



Will You Notice the Shoot?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: "The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low" (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the "mighty" who make great noise when they fall. "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees," echoes John the Baptist in today's gospel. If we are looking



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR ANN
M. GARRIDO

for where God's Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●

Reflect

Are my eyes open to the small signs of God's work in the world, or am I too distracted to notice?



**A shoot shall sprout from
the stump of Jesse, and
from his roots a bud shall
blossom.**

ISAIAH 11:1

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: Karen Liebhaber 897-0698
 Pastoral Council Vice Chairperson: Allison Swann 219-9824
 Adult Inquiry Class, OCIA: Jamey Sullinger-758-0246
 Youth Minister: Dylan Clark 892-3319
 catholicillym@gmail.com
 Youth Ministry Core Team: Christie Yemma, Larry Weick,
 Rob & Michelle Olvey, Terri Jansen, Christina Thielemier
 Lectors: Kathi Bergman 378-2081
 Ushers: Joseph Difani & Doug Thielemier
 Altar Servers: Tiffany Baltz: 810-2523
 Catholic Outreach: Teresa Baltz 930-5700
 Finance Committee Chairperson: Ben DeClerk 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 892-5639

Mass Schedule

Second Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 6, 2025

4:00 PM St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Henry Dust, d & Deceased
 members of the Holt & Junkersfeld
 families

Sunday December 7, 2025

8:00 AM St John Mass
 Int: Johnathan Cagle, d & Living
 & deceased members of Frank &
 Josephine Thielemier family
 10:30 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Parishioners

Monday December 8

9:00 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Jim Adkins, d All previous St
 Paul Nuns
 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 PM St John Mass
 Int: Loretta Layton, d & Living &
 deceased mem. George & Dolores
 Thielemier family

Tuesday December 9, 2025

6 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Dr Albert Baltz, d Amy Prichard, d

Wednesday December 10, 2025

9:00 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Kevin Wolf Jr, d Ronnie Rose, d

Thursday, December 11, 2025

No Mass

Friday, December 12, 2025

9:00 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Joann Jansen Pfeiffer, d & Ashley
 Ruiz Espinosa, d
 5:00 PM St John Mass
 Int: Bonnie Schmidt healing, Living
 & deceased members of Will & Kate
 Thielemier family

Third Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 13, 2025

4:00 PM St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Bob & Lil Gogan, d & Josephine
 Jansen, d

Sunday December 14, 2025

8:00 AM St John Mass
 Int: Paul & Jeff Leister, d & Betty
 Steimel, 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, 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.

Sacristan Schedule

December 13- Susan Meier December 14- Scott & Abby Tyler
 December 20- Alex Baltz December 21- Matt & Jennifer Hibbard
 December 24- 4pm-Scott & Kim Hills Midnight Mass- Alex Baltz

Financial Report	
December 4, 2025	\$8,369.10
2025 year to date	\$415,497.51
Children's Collection	\$120.00
St Joseph, September	\$2,446.00
DOLR	\$1,149.00
Food Bank, November	\$1275.00



**BECAUSE VIBRANT
 CHURCHES MATTER**

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



**Church Cleaning Schedule Dec 14- Rose Hutsell, Carolyn
 Luter, Debbie Hibbard, Jennifer Nichols. 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 December 13, 2025

Host Ministers: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Cups: Rose Hutsell, Kelly Throesch

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Aubrey Hogan, Valentina Nguyen

10:30 AM Sunday December 14, 2025

Host Ministers: Jennifer Hibbard, Debbie Hibbard

Cups: Michelle Olvey, Abby Tyler

Cups: Kim Hills, Jill Neely

Altar Servers: Cash Cox, Dru & Evelyn Steimel

6:00 PM Saturday December 20, 2025

Host Ministers: Dc. Tate & Maggie Baltz

Cups: Susan Meier, Paige Radcliff

Cups: Tom & Chris Baltz

Altar Servers: Abel & Riles Johnson, Keegan Presley

10:30 AM Sunday December 21, 2025

Host Ministers: Dc Tate, Monica Loyd

Cups: Shelly James , Terri Jansen

Cups: Leroy & Jennifer Nichols

Altar Servers: Leo & Etta Clark, Austin James

Church photo directory: We will have 2 more dates for those of you who would like your family photos added to the directory. **Dec 19th 2pm-8:20pm & Dec 20th 10am-3:45pm @ the Parish Life Center,** please contact Kelly Steimel @ 870-758-5106.

