please contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Little Rock: Laura Gottspomer at (501) 664-0340, ext. 425. Diocese of Little Rock, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.

**Sacristan Schedule**

May 2- Joan Gross May 3- Scott & Kim Hills  
 May 9- Alex Baltz May 10- Jeff Evers  
 May 16- Susan Meier May 17- Scott & Abby Tyler

Financial Report	
April 23, 2026	\$11,900.91
2026 year to date	\$132,695.46
Children's Collection	\$58.75
St Joseph, March 2026	\$1,910.00
DOLR	\$3,863.81
Food Bank, March 2026	\$1,084.56



**BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER**



Online Giving *with We Share*  
 Follow the link on the Church website to sign up.

**Church Cleaning Schedule** May 2- Susan Meier, Monica Loyd, Dayna Difani, JoAnn Guterman, Sherry Curran. **To volunteer to join a group & help maintain our church call the office or ask someone to join a group.**

### **Eucharistic Ministers/Altar Servers Schedule**

#### **6:00 PM Saturday May 2, 2026**

Host Ministers: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Cups: Pauletta Walker, Rose Hutsell

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Avery Durham, Valentina Nguyen

#### **10:30 AM Sunday May 3, 2026**

Host Ministers: Debbie Hibbard, Monica Loyd

Cups: Cyndy Busick, Jennifer Hibbard

Cups: Shelly James, Terri Jansen

Altar Servers: Mary Morgan, Kipton Jansen, Caroline Thielemier

#### **6:00 PM Saturday May 9, 2026**

Host Ministers: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Trish Thielemier, Kelly Throesch

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Dru & Evelyn Steimel

#### **10:30 AM Sunday May 10, 2026**

Host Ministers: Veronica Rose, Michelle Olvey

Cups: Brin Presley, Claire Garoutte

Cups: Jennifer Nichols, Jill Neely

Altar Servers: Owen Smith, Leo & Etta Clark

#### **6:00 PM Saturday May 16, 2026**

Host Ministers: Dc Puello, Maggie Baltz

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Cups: Pauletta Walker Susan Meier

Altar Servers: Aubrey Hogan, Reese Radcliff, Riles Johnson

#### **10:30 AM Sunday May 17, 2026**

Host Ministers: Cyndy Busick, Angie DeClerk

Cups: Abby Tyler, Rene' Tyler

Cups: Debbie Hibbard, Jennifer Hibbard

Altar Servers: Zoey Hibbard, Dru & Evelyn Steimel

### **The Knights of Columbus will be hosting their 9th Annual Shrimp Boil Saturday May 9th @ 5 PM, at St John's Hall.**

Please preorder by Wednesday May 6th so we can have a head-count on how much shrimp to buy. Proceeds this year will go toward playground updates. We will also be having a silent auction that evening if you have an item you'd like to donate, contact Jay Throesch 870-378-4211, Christina Helms 870-810-2103, or Jeremy Stout 870-810-2356 if you have any questions.

### **Nursing Home and Homebound Ministry: May**

Joan Gross, Jeanette Thielemier, Susan Meier

#### **May Ushers:**

**Saturday:** Joe Bergman, Bobby Meier, Kyle Sutton, Terry Throesch

**Sunday:** Travis DeClerk, James Presley

First Saturday devotions in honor of our Blessed Mother, May 2nd. Holy hour and confessions begin at 11:00 AM.

The Parish Food Bank is still collecting donations for our CYM Food Pantry. Please drop off any non-perishable food items at the church office during regular business hours. Thank you for your generosity and support of this important ministry.

Any adults interested in volunteering for VBS; please contact Jill Neely at 501-658-6818. VBS will be held July 26-29.

**Please join us for a good bye celebration honoring Jim & Shirley Lamb as they prepare for their next chapter.** We invite you to gather at the Parish Life Center on Sunday May 3, 2026 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Come and appreciate Jim & Shirley for their time with our community and send them off with blessings and good wishes.

