



**“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.”**

MATTHEW 4:1



## Jesus for the Win

MIGUEL DULICK

**T**he account of the temptations could be presented as a comical play. Pope Francis insisted, “Don’t talk to the devil!” Indeed, Jesus does not engage in dialogue with Satan, much less any negotiation or any business. Stones become bread? Jesus may have fasted for forty days, but he’s had plenty to eat—“every word that comes forth from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Nor will Jesus “test” his Father by jumping off the “parapet of the temple” (like the bell tower of a gothic church). (See Matthew 5-7.) You don’t play God, and you don’t play *with* God. Satan really beclowns himself with the last temptation—promising the whole world if Jesus would just take a knee? No one would fall for that, would they?

Except—most of us. We’d do the bread; we’d do the jump; we’d definitely do the world! Look at the first reading, from Genesis. Adam and Eve give up paradise for a piece of fruit! It’s a sad story because Eve does chat with the serpent, answering questions, allowing for a different point of view. But, as they say on Facebook, Satan “destroys” her! And Adam, too. If they didn’t sew fig leaves for each other, the whole story would be unbearable. Even as they realize their sin, there is a little tenderness.

Saint Paul explains it clearly. Sin entered the world, but with Jesus Christ, there is an “overflow” of grace for the many. (See Romans 5:15.) And that’s what Lent is about—a flood of grace. ●



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY

### Reflect

***What grace do I pray for this Lent—for myself and for someone who is struggling?***

**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-870-758-0246  
 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**

**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

**Monday February 23, 2026**  
 No Mass

**Tuesday February 24, 2026**  
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Mary Brown, d

**Wednesday February 25, 2026**  
 9:00 AM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Theresa Baltz, d

**Thursday, February 26, 2026**  
 12:00 PM St John Mass  
 Int: Jim Thielemier, d; Jane, Aleene & Shirley Thielemier, d  
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Bob & Ann Meier, d

**Friday February 27, 2026**  
 9:00 AM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Ronnie Rose, d  
 5:30 PM St Paul Station of the Cross  
 Fish fry & Youth Bingo Night

**Second Sunday of Lent Saturday**  
**February 28, 2026**  
 4:00 PM St Joseph  
 Int: Parishioners  
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Marie Jansen Conway, d

**Sunday March 1, 2026**  
 8:00 AM St John Mass  
 Int: Tom & Mary Arnold, d; L/D mem of Frank & Josephine Thielemier Family  
 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 28- Susan Meier March 1- Josh & Jill Neely  
 March 7- Nick DeClerk March 8- Scott & Kim Hills  
 March 14- Alex Baltz March 15- Jeff Evers

Financial Report	
February 19, 2026	\$8,854.80
2026 year to date	\$55,473.45
Children's Collection	\$311.00
St Joseph, January 2026	\$2,905.00
DOLR	\$1,389.00
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 28- Sarah Counts, Rene' Tyler, Karen Starr, Rita Rowe. 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 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

#### **6:00 PM Saturday March 7, 2026**

Host Ministers: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Cups: Susan Meier, Kelly Throesch

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Aubrey Hogan, Valentina Hguyen

#### **10:30 AM Sunday March 8, 2026**

Host Ministers: Brin Presley, Michelle Olvey

Cups: Leroy & Jennifer Nichols

Cups: Scott & Kim Hills

Altar Servers: Hayden Moore, Aven Thielemier, Austin James

#### **6:00 PM Saturday March 14, 2026**

Host Ministers: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Trish Thielemier, Rose Hutsell

Cups: Tom & Chris Baltz

Altar Servers: Luke, Jacob, Blakely Jansen

#### **10:30 AM Sunday March 15, 2026**

Host Ministers: Monica Loyd, Shelly James

Cups: Rene' Tyler, Debbie Hibbard

Cups: Angie DeClerk, Anna Higginbotham

Altar Servers: Leo Clark, Owen Smith, Etta Clark

Next weekend February 28th-29th Special Collection:  
Arkansas Catholic Subscription Drive.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry & CYM Bingo Night:  
February 27, 2026 @ 6 PM, Parish Life Center

**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.

### **Friday Stations of the Cross Schedule**

All Stations begin at 5:30 PM. KC Fish Fry available after Stations on **select dates**:

**St John Station of the Cross,:** Feb 20th, March 6, March 13th.(**Fish Fry**)

St Paul Stations of the Cross: Feb 27th (**Fish Fry & Youth Bingo Night**) March 20th, March 27th.( **Fish Fry**).