The Bazaar concession donations for Bingo night, which will be held on Dec 13th after the 6 pm Mass can be dropped off at the Church office on Friday Dec 12th. The cake walk donations need to be returned back under the tree, or to Parish Life Center on Dec. 14th.

Ushers for December:

Saturday: Roberta Wayman, Joey Radcliff

Sunday: Joe Difani, Mike Higginbotham, Joe T Carroll, Josh Neely, Brayden Tillie

Knights of Columbus: Next meeting 12/10 @ 8pm

The Lecture schedule for 2026 is currently being developed. If you are interested in being a lecture, please contact Kathi Bergman at 870-378-2081

Special Collection next weekend Dec 13th, 14th

National Collection for Retired Religious.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary December 8, 2025

9 AM St Paul School Mass

4:00 PM St Joesph Mass

6 PM St John Mass

Angel tree donations can be returned to the church by Next Sunday Dec 14th. Please attach the angel to your gift when returning. Also this year, there will be a drop off location at the Bazaar as well as a box for monetary donations to go towards angel family in need. We are helping 5 families have a blessed Christmas this year. Thanks and blessings to everyone who is participating.

Time to sign up for our next Women's Walking with Purpose Bible Study. This 6 weeks study is "Rooted and Radiant". Books will be \$25. Classes will begin January 4th at 5pm in the Parish Life Center. Please order your books before December 12th by contacting Teresa Baltz at 870-930-5700 or call the church office.

The Annual Christmas Bazaar Dec 14th & Silent Auction (now open).

If you have an item or a service you would like to donate for the silent auction, please contact: Susan Meier, Angie Gallaher, Mallory

 Steimel, or Jo Ann Guterman. Here is the QR-code for access to St Paul School Christmas Bazaar Silent Auction.

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, Pam Flanigan, Becky Catron, Tanya Flanigan Smith, Luke Steimel, Donna Baltz, Vivian Blackshear, Dave Weick, Mike Cook, Christina Smith, Dorothy Hoelscher, Tim Junkersfeld, Arkie DeClerk, Leonard Thielemier, Nekayah Thomas, Virginia Sacher, Brooke Junkersfeld, Joe T Carroll, Lane Clayton, Jo Vatsula, Gladys Zosso, Richard Jenkins, James Lamb, Steve Boddin, Linda Davenport, Dorthy Ward, and Keith Broadway.

Good News!

December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 11:1-10 / Romans 15:4-9 / Matthew 3:1-12

ANN M. GARRIDO

Today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: "The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low" (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the "mighty" who make great noise when they fall. "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees," echoes John the Baptist in today's gospel. If we are looking for where God's Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●

© 2025 Liguori Publications. Imprimi Petest: Fr. Kevin Zabel, CSSR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from The New American Bible, Revised Edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

4650 Engelberg Road, Pocahontas, AR 72455



Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Elser (501) 420-4531 frstephenelser@gmail.com
 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)

Dear Padre

December 7, 2025

Do non-Catholics go to heaven?

Yes, they do, because of the grace of God at work in his people. To suggest otherwise would seem to imply that Catholics somehow have a "golden ticket," or some kind of right that simply does not exist.

The Incarnation of Jesus healed the division between heaven and earth, a division established by the "sin of Adam" and confirmed by our own lives of sin. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, all has been restored to the manner that the Father first envisioned through his Creation. The division was between humanity and divinity, not between religious practices and divinity. Catholics believe and celebrate that God accepts all people of a good heart and a good spirit. God is not blinded by the labels that sometimes blind his people to the bigger reality.

