



Then Jesus said to her in reply, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”

MATTHEW 15:28

Still Redeemable?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Not once, not twice, but three times in today’s gospel, Jesus dismisses the Canaanite woman who comes to him for help. First, he refuses to speak to her. Then, he says he has come only for “the lost sheep” of Israel. Finally, he compares her to a dog. In ancient Judaism, dogs were considered unclean animals, and to call someone a dog was a harsh insult. How does it feel to hear Jesus speak to a woman in this way? We must admit that it does not sound like the Jesus we know and love.

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“Faith in what?” one might ask. Perhaps faith that this relationship could still turn around. Faith that the antagonistic plotline of history between Jews and Canaanites could still change. Faith that Jesus could still be something other than a dismissive man. Faith that an ignored voice might still be worth hearing. Do we have the praiseworthy faith of the Canaanite woman? Do we still believe that troublesome interactions can yet be redeemed? ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

How strong is my faith? Strong enough to be persistent?

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 Samy: 870-892-3319

email: pastorpaul267@gmail.com

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: 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: Kyle Sutton 758-0737

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



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, Tues-
day & 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.

Mass Schedule

Solemnity of the Assumption **of the Blessed Virgin Mother** **Saturday August 15, 2026**

9:00 am St John Mass

Int: Margie Baltz, d; Mike
Thielemier, d; Dick & Sarah
Thielemier, d

4:00 pm St Joseph Mass

Int: Parishioners

6:00 pm St Paul Mass

Int: Ferd & Anna Sorg family

Sunday August 16, 2026

8:00 am St John Mass

Int: Pamela Galvan, d Lee Tay-
lor, d; Dcd members of Benny
& Anna Thielemier family

10:30 am St Paul Mass

Int: Parishioners

Monday August 17, 2026

No Mass

Tuesday August 18, 2026

6:00 pm St Paul Mass

Int: Dan Earsa, d

Wednesday August 19, 2026

9:00 am St Paul Mass

Int: Bob & Ann Meier, d

Thursday August 20, 2026

12:00 pm St John Mass

Int: Greg & Mary Thielemier, d;
Treva Throesch, d; L/D mem of Will
& Katie Thielemier family

6:00 pm St Paul Mass

Int: Justin Baltz, d

Friday August 21, 2026

9:00 am St Paul Mass

Int: Christina Smith, d

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary **Time Saturday August 22, 2026**

4:00 pm St Joseph Mass

Int: Parishioners

6:00 pm St Paul Mass

Int: Bob & Lil Gogan, d

Sunday August 23, 2026

8:00 am St John Mass

Int: Marie Peters, d; Rudy & Joseph
Hausman, d; Special Intentions

10:30 am St Paul Mass

Int: Parishioners

Sacristan Schedule

August 22- Alex Baltz August 23- Matt & Jennifer Hibbard
August 29- Susan Meier August 30- Scott & Abby Tyler
September 5- Nick DeClerk September 6- Jeff Evers

Financial Report	
August 13, 2026	\$8,252.03
2026 year to date	\$273,293.10
Children's Collection	N/A
St Joseph July 2026	\$2,289.00
DOLR July 2026	\$735.00
Food Bank, July 2026	\$866.32



On-line giving available through
Zeffy. Scan the QR code to begin.

Church Cleaning Schedule August 22- Susan Mei-
er, Monica Loyd, Dayna Difani, JoAnn Guterman. **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 August 22, 2026

Host Ministers: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Altar Servers: Leo & Etta Clark, Keegan Presley

10:30 am Sunday August 23, 2026

Host Ministers: Claire Garoutte, Cyndy Busick

Cups: Debbie Hibbard, Jill Neely

Cups: Jennifer Hibbard, Shelly James

Altar Servers: Owen Smith, Caroline Thielemier, Kogan Vaughn

6:00 pm Saturday August 29, 2026

Host Ministers: Susan Meier, Trish Thielemier

Cups: Rose Hutsell, Pauletta Walker

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Avery Seagraves, Valentina Nguyen