Congratulations to Josey Nichols from St Paul, who was awarded third place in the Arkansas Catholic photo contest; April 11th issue for her photo, Monstrous taken at St Leo University Parish in Russellville AR. Congratulations Josey!

Anyone who still has the CRS Rice Bowls, please return them to the church office as soon as possible.

**Please pray for** Bishop Anthony Taylor, David Bassford, Debbie Junkersfeld, Jan Richardson, Ella Scobey, Tommy O'Donnell, Stephanie Garner, Dennis Blount, Les McPherson, Bridgette Kasinger, Gary Baltz, Jacquolyn Weick, Sheila Saala, Jessica Pfeffer, Mary Broadway, Jake Kasinger, Gail Pinion, Josh Nichols, Jo Ann Manis, Becky Catron, Tanya Flanigan Smith, Luke Steimel, Donna Baltz, Vivian Blackshear, Dave Weick, Mike Cook, Christina Smith, Dorothy Hoelscher, Tim Junkersfeld, Leonard Thielemier, Nekayah Thomas, Virginia Sacher, Brooke Junkersfeld, Joe T Carroll, Lane Clayton, Jo Vatsula, Richard Jenkins, Jim & Shirley Lamb, Steve Bodden, Blake Edwards, Dorothy Ward, Bonnie Schmidt, Elizabeth Smith, Margaret Weyer, Diane Kimble Ramsey, Fr. James Schaefer, Ronnie Risner, Larry Weick, Paige Catt, Kelly McCandless and Keith Broadway.

# Good News!

April 26, 2026  
Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 / 1 Peter 2:20b-25 / John 10:1-10

MIGUEL DULICK

It is “**Good Shepherd Sunday**,” and the gospel quotes Jesus: “I am the gate for the sheep.” It seems the oddest of Jesus’ “I am” identities, until you realize that the shepherd himself was often the literal gate of the sheep’s pen, as he would lay his own body across the entrance to keep the sheep secure and safe from any predators. Actually, the predators that worry Jesus the most are other shepherds—“strangers” who came before him, all of whom Jesus flatly denounces as “thieves and robbers.”

Does that scare us today? Are we vulnerable to attacks, even from those supposedly in charge of our care? When Jesus opens the gate, we go in and out through him, through Jesus, to find pasture. We follow him because we recognize “his voice.” In the synodal Church that Pope Francis called us to, and to which we continue to be called by Pope Leo XIV, every voice is welcome and needed so that the Holy Spirit will fill the whole Church with truth.

Here in Honduras, where I live, folks with little education can offer profound witness to the love of God. It comes from their own intimacy with Jesus, recognizing his voice in their daily life. They are often the poor victims of widespread corruption, like “a thief [who] comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy.” Here in Honduras, we take refuge in Jesus, that we “might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). ●

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## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

4650 Engelberg Road, Pocahontas, AR 72455



### Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Elser (501) 420-4531 [frstephenelser@gmail.com](mailto:frstephenelser@gmail.com)  
 Secretary: Jane Smith (870) 378-5052 [stjohns4650@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns4650@gmail.com)  
 Hall Rental: Jessica Stout (870) 378-0300 Rose Throesch (870) 378-6282  
 Cemetery: Johnathan Wren (870) 202-3727 Ben Throesch (870) 378-4567

*Parish Office Hours: Thursday 8:00AM-12:00 Noon, or by appointment*

### Mass Schedule

Saturday	11:00AM Confessions, St. Paul (Pocahontas) 3:30PM Confessions, St. Joseph (Corning) 4:00PM Mass, St. Joseph (Corning) 6:00PM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)
Sunday	7:30AM Confessions, St. John (Engelberg) 8:00AM Mass, St. John (Engelberg) 10:30AM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)
Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	5:00PM Confessions, St. Paul (Pocahontas) 6:00PM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)
Wednesday	9:00AM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (School Year) 12:00 Noon Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (Summer)
Thursday	8:00AM-12:00 Noon Adoration, St. John (Engelberg) 12:00 Noon Mass, St. John (Engelberg) 5:00PM Confessions, St. Paul (Pocahontas) 6:00PM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)
Friday	9:00AM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (School Year) 12:00 Noon Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (Summer)

