



Who Do You Say That I Am?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” An easy answer if you just report what other people say and what you have heard. No commitment. No revelation. No risk. But it all changes when the question is more to the point: “Who do *you* say that I am?” Tell me what you know, not what you heard. The silence is almost deafening. Vulnerability, not just anonymous reporting, is required in the asked-for response. No surprise—it is Peter who answers. Never one to hide his emotions or edit his thoughts, it is Peter who reveals what he knows, perhaps even what he is unsure of, perhaps the truth that he only hopes for but has not yet declared. “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Jesus responds with a prayer of blessing; the apostles, on the other hand, remain silent. Although we are very familiar with Peter’s assent of faith, his declaration was almost unheard-of or unexpected from a first-century Jewish man. It was dangerous to identify someone as Messiah. It was blasphemous to



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COMMUNITY

name someone as the Son of the Living God. Yet, in faith and humility, Peter made the declaration and, in the naming, entrusted his life, his hope, and all that he believed firmly into the hands of Jesus. This was no simple act. This was no ordinary day. ●

Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the
Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”

MATTHEW 16:16



Reflect

How would you answer if Jesus asked you, “Who do you say that I am?” (He is asking you!)

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

catholicillm@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, 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 Gottsponer at (501) 664-0340, ext. 425. Diocese of Little Rock, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.

Mass Schedule

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

Monday August 24, 2026

No Mass

Tuesday August 25 2026

6:00 pm St Paul Mass

Int: Christina Smith, d

Wednesday August 26, 2026

9:00 am St Paul Mass

Int: Justin Baltz, d

Thursday August 27, 2026

12:00 pm St John Mass

Int: Jerry Pfeffer, d; Wilma Wren, d;

L/D members Carl & Emma

Throesch family

6:00 pm St Paul Mass

Int: Dennis Holt, d

Friday August 28, 2026

9:00 am St Paul Mass

Int: Shirley Sorg, d

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time August 30, 2026

4:00 pm St Joseph Mass

Int: Parishioners

6:00 pm St Paul Mass

Int: Stuart Worthingham, d

Sunday August 31, 2026

8:00 am St John Mass

Int: Margie Baltz, d; Bob Wren, d

Mike Thielemier, d;

10:30 am St Paul Mass

Int: Parishioners

Sacristan Schedule

August 29- Susan Meier August 30- Scott & Abby Tyler
September 5- Nick DeClerk September 6- Jeff Evers
September 12- Alex Baltz September 13- Josh & Jill Neely

Financial Report	
August 20, 2026	\$7,505.53
2026 year to date	\$280,798.63
Children's Collection	\$167.00
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, Rose Hut-sell, Debbie Hibbard, Debbie & Paula Schaechtel, Cathy Eversole. To volunteer to join a group & help maintain our church call the office or ask someone to join a group.

LADIES! Do you want to grow into the Women God created you to be? Register today for the October 9th-10th retreat here at St Paul Parish Life Center. \$25 includes materials, Saturday lunch and snacks included. Follow this link or contact Allison Swann at 870-219-9825 or Rene' Tyler 870-378-0781.



Eucharistic Ministers/Altar Servers Schedule

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

6:00 pm Saturday September 5, 2026

Host Ministers: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Cups: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Altar servers: Jake Baltz, Keegan Presley, Valentina Nguyen

10:30 am Sunday September 6, 2026

Host Ministers: Angie DeClerk, Terri Jansen

Cups: Jill Neely, Veronica Rose

Cups: Rene' Tyler, Abby Tyler

Altar servers: Owen Smith, Aven Thielemier, Caroline Thielemier

6:00 pm Saturday September 12, 2026

Host Ministers: Susan Meier, Paige Radcliff

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Cups: Shea Niswonger, Pauletta Walker

Alter servers: Abel Johnson, Peyton & Reese Radcliff

10:30 am Sunday September 13, 2026

Host Ministers: Cyndy Busick, Shelly James

Cups: Claire Garoutte, Monica Loyd

Cups: Debbie Hibbard, Jennifer Hibbard

Altar servers: Zoey Hibbard, Dru & Evelyn Steimel

Nursing Home & Homebound September: Debbie Hibbard, Judith Meier, Veronica Rose

OCIA- Class begins September 13, 2026 @ 9:00 am in the Parish Life center.

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.**

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.



Please pray for: Bishop Anthony Taylor, Kogan Vaughn. *We are updating our parish prayer list. If you would like to have a loved one added to the prayer list, please call the church office. To help keep our prayer list current, names will remain on the list for 30 days. If continued prayers are needed after that time, please contact the office to have the name remain on the list. Thank you for helping us keep our prayer list update, and please continue to keep all those in need of prayer in your prayers.

Good News!

August 23, 2026
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 22:19–23 / Romans 11:33–36 / Matthew 16:13–20

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Jesus responds with a prayer of blessing; the apostles, on the other hand, remain silent. Although we are very familiar with Peter’s assent of faith, his declaration was almost unheard-of or unexpected from a first-century Jewish man. It was dangerous to identify someone as Messiah. It was blasphemous to name someone as the Son of the Living God. Yet, in faith and humility, Peter made the declaration and, in the naming, entrusted his life, his hope, and all that he believed firmly into the hands of Jesus. This was no simple act. This was no ordinary day. ●

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Dear Padre

August 23, 2026

Can a non-Catholic serve and hold an office in a Catholic parish organization?

