



That Our Wounds Might Be Quickly Healed

ANN M. GARRIDO

Some years ago, I took a crash course in chaplaincy. Chaplains are often called on to accompany people through life's gloomier seasons—be it in a hospital, in a nursing home, in prison, or following a disaster. As you might imagine, our training involved sessions on how to best alleviate the isolation and despair many people experience in these places and situations. Pray with people? Invite them outside into nature? Make sure physical discomfort is mitigated? All of these are good practices, my chaplain supervisor emphasized, but research indicates that the quickest way to lift the heaviness many feel is to get them involved in alleviating the suffering of others.

I suspect neither Isaiah nor Jesus would have been surprised by this research. In today's first reading, Isaiah says that if we feed the hungry and give shelter to the homeless, if we clothe the naked and care for our family members in need, we will know what it means to have light in the midst of darkness, and our gloom will melt away as if under the noonday sun. Similarly, Jesus describes our good deeds as being like light, meant to be shared generously with others.

In recent years, we have seen an uptick in depression and anxiety, even among the young. We can be tempted to focus more inwardly on our own lives, our own griefs and shortcomings. Self-awareness is certainly a good trait to have! But, perhaps counterintuitively, today's readings remind us that our "wounds shall quickly be healed" more readily when we focus on the needs of others. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Why does helping another lift our own spirits?



*"Your light shall break
forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall
quickly be healed."*

ISAIAH 58:8

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 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

<p><u>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> <u>Saturday February 7, 2026</u> 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass Int: Parishioners 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Catherine Jansen Conway, d & Larry J. Jansen, d</p> <p><u>Sunday February 8, 2026</u> 8:00 AM St John Mass Int: Betty Steimel, d; Dan, Joe, Dave & Jennifer Wren, d 10:30 AM St Paul Mass Int: Parishioners</p> <p><u>Monday February 9, 2026</u> No Mass</p> <p><u>Tuesday February 10, 2026</u> 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Arkie DeClerk, d</p> <p><u>Wednesday February 11, 2026</u> 9:00 AM St Paul Mass Int: Theresa Steimel, d</p>	<p><u>Thursday, February 12, 2026</u> 12:00 PM St John Mass Int: Madeline Throesch, d ; Dick & Sarah Thielemier, d 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Christopher Steimel, d</p> <p><u>Friday, February 13, 2026</u> 9:00 AM St Paul Mass Int: Ronnie Rose, d</p> <p><u>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> <u>Saturday February 14, 2026</u> 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass Int: Parishioners 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Joseph Michael Jansen, d</p> <p><u>Sunday February 15, 2026</u> 8:00 AM St John Mass Int: Rudy & Joe Hausman, d; Living & Deceased Members of Carl & Emma Throesch Family 10:30 AM St Paul Mass Int Parishioners</p>
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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 weekends, 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
 February 14- Nick DeClerk February 15- Jeff Evers
 February 21- Alex Baltz February 22- Matt & Jennifer Hibbard
 February 28- Susan Meier March 1- Josh & Jill Neely

Financial Report	
February 5, 2026	\$9,401.20
2026 year to date	\$46,618.65
Children's Collection	\$120.00
St Joseph, January 2026	\$2,905.00
DOLR	\$345.00
Food Bank, January 2026	\$903.00



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

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



Church Cleaning Schedule Feb 14, Roberta Waymon, Bridgette Rose, Teresa Baltz, Abby Tyler. 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 February 14, 2026

Host Ministers: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Altar Servers: Luke, Jacob & Blakely Jansen

10:30 AM Sunday February 15, 2026

Host Ministers: Brin Presley, Jill Neely

Cups: Cyndy Busick, Angie DeClerk

Cups: Michelle Olvey, Abby Tyler

Altar Servers: Mathias Duran, Cash Cox, Caroline Thielemier

6:00 PM Saturday February 21, 2026

Host Ministers: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Cups: Rose Hutsell, Kelly Throesch

Cups: Susan Meier, Trish Thielemier

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Aubrey Hogan, Avery Seagraves

10:30 AM Sunday February 22, 2026

Host Ministers: Scott & Kim Hills

Cups: Rene' Tyler, Debbie Hibbard

Cups: Monica Loyd, Shelly James

Altar Servers: Zoey Hibbard, Dru & Evelyn Steimel

Bans of Marriage: Saturday February 14, 2026

Austin Reeves and Catie Couch.