When Catholics, or people of any religion, proclaim exclusivity and specialness, particularly when it concerns eternal life, all people should be very cautious about what they assume. To assume a certain type of arrogance—to yourself and to your belief and life of faith—that excludes others or separates another as "not one of us" simply has no place in the kingdom of God. ●

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

© 2025 Liguori Publications. Imprimi Petest: Fr. Kevin Zabel, CSSR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from The New American Bible, Revised Edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

Mass Intentions

December 6, 2025 – December 14, 2025

<p><u>St. John</u> Sun Dec 7: Jonathan Cagle (d); L & D members of the Frank & Josephine Thielemier family Monday Dec 8, 6PM: Loretta Layton (d); L & D members of George & Dolores Thielemier family Friday Dec 12, 5PM: Bonny Schmidt (healing); L & D members of Will & Katie Thielemier family Sun Dec 14: Paul & Jeff Leister (d); Betty Steimel (d)</p> <p><u>St. Paul</u> Sat Dec 6: Henry Dust (d); Deceased members of the Holt & Junkersfeld families Sun Dec 7: For the Parishioners Mon Dec 8, 9AM: Jim Adkins (d); All previous St. Paul Nuns Tues Dec 9: Dr. Albert Baltz (d); Amy Prichard (d) Wed Dec 10: Kevin Wolf Jr (d); Ronnie Rose (d) Thur Dec 11: NO MASS Fri Dec 12: Joann Jansen Pfeffer (d); Ashley Baltz Espinosa (d) Sat Dec 13: Bob & Lil Gogan (d); Josephine Jansen (d) Sun Dec 14: For the Parishioners</p>

Ministry Schedule

	December 7th	December 14th	December 21st	December 28th
Eucharistic Ministers	Cathy Hausman Tina Sharp Jane Smith Rebecca Steimel	Cathy Hausman Tina Sharp Jane Smith Rebecca Steimel	Stella Steimel Lori Steimel Joe Steimel Becky Brown	Stella Steimel Lori Steimel Joe Steimel Becky Brown
Servers	Isaac Throesch Catarina Throesch Henry Taylor	Perry Throesch Caroline Stout Haley Stout	Jaxon Kasinger Madeleine Throesch Max Hoose	Lucy Throesch Caroline Stout Jaxon Steimel
Lectors	December: Jessica Stout & Amy McKenzie January: David Blevins & Brenda Liebhaber			
Ushers	December: Joe Steimel & Dwayne Capps January: Dwayne Hausman & Don Liebhaber			
Money Counters	December: Bonnie Schmidt, Don & Brenda Liebhaber January: Richard & Ellen Thielemier, Elaine Wallis			

Weekly Financial Report

November 30, 2025 Loose Cash: \$508.00 Checks & Envelopes: \$1845.00
 Hall Rental: \$100.00

NATIONAL RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS: This special collection is taken up in all parishes nationwide. Thousands of elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests have spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, parishes and agencies — often for little pay. Their sacrifices leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide prescription medications, nursing care and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime. This collection will be taken up Sunday December 7th.

FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation and Mass will be December 8th at 6:00PM. **Servers** are Jaxon Steimel, Madison Throesch, & Henry Taylor. There will be a 9:00 AM at St. Paul and 4:00PM at St. Joseph

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY: Our annual children’s Christmas party will be Tuesday, December 9th at our parish hall. Pizza and games begin at 6:00 and Santa will arrive at 6:30. Please bring a present for Santa to give to your child.

ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY: Come and enjoy a night of fun with our parish family on Friday December 12th. **There will be a 5PM Mass**, then happy hour will begin at 5:30PM with the meal at 6:30PM. Church will provide the meat, please bring a side dish or dessert. Stay and play games; if you would like to participate in our version of dirty Santa, bring a wrapped \$10 gift.

ST JOHN’S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT: You won’t want to miss this event. It will be Friday, December 19th starting at 6:00PM. There will be a reception following in the parish hall. If you can bring cookies or a snack, please contact Jane at 870-378-5052.

ST PAUL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: December 13th, Bingo night and chili supper at 7:15PM in Parish life center, December 14th 11:30 – 1:30, meal and regular events. Live auction is now open through Dec. 14th.