### **Ushers March:**

**Saturday:** Roberta Waymon, Joey Radcliff

**Sunday:** Pink Baltz, Todd Berry, Jeff Evers, Gordon Thielemier

**\*\* Usher meeting @ KC Hall, March 1 at 5pm\*\*.** All current ushers and anyone new that would like to join the ushers group please come to this meeting.

**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 22, 2026  
First Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 2:7–9; 3:1–7 / Romans 5:12–19 or 5:12, 17–19 / Matthew 4:1–11

MIGUEL DULICK

**The account of the temptations could be presented as a comical play.** Pope Francis insisted, “Don’t talk to the devil!” Indeed, Jesus does not engage in dialogue with Satan, much less any negotiation or any business. Stones become bread? Jesus may have fasted for forty days, but he’s had plenty to eat—“every word that comes forth from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Nor will Jesus “test” his Father by jumping off the “parapet of the temple” (like the bell tower of a gothic church). (See Matthew 5–7.) You don’t play God, and you don’t play with God. Satan really beclowns himself with the last temptation—promising the whole world if Jesus would just take a knee? No one would fall for that, would they?

Except—most of us. We’d do the bread; we’d do the jump; we’d definitely do the world! Look at the first reading, from Genesis. Adam and Eve give up paradise for a piece of fruit! It’s a sad story because Eve does chat with the serpent, answering questions, allowing for a different point of view. But, as they say on Facebook, Satan “destroys” her! And Adam, too. If they didn’t sew fig leaves for each other, the whole story would be unbearable. Even as they realize their sin, there is a little tenderness.

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# Dear Padre

February 22, 2026

**I was taught that it is a requirement to fast at least one hour before receiving Communion. However, I’ve seen donuts out before Mass begins and hear candy wrappers being crumpled around me. This seems disrespectful to me.**

It is important to use the correct words when describing a particular action. In this case, “requirement” does not really capture the full meaning and understanding of what the Church teaches. A better understanding is that it is a discipline and a practice of the Church to ordinarily observe the eucharistic fast for one hour before receiving holy Communion. If you are of a certain age, you may remember that there have been changes regarding the eucharistic fast. A “requirement” might suggest that the fast is integral to the sacrament itself. It is not.

The second part of your question seems to be a matter of perception. Based on your perception, you judge something to be not quite right. But, consider that there are many reasons why hospitality may be set up before Mass. The crumpling of wrappers could be something other than what you identify. Regardless, you are not required to assume the burden of policing what is taking place at Mass. It is much better to participate, celebrate, and be grateful for the sacrament that we gather to experience as a community of faith. ●

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

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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](mailto:frstephenelser@gmail.com)  
 Secretary: Jane Smith (870) 378-5052 [stjohns4650@gmail.com](mailto: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)



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GREGORY SHERITZ

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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
February 23	February 24	February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28	March 1
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>
Lv 19:1–2, 11–18	Is 55:10–11	Jon 3:1–10	Est C:12, 14–16, 23–25	Ez 18:21–28	Dt 26:16–19	Gn 2:1–4a
Mt 25:31–46	Mt 6:7–15	Lk 11:29–32	Mt 7:7–12	Mt 5:20–26	Mt 5:43–48	2 Tm 1:8b–10
						Mt 17:1–9

## **Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



JIM WEST

## **A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV**

*Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, communities for minors, centers for listening and acceptance, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and low-income schools. How many of these quiet signs of hope often go unnoticed and yet are so important for setting aside our indifference and inspiring others to become involved in various forms of volunteer work!*

**MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, ROME, JUNE 13, 2025**