10:30 am Sunday August 30, 2026

Host Ministers: Monica Loyd, Michelle Olvey

Cups: Rene' Tyler, Veronica Rose

Cups: Jennifer Nichols, Brin Presley

Altar Servers: Austin James, Cash Cox, John Henry Garoutte

Ushers August:

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

Sunday: Joe Difani, Mike Higginbotham, Joe Tom Carol, Josh Neely, Brayden Tillie

Homebound and Nursing Home for August:

Cyndy Busick, Elaine Wallis, Brenda Liebhaber

Knight of the Month: Jeremy Stout

Family of the Month: Josh Neely family

With St Paul School beginning Monday August 17, **our weekday Mass schedule will return to the school-year schedule, Wednesdays 9 am; Fridays at 9 am.** Everyone is welcome to attend. Please keep our students, teachers & staff in your prayers as they begin a new school year. May God bless them with a safe, successful and faith-filled year!

It is that time of year "Registration for PRE" scan the Q-R code and it will take you to the form to register your children. PRE starts September 9th at 6pm.



Online giving through Zeffy is now available at St Paul. Online giving allow you to support St Paul with a one-time or recurring monthly gift using your phone, tablet or computer.

It's secure, convenient and helps our parish plan for ministries throughout the year. Visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/organizations/stpaul-the-apostle-catholic-church-pocahontas-ar> or scan the QR code to get started. *



Important information: remember when checking out at the end of the registration process, you'll see an option to add a contribution to help cover Zeffy's platform fees, you can choose to give or not to give that's your option. Please use the dropdown menu.

August 25-26 "American Martyr: The Stanley Rother Story" narrated by actor Martin Sheen, tells the story of the Oklahoma priest who gave his life for the flock he served in Guatemala. You can watch at 7 pm Aug 25-26 in English in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Conway, Cabot, Roger, Fort Smith, Fayetteville & Searcy Watch it Aug 27 in Spanish locations the same. The film is presented by the archdioceses of Oklahoma City. Buy your tickets now at <https://bit.ly/rotherdoc>. For more information visit www.rotherdoc.com.

St Paul & St John Co-ed Church Softball league will be starting soon. If you're a parishioners looking for a fun way to enjoy fellowship, meet others & have a great time, we'd love for you to join the team. **Please contact Kyle Sutton @ 870- 758-0737.**

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, Jessica Pfeffer, Mary Broadway, Jake Kasinger, Gail Pinion, Josh Nichols, Jo Ann Manis, Becky Catron, Tanya Flanigan Smith, Luke Steimel, Dave Weick, Donna Baltz, Vivian Blackshear, Tim Junkersfeld, Dorothy Hoelscher, Leonard Thielemier, Nekayah Thomas, Virginia Sacher, Brooke Junkersfeld, Lane Clayton, Jo Vatsula, Richard Jenkins, Blake Edwards, Dorothy Ward, Bonnie Schmidt, Diane Kimble Ramsey, Fr. James Schaefer, Samuel Thompson, Kelly McCandless, Roy Billeau, Paige Catt, Larry Weick, and Keith Broadway.

Good News!

August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 56:1, 6–7 / Romans 11:13–15, 29–32 / Matthew 15:21–28

ANN M. GARRIDO

Not once, not twice, but three times in today’s gospel, Jesus dismisses the Canaanite woman who comes to him for help. First, he refuses to speak to her. Then, he says he has come only for “the lost sheep” of Israel. Finally, he compares her to a dog. In ancient Judaism, dogs were considered unclean animals, and to call someone a dog was a harsh insult. How does it feel to hear Jesus speak to a woman in this way? We must admit that it does not sound like the Jesus we know and love.

With the trajectory of the encounter headed downhill (and picking up speed), it is hard to imagine that anything could be done at this point to change the outcome. If I were in her situation, I would have been so offended after the third dismissal that I would have simply slammed the door on the way out. But, remarkably, the story takes a 90-degree turn when the Canaanite woman enters into a verbal joust with Jesus and jolts him into taking her seriously. Very seriously. Jesus praises her for her faith.

