



“Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’
and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’”

MATTHEW 5:37

Some Walk Away

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No’” (Matthew 5:37). This teaching of Jesus seems to get lost, perhaps because it comes at the end of a long listing of commandments. Regardless, it seems to get right to the point, almost making the other commandments unnecessary or perhaps clarifying them. Either you are going to be a child of your heavenly Father and live like one, or you are not. If you are a child of God, you would not contemplate any evil behaviors, let alone actually do them.

That is the clarity of the teaching of Jesus. It is authentic. It is compelling. It invites a response. Yet, there are those who were present with him who did not understand. Who missed the point. Who insisted on another way. Who could not discern the simplicity of the truth. To each of these men and women, including some with the religious title of scribe or Pharisee, he observed, “And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be” (Matthew 6:23). Even sadder is that not only did they miss the point, they also simply walked away.

Do you want to say more than a simple “Yes” or “No”? Do you want to say, “Yes, but... I can’t do it now.” Or “I can’t forgive this particular person.” Or “I can’t welcome this particular stranger.” Or “I can’t love him or her or them.”

Have you also missed the point? Do you also want to walk away? ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

What teachings of Jesus are too hard to consider?

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:
 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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary
Time Saturday February 14, 2026
 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Joseph Michael Jansen, d

Sunday February 15, 2026
 8:00 AM St John Mass
 Int: Rudy & Joseph Hausman, d
 Living & Deceased members of Carl & Emma Throesch Family
 10:30 AM St Paul Mass
 Int Parishioners

Monday February 16, 2026
 No Mass

Tuesday February 17, 2026
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Arkie DeClerk, d

Wednesday February 18, 2026
 9:00 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Bob & Lil Gogan, d
 5:30 PM St John Mass
 Int: Fr Mariadass, d; L/D of Will & Katie Thielemier Family

Thursday, February 19, 2026
 12:00 PM St John Mass
 Int: Mary & Greg Thielemier, d;
 Special Intention
No 6:00 PM St Paul Mass

Friday, February 20, 2026
 9:00 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Living & Deceased members of Martin & Josephine Jansen Family
 5:30 PM St John Stations of the Cross

First Sunday of Lent Saturday February 21, 2026
 4:00 PM St Joseph
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Virginia Jansen Cenac, d

Sunday February 22, 2026
 8:00 AM St John Mass
 Int: Dick & Sarah Thielemier, d; Paul, Ruth & Tom Weisenbach, 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

February 21- Alex Baltz February 22- Matt & Jennifer Hibbard
 February 28- Susan Meier March 1- Josh & Jill Neely
 March 7- Nick DeClerk March 8- Scott & Kim Hills

Financial Report	
February 12, 2026	\$9,503.86
2026 year to date	\$56,122.51
Children's Collection	\$70.00
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 21- Robin Berry, Cyndy Busick, Kelly Steimel, 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 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

6:00 PM Saturday February 28, 2026

Host Ministers: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Cups: Paige Radcliff, Maggie Baltz

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Keegan Presley, Valentina Nguyen

10:30 AM Sunday March 1, 2026

Host Ministers: Cyndy Busick, Claire Garoutte

Cups: Terri Jansen, Jill Neely

Cups: Jennifer Hibbard, Abby Tyler

Altar Servers: Mathias Duran, Mary Morgan, Kipton Jansen

Ash Wednesday Mass schedule:

9 AM: School Mass

5:30 PM St John Mass

7 PM St Paul Word & Ashes

Parish Life Center Committee invites everyone to their meatless supper on Ash Wednesday Feb 18 from 5:30pm-7:30pm. No charge but donations to the annual Rice Bowl fund welcomed.

February 8, 2026 Baptism:

Lakota Rose & Eugene Gregory Durbin

Godparent: Heather Thielemier

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

Enrich your faith in, "Why We Believe" by Dr Pitre during Lent. Join Fr Stephen in the Parish Life Center Sunday evenings during Lent, beginning February 22 from 6-7pm. Light hors d'oeuvres & childcare will be provided.

Knights of Columbus:

Knight of the Month: Ronald Hogan

Family of the Month: Mallory and Trey Steimel Family

Mark your calendar for the Knights of Columbus **Valentine's 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 \$25 meal ticket.

March 7, 2026 : Golden Agers Party.

The family of Arkie DeClerk would like to send a heartfelt thanks to all who sent cards, prayed, made donations & sponsored Masses in her honor. Special thanks to the choir & Father Elser for a perfect Funeral Mass and to the Good Neighbor Committee for the inviting meal & place to gather after the funeral. Mom's church family was a blessing to her & continues to be a blessing to us. God Bless you all!

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

Good News!