January 17, 2026 Baptism:

Kendall Michelle Sifford

Parents: Caden & Emma Sifford

Godparents: Jody Sifford & Lexie Alphin

Homebound and Nursing Home Ministry

February: Cyndy Busick, Elaine Wallis, Brenda Liebhaber

Ushers February:

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

Sunday: Richard Blount, Doug Thielemier, Mark Reed

Next weekend special collection: Aid to the Church in Central & Eastern Europe

The crib and the cross are carved from the same wood — at Christmas we behold His birth, and in Lent we follow Him to His sacrifice, both born of the same love." Choir practice for the Easter Vigil April 4 has begun. Please contact Catherine Jarrett 870-810-7349 if you are interested.

Enrich your faith in, "Why We Believe" by Dr Pitre during Lent. If you have been asked or wondered about:

Where is Purgatory in the Bible?

Why do Catholics pray for the dead?

How did we get the Bible?

Why confess to a priest?

What is the historical evidence of Peter and the Papacy?

Why do Catholics worship Mary?

Join Fr Stephen in the Parish Life Center Sunday evenings during Lent, beginning February 22 from 6-7pm. Light hors d'oeuvres & child-care will be provided.

Knights of Columbus Meeting: February 11, 2026 at 8pm

Mark your calendar for the Knights of Columbus Valentines Dinner & Dance. February 21-7pm at the Parish Life Center. Ribeye steak or chicken dinner; followed by music. Everyone is invited. Call Matt Fair 501-412-3324 or Jeremy Stout 870-810-2356 for your \$30 meal ticket.

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 Flanagan 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, Linda Davenport, Dorothy Ward, Bonnie Schmidt, Elizabeth Smith, Margaret Weyer, and Keith Broadway.

Good News!

February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 58:7-10 / 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 / Matthew 5:13-16

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Dear Padre

February 8, 2026

Are the readings at the beginning of Mass equal to the celebration of the Eucharist?

The Mass is celebrated in two major parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. These parts complement each other in a balance of word and sacrament. In his 2004 apostolic letter *Mane Nobiscum Domine* (Stay With Us Lord), Pope St. John Paul II described these complementary elements. Using the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus on the night of Easter Sunday, the Pope likened the two parts of the revised liturgy to these disciples' journey. First, Christ breaks open the word for them, preparing their hearts with an interpretation of the Scriptures. Then, they recognize Christ as they break bread.

The Liturgy of the Word, proclaimed and preached well, allows time for silence and reflection on the wisdom offered. It becomes the necessary overture for the celebration of thanks and praise and the gift of the sign and sacrament to follow. Parishes are called to take the Liturgy of the Word most seriously and to bring it to a new level of proclamation. Pope St. John Paul II admonished all involved, but especially preachers, to cherish the word and preach it so the depths of the mysteries celebrated may be recognized and received into the burning hearts of Christians. In this context, the Scripture readings are given a prominence they didn't have in the older Roman rite. ●

From The Eucharist: 50 Questions from the Pews by Fr. Richard Fragomeni, PhD (816994),

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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
 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

February 7, 2026 – February 15, 2026

St. John

Sun Feb 8: Betty Steimel (d); Dan Joe, Dave & Jennifer Wren (d)
 Thur Feb 12: Madeleine Throesch (d); Dick & Sarah Thielemier (d)
 Sun Feb 8: Rudy & Joseph Hausman (d); Living & deceased members of the Carl & Emma Throesch family

St. Paul

Sat Feb 7: Catherine (Jansen) Conway (d); Larry J Jansen (d)
 Sun Feb 8: For the Parishioners
 Tues Feb 10: Arkie DeClerk (d)
 Wed Feb 11: Theresa Steimel (d)
 Thur Feb 12: Christopher Steimel (d)
 Fri Feb 13: Ronnie Rose (d)
 Sat Feb 14: Joseph Michael Jansen (d)
 Sun Feb 15: For the Parishioners

Ministry Schedule

	February 8	February 15	February 22	March 1
Eucharistic Ministers	Jenniet Galvan Deb Martin Patty House Brenda Liebhaber	Jessica Stout Kelly Alphin Pat Wren Linda Elmore	Jessica Stout Kelly Alphin Pat Wren Linda Elmore	Cathy Hausman Tina Sharp Jane Smith Rebecca Steimel
Servers	Perry Throesch Jaxon Kasinger Catarina Throesch	Wade Zitzelberger Holden Zitzelberger Casyn Steimel	Madison Throesch Max Hoose Parker Liebhaber	Isaac Throesch Parker Liebhaber Madeleine Throesch
Lectors	February: Bridgette Kasinger & Jessica Stout March: Christian Helms & Rebecca Steimel			
Ushers	February: Glen Hausman & Luke Zitzelberger March: Jeremy Stout & Stuart Blalock			
Money Counters	February: Betty Taylor, Chuck & Mary Barnes March: Deb Martin, Dwain & Cathy Hausman			