“Faith in what?” one might ask. Perhaps faith that this relationship could still turn around. Faith that the antagonistic plotline of history between Jews and Canaanites could still change. Faith that Jesus could still be something other than a dismissive man. Faith that an ignored voice might still be worth hearing. Do we have the praiseworthy faith of the Canaanite woman? Do we still believe that troublesome interactions can yet be redeemed? ●

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Dear Padre

August 16, 2026

What does the Church teach about evolution?

In 1950, Pope Pius XII assured believers that there is no intrinsic opposition between Christianity and the theory of evolution, provided that God is affirmed as the Creator of all things and that the human soul is acknowledged a direct creation of God. (See *Humani Generis* [On the Human Person], 36.) In section 6 of his October 22, 1996, address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Pope St. John Paul II sanctioned the acceptance of evolution theories but added that the nature of the soul and its relationship to God are beyond the realm of science. Thus, the Catholic Church maintains that while evolution explains the development of life, it is God who initiated and guided the evolutionary process, and that our providential God is ultimately responsible for creating the human soul.

Many people find Darwin’s evolutionary theory (*On the Origin of Species*, 1859) hard to reconcile with their literal interpretation of the biblical account of origins in Genesis 1 and 2. But views on whether God created human beings in evolutionary stages that span millennia, or literally created human beings in an instant, can coexist for Catholics. Yet, regarding the latter view, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* discourages an overall literal interpretation of the Bible, encouraging readers instead to recognize its various literary genres. (See CCC 109–117.) Recall, too, that the Bible wasn’t written for scientific information, nor was Darwinian biology written for theological revelation. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

4650 Engelberg Road, Pocahontas, AR 72455



Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev Arokiasamy “Samy” Madhichettyirudayaraj (870) 892-3319
Secretary: Jane Smith (870) 378-5052 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)

Mass Intentions

August 15, 2026 – August 23, 2026

St. John Sun Aug 16: Pamela Galvan (d); Lee Taylor (d); Deceased members of the Benny & Anna Thielemier family Thur Aug 20: Greg & Mary Thielemier (d); Treva Throesch (d); Living & deceased members of the Will & Katie Thielemier family Sun Aug 23: Marie Peters (d); Rudy & Joseph Hausman (d); Special Intention
St. Paul Sat Aug 15: Ferd & Anna Sorg family (d) Sun Aug 16: Parishioners Tues Aug 18: Dan Earsa (d) Wed Aug 19: Bob & Ann Meier (d) Thur Aug 20: Justin Baltz (d) Fri Aug 21: Christina Smith (d) Sat Aug 22: Bob & Lil Gogan (d) Sun Aug 23: Parishioners

Ministry Schedule

	August 16	August 23	August 30	September 6
Eucharistic Ministers	Cathy Hausman Tina Sharp Jane Smith Stella Steimel	Cathy Hausman Tina Sharp Jane Smith Stella Steimel	Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Lori Steimel Joe Steimel	Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Lori Steimel Joe Steimel
Servers	Jaxon Kasinger Max Hoose Parker Liebhaber	Wade Zitzelberger Holden Zitzelberger Madison Throesch	Lucy Throesch Caroline Stout Jaxon Steimel	Haley Stout Madeleine Throesch Isaac Throesch
Lectors	August: David Blevins & Sonny Throesch September: Lori Steimel & Rebecca Steimel			
Ushers	August: Ben Throesch & Jim Bergman September: Mike Taylor & Sonny Throesch			
Money Counters	August: Jessica Stout, Joe & Lori Stemel September: Elaine Wallis, Richard & Ellen Thielemier			

Weekly Financial Report

August 9, 2026	Loose Cash	\$346.00	Checks & Envelopes: \$1520.00
	Food Bank:		\$352.00

PASTOR SPEAKS: Dear Church Community Members, I am very glad to greet you in the precious name of Jesus. I wish that you all had a refreshing and fruitful summer. It’s time for us to prepare the students for school. We are looking forward to a new school year, religious education for our children and faith engaged education for our youth. God has got many blessings for us in store as we begin the new study year. Let us not hesitate to pray for God’s blessings and seek for his wisdom. God’s word tells us, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”-Proverbs 9:10. As we turn to the first page of the book of the academic year, let us allow Christ to write stories of hard work and perseverance. As parents and teachers, let us shine the light of Christ wherever we are. Let us make use of the opportunities to teach, educate and inspire our students with Catholic faith and moral values. Together, let’s work for the harvest of maturity and building our future Church. May God bless all our efforts and plans and make them successful.