# Dear Padre

April 26, 2026

**Should Christians avoid practicing qi gong or tai chi? Or even meditation in which you empty your mind? Thank you.**

This is one of those questions that has been debated for a long time. Social media offers many so-called experts with vastly different opinions. It can be very confusing, particularly if you are looking for a black-and-white answer, a yes or a no.

The pope who provides us with the most helpful direction to answer this question is Pope Benedict XVI. He did not forbid Eastern spiritual practices entirely but warned against their integration into Christian life without proper discernment. His perspective was rooted in a theological understanding that Christian spirituality is a unique path focused on a relationship with Christ. He emphasized that our Catholic spiritual tradition is distinct from the goals and methods of non-Christian traditions. He believed the practice of such non-Christian traditions, without preparation and without awareness of the challenge they present, could lead to spiritual error if not approached with caution and discernment.

So, the answer is nuanced. If you are using the practice as a spiritual practice, you should proceed with the utmost caution. If, on the other hand, you are using these practices for the more common physical or psychological—not spiritual—reasons, then it is permissible. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

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**Mass Intentions**

*April 18, 2026 – April 26, 2026*

<p><b><u>St. John</u></b>                  April 26: Bob Wren (d); Delta Hausman (d)                  Thur Apr 30: Albert Baltz (d); Glayds Zosso (d)                  May 3: Dick &amp; Sarah Thielemier (d); Edgar Throesch (d)</p> <p><b><u>St. Paul</u></b>                  Sat Apr 25: Herbert Throesch (d)                  Sun Apr 26: Parishioners                  Tues Apr 28: Dan Earsa (d)                  Wed Apr 29: NO MASS                  Thur Apr 30: Mike Creason (d)                  Fri May 1: Robert Baltz (d)                  Sat May 2: Henry Dust (d)                  Sun May 3: Parishioners</p>
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**Ministry Schedule**

	<b>April 26</b>	<b>May 3</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b>May 17</b>
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Jenniet Galvan Deb Martin Patty House Brenda Liebhaber	Jenniet Galvan Deb Martin Patty House Brenda Liebhaber	Jessica Stout Kelly Alphin Pat Wren Linda Elmore	Jessica Stout Kelly Alphin Pat Wren Linda Elmore
<b>Servers</b>	Lucy Throesch Caroline Stout Jaxon Steimel	Haley Stout Madeleine Throesch Isaac Throesch	Henry Taylor Perry Throesch Jaxon Steimel	Casyn Steimel Catarina Throesch Madison Throesch
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>April:</b> Sonny Throesch & Elaine Wallis <b>May:</b> Lori Steimel & Maria Taylor			
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>April:</b> Chuck Barnes & Danny Steimel <b>May:</b> Andrew Steimel & Steve Liebhaber			
<b>Money Counters</b>	<b>April:</b> Mike & Connie Kasinger, Crystal Blalock <b>May:</b> Jessica Stout, Joe & Lori Steimel			

**Weekly Financial Report**

<b>April 19, 2026</b>	Loose Cash	\$489.00	Checks & Envelopes: \$1055.00
	Hall Rental:	\$50.00	Memorials: \$80.00

**2026 PRIESTHOOD ORDINATION:** With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God and grateful for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Bishop Anthony B. Taylor will ordain five men to the priesthood at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 30, at Christ the King Catholic Church in Little Rock. They are Deacons Quinton Thomas, Duwan Booker, Joseph Minh Phong Nguyen, Tuan Do, and Christopher Elser.