Weekly Financial Report

February 1, 2026 Loose Cash \$300.00 Checks & Envelopes: \$2130.00
 Black & Indian collection: \$206.00 Votive candles: \$90.00

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE: Lent begins on February 18th with the following Mass schedule 9:00AM- School Mass; **5:30PM- St John’s Mass;** 7:00PM St. Paul- Word & Ash service
 Servers for St. John’s Mass will be Henry Taylor, Perry Throesch & Madeleine Throesch

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY: Superbowl party will be Sunday Feb 8th at our hall. The Men's Club will provide ribs and chicken, just bring a side or dessert. Kickoff is at 5:30 pm but come early to get your name on the boards (doors open at 4:30pm)! Family friendly and personal coolers welcome.

ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPER: All are invited to the annual soup (meatless) supper to begin the Lenten season. It will occur on Ash Wednesday, February 18th at the Parish Life Center from 5:30PM to 7:30PM. The menu includes vegetable soup, broccoli and cheese soup, potato soup, grilled cheese, bread, and drinks. Come after the 5:30PM Mass at St. John’s, or come before the 7PM Word & Ash service at St. Paul. There will be no charge for this event, but donations to the annual Lenten Rice Bowl fund are welcome.

KC MEETING: February 11th at 7:00PM

KC VALENTINES DINNER: Mark your calendar for the Knights of Columbus Valentines dinner & dance, February 21 at 7PM at the Parish Life Center. Ribeye steak or chicken dinner; followed by music. Everyone is invited. Call Matt Fair 501-412-3324 or Jeremy Stout 870-810-2356 for your \$30 meal ticket.

JANUARY KNIGHT OF THE MONTH: Dwayne Capps

JANUARY FAMILY OF THE MONTH: Cade Niswonger family

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: Enrich your faith in, “Why We Believe” by Dr Pitre during Lent. If you have been asked or wonder about: Where is Purgatory in the Bible? – Why do Catholics pray for the Dead? – How did we get the Bible? – Why confess to a priest? – What is the historical evidence of Peter and the Papacy? – Do Catholics worship Mary? Join Father Stephen in the Parish Life Center on Sunday evenings during Lent beginning Sunday, February 22nd from 6:00-7:00 pm. Light hors D’oeuvres and childcare will be provided. Save the dates for this enriching bible study!

END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT: Anyone needing their 2025 yearly contribution statement needs to contact Jane Smith.

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, Jerry Lindsey, Bob Wren, Eric Thielemier, Elizabeth Smith, Hattie Martin, 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, Treva Throesch, Bridgette Kasinger, Danny McCurdy, Paula Johnson, David Cissel, Owen Rowe, Dennis Burrow, Jake Kasinger, , Dickie Flanigan, Sharon Thielemier (Patrick), Betty Baltz, Karen O’Gara, Julie Session (Deacon Papini’s Daughter), Earnie Durbin, and all those listed in our petition book. May God grant them healing.

St. Paul the Apostle Church

*Invites you to our annual soup
(meatless) supper*

Wednesday, February 18th

Parish Life Center

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Vegetable, Broccoli and Cheese, Potato soups, Grilled
Cheese, bread and drinks provided

Liturgy of the Word and distribution of ashes only

7:00 p.m.

No charge but donations to the annual Rice Bowl fund welcomed

Dear Padre,

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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In a divided and troubled world, the Holy Spirit teaches us to walk together in unity. The earth will rest, justice will prevail, the poor will rejoice, and peace will return once we no longer act as predators but as pilgrims. No longer each of us for ourselves but walking alongside one another. Not greedily exploiting this world but cultivating it and protecting it.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 7, 2025



Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

February 9
Weekday
1 Kgs 8:1–7, 9–13
Mk 6:53–56

Tuesday

February 10
St. Scholastica, Virgin
1 Kgs 8:22–23,
27–30
Mk 7:1–13

Wednesday

February 11
Weekday
1 Kgs 10:1–10
Mk 7:14–23

Thursday

February 12
Weekday
1 Kgs 11:4–13
Mk 7:24–30

Friday

February 13
Weekday
1 Kgs 11:29–32;
12:19
Mk 7:31–37

Saturday

February 14
Sts. Cyril, Monk, and
Methodius, Bishop
1 Kgs 12:26–32;
13:33–34
Mk 8:1–10

Sunday

February 15
Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Sir 15:15–20
1 Cor 2:6–10
Mt 5:17–37
or 5:20–22a, 27–28,
33–34a, 37