EUCHARIST ADORATION: It seems that adoration chapels draw people closer to God, deeper into the spiritual life and provides something people desperately need at this time ... a place set apart for people to experience God in the silence they so desperately need (Matthew Kelly)
 Please call 870-810-0612 for questions or more information.

PRAY FOR: All the sick that request our prayers, especially, Bishop Anthony Taylor, Dennis Weisenbach, Mike Thielemier, Father Matthew Flatly (diocese of Jefferson City), Doris Flanigan, Bonny Schmidt, Marie Peters, Chelsea Martin, Mark Throesch, Johnathan Wren, Pam Murphy, Bob Wren, Treva Throesch, Bridgette Kasinger, Danny McCurdy, Paula Johnson, David Cissel, Owen Rowe, Dennis Burrow, Jake Kasinger, Evan Hargett, Dickie Flanigan, Sharon Thielemier (Patrick), Betty Baltz, Kathy Adkins, Karen O’Gara, Julie Session (Deacon Papini’s Daughter), Earnie Durbin, Gladys Zosso, and all those listed in our petition book. May God grant them healing.

St. Paul's Catholic School is proud to present: "All Aboard for the Love of Jesus!"

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 13th:

- Miss Merry Christmas Pageant - 10am
- Santa's Express (our children's event for ages 3-12) 6:30pm - 9:30pm - drop off and pick up in the School Cafeteria
- pizza, snacks, and lots of fun!
- \$35 per child
- Bingo night - 7:15pm - in the Parish Life Center
- bingo card - \$5
- concessions will be available for purchase!

Sunday, December 14th, 11:30-1:30

- BBQ Lunch - \$8 for kids and \$12 for adults; to go plates will be available for purchase
- Silent online auction, with assistance available during the event to make bids
- Booths, including our candy booth, religious booth, kids gift shop, and more!
- Kids drop ticket event
- Raffles
- Cake Walk
- Pictures with Santa

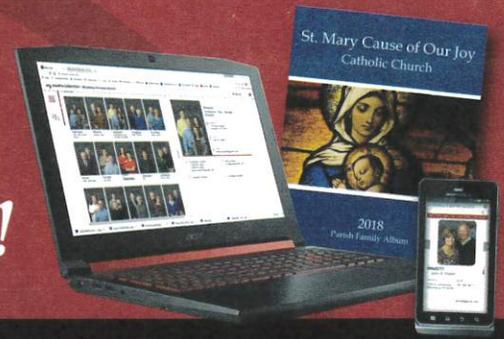
This is our largest fundraiser of the year, and we hope to see our incredible community and Church Family join us for a weekend of fun and fellowship!



St Paul the Apostle Committee Groups**Don't hesitate to get in touch with a committee chairperson to join a group.**

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE Plans and hosts parish potlucks, receptions, Golden Agers party	Jeanette Thielemier	870-378-5557
CHURCH CLEANING A group of 5 m/l cleans the church weekly.	JoAnn Guterman	501-266-0164
ADORATION Can sign up for an hour weekly or as a substitute. Can visit anytime during Adoration hours.	Joan Gross	870-810-0612
GOOD NEIGHBOR COMMITTEE Organizes meals for families after funerals; can help with calling members to bring food or help at the meals.	Patty Throesch	870-378-2630
CHURCH USHERS Takes up collections, hands out bulletins,	Joe Difani Doug Thielemier	870-378-5111 870-378-2267
PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Teaching children not attending St. Paul School the faith. Includes grades 1-12. Teachers & subs always needed.	Monica Loyd	870-892-3319
YOUTH MINISTRY Provides faith growth for our teens through activities at parish & diocesan events	Dylan Clark	870-892-3319
CATHOLIC OUTREACH Organizes faith studies for the Parish	Teresa Baltz	870-930-5700
A/V SYSTEM Operates A/V system from the Choir loft for 10:30 Mass	Joseph Jansen	870-202-9896
CONFIRMATION Prepares the youth of confirmation age for the sacrament	Joseph Jansen	870-202-9896
LECTORS Reading and announcements at Mass	Kathi Bergman	870-378-2081
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Active men's group - provides support activities for both parishes	Jeremy Stout	870-810-2356
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS With training, assists in distributing Holy Communion during Mass or to the homebound & nursing homes.	Church Office	870-378-3319
ALTAR SERVERS Youth are trained to assist the priests during Mass	Tiffany Baltz	870-810-2523
SACRISTANS Trained to set up and assist (as needed) for Mass	Need someone to take over	
OCIA Faith formation for those wanting to join the Church	Jamey Sullinger	870-758-0246
Choir Saturday evening, Funerals, Easter Vigil and Midnight Mass	Catherine Jarrett	870-810-7349