According to their knowledge, competence, and position, the Christian faithful have an obligation to assist in the necessary works of the Church and promote the common good of the parish—its worship, its apostolic mission, its charities, the care of its ministers, and its care of the poor. (See Code of Canon Law, 222.) In general, canon law and most diocesan regulations stipulate that members of primary decision-making entities must be active, registered Catholics who participate in the sacramental life of the Church. For example, members of a pastoral council must be “in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL 512 §1). However, non-Catholics—such as spouses of parishioners or experts in their fields (e.g., finance, law, architecture)—are sometimes invited to lend their skills by serving on advisory boards and committees or in other support roles that are usually in a non-voting capacity. In all cases, the pastor or bishop has the discretion to involve non-Catholics in specific initiatives. For instance, a bishop “can invite as observers to the diocesan synod other ministers or members of churches or ecclesial communities which are not in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL, 463 §3). A non-Catholic interested in serving should consult the local priest about available opportunities, based on the norms of a diocese. ●

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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 22, 2026 – August 30, 2026

St. John Sun Aug 23: Marie Peters (d); Rudy & Joseph Hausman (d); Special Intention Thur Aug 27: Jerry Pfeffer (d); Wilma Wren (d); Living & deceased members of the Carl & Emma Throesch family Sun Aug 30: Marge Baltz (d); Mike Thielemier (d); Bob Wren (d)
St. Paul Sat Aug 22: Bob & Lil Gogan (d) Sun Aug 23: Parishioners Tues Aug 25: Christina Smith (d) Wed Aug 26: Justin Baltz (d) Thur Aug 27: Dennis Holt (d) Fri Aug 28: Shirley Sorg (d) Sat Aug 29: Stuart Worthingham (d) Sun Aug 30: Parishioners

Ministry Schedule

	August 23	August 30	September 6	September 13
Eucharistic Ministers	Cathy Hausman Tina Sharp Jane Smith Stella Steimel	Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Lori Steimel Joe Steimel	Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Lori Steimel Joe Steimel	Becky Brown Vernon Hausman Candace Steimel Pam Durbin
Servers	Wade Zitzelberger Holden Zitzelberger Madison Throesch	Lucy Throesch Caroline Stout Jaxon Steimel	Haley Stout Madeleine Throesch Isaac Throesch	Caroline Stout Parker Liebhaber Jaxon Steimel
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 16, 2026 Loose Cash \$425.00 Checks & Envelopes: \$1525.00
Assumption \$120.00 BRAD: \$10.00 Catholic Home Missions: \$218.00

CLEAN UP DAYS: To prepare the grounds and hall for our 100th Anniversary, we will be having work days on September 12 and 26th. We will start at 9:00AM or feel free to come earlier. We plan on doing a deep cleaning in the hall and work will be done on all flower beds. Bring any tools that you think can be used.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: As we prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our beautiful church, we want this special milestone to be a celebration worthy of the generations who have worshiped, served, and sacrificed here over the past century. A second collection will be taken up August 30 and September 6 to help with expenses associated with our 100th Anniversary Celebration, including church beautification and décor, celebration and meal expenses, and other preparations for this special occasion. Your generosity will help us honor the past, celebrate the present, and prepare our church to welcome parishioners, former parishioners, family, friends and special guests as we commemorate 100 years of faith and community. Thank you for helping make this once-in-a-century celebration a beautiful and memorable one for our parish! If neither of these dates work for you, please just drop an envelope marked Anniversary, or turn into office.

100th ANNIVERSARY 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.

THANK YOU: The family of Marie Peters would like to thank everyone for the prayers, the meal, and masses said in her honor. Thank you to Father Samy for providing such a lovely service and the choir and Johnathan for the beautiful music. Mother loved you all and we are very grateful to everyone for showing her love these many years.

The Marie Peters family

THANK YOU: The family of Dickie Flanigan would like to express their appreciation for all the prayers and support for Dickie during his illness and death. A special thank you to Father Samy, and those who came to say their farewells. We deeply appreciate the meal provided to us by the Good Neighbor committee. Please continue to keep Doris in your prayers.

The Dickie Flanigan family

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH: Jeremy Stout
FAMILY OF THE MONTH: Josh Neely Family

EUCARIST 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, Kogan Vaughn, 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.

Dear Padre,

Can a non-Catholic serve and hold an office in a Catholic parish organization?

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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, “Samaritan” spirit—one that is welcoming, courageous, committed, and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ. Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly, or afflicted.

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

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

August 24
St. Bartholomew,
Apostle
Rv 21:9b–14
Jn 1:45–51

Tuesday

August 25
Weekday
2 Thes 2:1–3a, 14–17
Mt 23:23–26

Wednesday

August 26
Weekday
2 Thes 3:6–10, 16–18
Mt 23:27–32

Thursday

August 27
St. Monica
1 Cor 1:1–9
Mt 24:42–51

Friday

August 28
St. Augustine, Bishop
and Doctor of the
Church
1 Cor 1:17–25
Mt 25:1–13

Saturday

August 29
The Passion of St.
John the Baptist
1 Cor 1:26–31
Mk 6:17–29

Sunday

August 30
Twenty-second
Sunday in Ordinary
Time
Jer 20:7–9
Rom 12:1–2
Mt 16:21–27