- The night before, on Friday, May 29, a holy hour to pray for these men and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Christ the King.
- The first Mass for Fr. Quinton Thomas will be on Sunday, May 31 at 10:00 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church (Jonesboro).
- The first Mass for Fr. Christopher Elser will be on Sunday, May 31 at 10:00 a.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church (Little Rock).

**UPCOMING ORDINATION GIFT:** Deacon Christopher Elser will be ordained to the Priesthood on May 30, 2026. We would like for our parish to give him an ordination gift. If anyone would like to donate for this gift, please see Father or Jane. We have a card for everyone to sign. Please turn in your donation by the end of April.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** A heartfelt congratulations to our First Communicants, Luke Blalock and Jett Huddleston!

**POKER RUN:** The Ladies of Grace and Men’s Group will be hosting our annual Poker-run on Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. You are welcome to use your side-by-sides, four wheelers, trucks or any other transportation as we travel the gravel roads in the Engelberg area. More details to follow.

**SHRIMP BOIL:** The Knights of Columbus will be hosting their 9th annual Shrimp Boil Saturday May 9th at St. John's Hall. Please preorder by Wednesday May 6th so we can have a headcount on how much shrimp to buy. Proceeds this year will go towards playground updates. We will also be having a silent auction that evening if you have an item you’d like to donate. Contact Jay Throesch 378-4211, Christian Helms 810-2103, or Jeremy Stout 810-2356 if you have any questions.

**UNBORN MONUMENT BLESSING:** We will be blessing our new Unborn Monument on Mother’s Day, May 10<sup>th</sup> following 8:00AM Mass.

**DATES TO REMEMBER: Father Stephen Going Away Party:** Friday June 26<sup>th</sup>, more details to follow  
**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of current Church: Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>, Mass will be at 10:30AM with luncheon following.

**EUCHARIST ADORATION:** There is no greater profession of faith possible for a human being to make here on earth than during prayer before the Holy Eucharist; so we ask, why should prayer before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament be so powerful in obtaining miracles of conversion – is because it is prayer rising from faith in the cardinal mystery of Christianity. (Source: Eucharistic Adoration for Priests Blog) Please call 870-810-0612 for questions or more information.

**PRAY FOR:** All the sick that request our prayers, especially, Bishop Anthony Taylor, Father James Schaefer, Diane Kimble Ramsey, Caren Kiefer, Eric Thielemier, Hattie Martin, Dennis Weisenbach, Father Matthew Flatly (diocese of Jefferson City), Doris Flanigan, Bonny Schmidt, Marie Peters, Chelsea Martin, Mark Throesch, Pam Murphy, Bridgette Kasinger, Danny McCurdy, Paula Johnson, David Cissel, Owen Rowe, Dennis Burrow, Jake Kasinger, Dickie Flanigan, Sharon Thielemier (Patrick), Betty Baltz, Karen O’Gara, Earnie Durbin, and all those listed in our petition book. May God grant them healing.

# Dear Padre,

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So, the answer is nuanced. If you are using the practice as a spiritual practice, you should proceed with the utmost caution. If, on the other hand, you are using these practices for the more common physical or psychological—not spiritual—reasons, then it is permissible. ●

***Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org***



VLADA KARPOVICH / PEXELS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
April 27	April 28	April 29	April 30	May 1	May 2	May 3
<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>
Acts 11:1–18 Jn 10:11–18	Acts 11:19–26 Jn 10:22–30	Acts 12:24–13:5a Jn 12:44–50	Acts 13:13–25 Jn 13:16–20	Acts 13:26–33 Jn 14:1–6	Acts 13:44–52 Jn 14:7–14	Acts 6:1–7 1 Pt 2:4–9 Jn 14:1–12



MARCO IACOBucci EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK

## **A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV**

***Our faith is authentic when it embraces our whole life, when it becomes a criterion for our decisions, when it makes us women and men committed to doing what is right and who take risks out of love, even as Jesus did.... Jesus is the true measure of our faith; he is the gate through which we must pass in order to be saved.***

**ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 24, 2025**