Dear Church family, It's time for a New Directory!



*Celebrating faith.
Connecting families.
Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families, and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below. If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!

*Gathering families,
Connecting generations.*



Online Scheduling Available!

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter ar166 in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. **Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.**

Dear Padre,

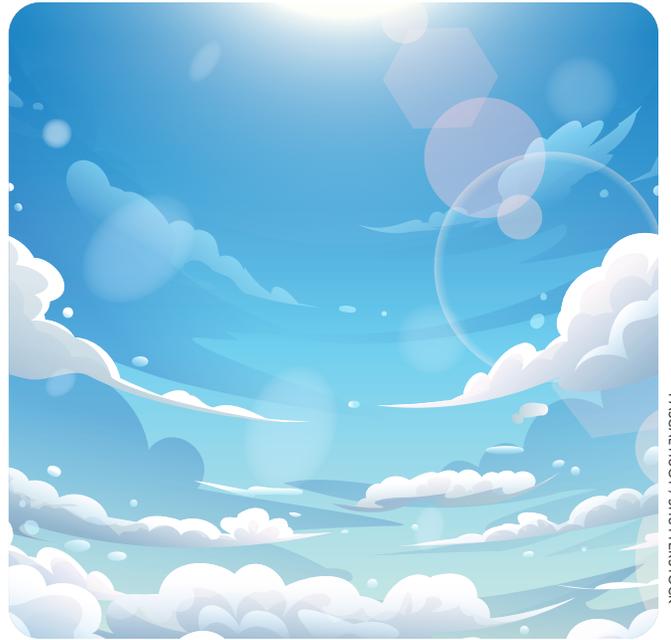
Do non-Catholics go to heaven?

Yes, they do, because of the grace of God at work in his people. To suggest otherwise would seem to imply that Catholics somehow have a “golden ticket,” or some kind of right that simply does not exist.

The Incarnation of Jesus healed the division between heaven and earth, a division established by the “sin of Adam” and confirmed by our own lives of sin. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, all has been restored to the manner that the Father first envisioned through his Creation. The division was between humanity and divinity, not between religious practices and divinity. Catholics believe and celebrate that God accepts all people of a good heart and a good spirit. God is not blinded by the labels that sometimes blind his people to the bigger reality.

When Catholics, or people of any religion, proclaim exclusivity and specialness, particularly when it concerns eternal life, all people should be very cautious about what they assume. To assume a certain type of arrogance—to yourself and to your belief and life of faith—that excludes others or separates another as “not one of us” simply has no place in the kingdom of God. ●

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



PASCALHUOT / SHUTTERSTOCK

Monday

December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9–15, 20

Eph 1:3–6, 11–12

Lk 1:26–38

Tuesday

December 9

Advent Weekday

Is 40:1–11

Mt 18:12–14

Wednesday

December 10

Advent Weekday

Is 40:25–31

Mt 11:28–30

Thursday

December 11

Advent Weekday

Is 41:13–20

Mt 11:11–15

Friday

December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14–17
or Rv 11:19a;
12:1–6a, 10ab
Lk 1:26–38 or
Lk 1:39–47

Saturday

December 13

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Sir 48:1–4,
9–11
Mt 17:9a, 10–13

Sunday

December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1–6a, 10
Jas 5:7–10
Mt 11:2–11

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



NICOLÁS NUÑEZ LC / CATOLICA

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God's love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made “restless” by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025