February 15, 2026
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sirach 15:15–20 / 1 Corinthians 2:6–10 / Matthew 5:17–37 or 5:20–22a, 27–28, 33–34a, 37

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

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Dear Padre

February 15, 2026

My grandkids’ parents don’t want them to be baptized. Can I do it myself secretly so as not to cause problems?

Your concern is understandable, but secret baptisms are prohibited in the Catholic Church. The decision to baptize a child is determined by his or her parents. To secretly usurp their decision may cause problems of its own. For an infant to be baptized, “The parents or at least one of them or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent,” and “There must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion” (Code of Canon Law, 868 §1). An exception is permitted when the child’s life is in immediate danger: “An infant of Catholic parents or even of non-Catholic parents is baptized licitly in danger of death, even against the will of the parents” (CCL 868 §2). Here, the Church’s pastoral concern is for the child to receive the immediate graces from the sacrament; the question of raising the child in the faith becomes moot in a life-or-death situation.

“Since the earliest times, baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit.... Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1282). Continue to pray that your family may see baptism as a sign of God’s love, which offers true freedom for humanity. ●

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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 14, 2026 – February 22, 2026

St. John

Sun Feb 15: Rudy & Joseph Hausman (d); L & D members of the Carl & Emma Throesch family
ASH WED: Father Vallapaneni Mariadass (d); L & D members of the Will & Katie Thielemier family
 Thur Feb 19: Mary & Greg Thielemier (d); Special Intention
 Sun Feb 22: Dick & Sarah Thielemier (d); Paul, Ruth & Tom Weisenbach (d)

St. Paul

Sat Feb 14: Joseph Michael Jansen (d)
 Sun Feb 15: For the Parishioners
 Tues Feb 17: Arkie DeClerk (d)
 Wed Feb 18: Bob & Lil Gogan (d)
 Thur Feb 19: NO MASS
 Fri Feb 20: Living & Deceased members of Martin & Josephine Jansen family
 Sat Feb 21: Virginia Jansen Cenac (d)
 Sun Feb 22: For the Parishioners

Ministry Schedule

	February 15	February 22	March 1	March 8
Eucharistic Ministers	Jessica Stout Kelly Alphin Pat Wren Linda Elmore	Jessica Stout Kelly Alphin Pat Wren Linda Elmore	Cathy Hausman Tina Sharp Jane Smith Rebecca Steimel	Cathy Hausman Tina Sharp Jane Smith Rebecca Steimel
Servers	Wade Zitzelberger Holden Zitzelbeger Casyn Steimel	Madison Throesch Max Hoose Parker Liebhaber	Isaac Throesch Parker Liebhaber Madeleine Throesch	Lucy Throesch Caroline Stout Jaxon Steimel
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 8, 2026	Loose Cash	\$383.00	Checks & Envelopes:	\$2985.00
	BRAD:	\$360.00	Black & Indian:	\$15.00

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

FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS SCHEDULE:

All Stations begin at 5:30PM. KC Fish Fry available after Stations on select dates.
St. John Stations of the Cross: Feb. 20th, Mar. 6th, Mar. 13th (Fish Fry)
 St. Paul Stations of the Cross: Feb. 27th (Fish Fry & Youth Bingo Night), Mar. 20th, Mar. 27th (Fish Fry)

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE COLLECTION: This special collection is taken up in all parishes across Arkansas. The countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union endured decades of communist oppression. Also emerging from the years of communist rule is the Church, which suffered grave wounds to its spiritual life and its ability to serve. Now it is vigorously involved in rebuilding the faith of its people. Proceeds from this collection, sponsored by the bishops of the United States, are used for things such as supporting religious education programs, training seminarians, expanding social ministries, and rebuilding churches, convents and schools. For more information, contact the Stewardship and Development Office at (501) 664-0340. This collection will be taken up on February 15th.

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 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.

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!

FEBRUARY KNIGHT OF THE MONTH: Ronald Hogan
FEBRUARY FAMILY OF THE MONTH: Trey & Mallory Steimel family

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

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JOHN KRUS

Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



FABRIZIO MAFFEI / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Spirit opens borders, first of all, in our hearts. He is the Gift that opens our lives to love. His presence breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of

mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves.... Sadly, oddly enough, in a world of burgeoning “social” media, we risk being ever more alone.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025

Monday

February 16

Weekday

Jas 1:1–11

Mk 8:11–13

Tuesday

February 17

Weekday

Jas 1:12–18

Mk 8:14–21

Wednesday

February 18

Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12–18

2 Cor 5:20–6:2

Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

Thursday

February 19

Thursday after

Ash Wednesday

Dt 30:15–20

Lk 9:22–25

Friday

February 20

Friday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:1–9a

Mt 9:14–15

Saturday

February 21

Saturday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:9b–14

Lk 5:27–32

Sunday

February 22

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7–9; 3:1–7

Rom 5:12–19 or 5:12, 17–19

Mt 4:1–11

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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