May God bless us and keep us. Pastor, Fr. Samy

PREPARING FOR 100TH ANNIVERSARY: In view of preparing for the 100th anniversary, we are power washing all 3 buildings in preparation for painting all areas in need of paint.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING: All new and experienced servers need to attend an Altar Server meeting Wednesday, August 19th at 7:00PM

CATHOLIC HOME MISSION APPEAL: Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities for their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous.

ST PAUL SCHOOL UPCOMING SCHEDULE: **Back to School pool Party** for St. Paul School Families – City waterpark 6:00-8:00PM; **Orientation** – August 11, 4:00-6:00PM; Pre-K and New Family @ 4:30PM and Kindergarten @ 5:30PM both in Cafeteria. Bring your supplies & meet your teachers; **First Day of School** – August 17, Parents, join us at the flagpole at 8:15 to pray for a safe school year for all students and staff at St. Paul.

100th ANNIVERSAY OF CURRENT CHURCH: On October 11th we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the dedication of our current Church. Mass that Sunday will be at 10:30AM with a reception following in the Parish Hall. Bishop Taylor will be here to celebrate, as well as other Priest that have served our Parish. We have been making plans for that very special day, but if anyone would like to offer any ideas, please contact a Parish Council member or Jane.

EUCHARIST ADORATION: The Eucharist is the source of all your spiritual and apostolic vitality; because with your attitude of adoration, you deepen in faith, hope and charity. In this way, you direct your whole life towards God, and, therefore towards the mystery of man and of concrete human history.” (St. John Paul II) Please call 870-810-0612 for questions or more information.

PRAY FOR: All the sick that request our prayers, especially, Bishop Anthony Taylor, Doris Flanigan, Samuel Thompson, Lisa (Baltz) Riggs, River Wood, Diane Kimble Ramsey, Caren Kiefer, Dennis Weisenbach, Bonny Schmidt, Pam Murphy, Bridgette Kasinger, Danny McCurdy, Paula Johnson, David Cissel, Owen Rowe, Jake Kasinger, Sharon Thielemier (Patrick), Karen O’Gara, and all those listed in our petition book. May God grant them healing.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Welcoming Party **POTLUCK**

FOR OUR NEW PRIEST

Father Samy!

Let's give Father Samy a warm welcome and show
our gratitude as he begins this new chapter
with our parish family.



**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 23**



**AFTER THE
10:30 MASS**



BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE

Dear Padre,

What does the Church teach about evolution?

In 1950, Pope Pius XII assured believers that there is no intrinsic opposition between Christianity and the theory of evolution, provided that God is affirmed as the Creator of all things and that the human soul is acknowledged a direct creation of God. (See *Humani Generis* [On the Human Person], 36.) In section 6 of his October 22, 1996, address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Pope St. John Paul II sanctioned the acceptance of evolution theories but added that the nature of the soul and its relationship to God are beyond the realm of science. Thus, the Catholic Church maintains that while evolution explains the development of life, it is God who initiated and guided the evolutionary process, and that our providential God is ultimately responsible for creating the human soul.

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JULUSKIELATIS / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 17	August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church	St. Pius X, Pope	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 24:15–23	Ez 28:1–10	Ez 34:1–11	Ez 36:23–28	Ez 37:1–14	Ez 43:1–7ab	Is 22:19–23
Mt 19:16–22	Mt 19:23–30	Mt 20:1–16	Mt 22:1–14	Mt 22:34–40	Mt 23:1–12	Rom 11:33–36
						Mt 16:13–20

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

[T]he pain that moves us to compassion is not the pain of a stranger; it is the pain of a member of our own Body, to whom Christ our Head commands us attend, for the good of all. In this sense, our service is identified with Christ’s own suffering and, when offered in a Christian spirit, hastens the fulfillment of the Savior’s prayer for the unity of all.

MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

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RUDIERNST / SHUTTERSTOCK