



“We saw his star at its rising and
have come to do him homage.”

MATTHEW 2:2

Following Jesus Without a Star to Guide Us

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“**We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage**” (Matthew 2:2) describes the spark that sent the Magi on their journey. Something unusual in the sky, interpreted as a sign of something wonderful—in response, they changed direction in their lives and devoted themselves to a completely different path. As wonderful as it might well be, a special star in the heavens is not the ordinary experience of how we learn to follow the Lord or discern his will. If only there could be a sign in God’s universe for each of us, beckoning us forward, clarifying what we need to do, setting down the path that needs to be followed. Perhaps life would be much simpler. Or perhaps not?

Would it truly be less complicated if everything were made clear and certain? Is the manifestation of God’s grace and blessings confined to the straight and narrow, or can we also experience God in the chaos—“in the weeds,” so to speak. Human experience seems to suggest that life is more “gray” than “black and white.” There is real grace in the journey, in making mistakes, even in choosing something that is incomplete. Thankfully, God’s grace does not need perfection to be powerful. We can know and follow God’s will for us in the ordinary moments of day-to-day living. We do not need the extraordinary or the dramatic. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

How can I resolve to look for God in the unplanned, the unexpected, the interruptions?

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
 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>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Saturday, January 3, 2026</u> 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass Int: parishioners 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Bernard Baltz, d and Henry Dust, d</p> <p><u>Sunday January 4, 2026</u> 8:00 AM St John Mass Int: Paul, Ruth & Tom Weisenbach, d. Living & deceased members of Carl & Katie Thielemier family 10:30 AM St Paul Mass Int: Parishioners</p> <p><u>Monday January 5, 2026</u> No Mass</p> <p><u>Tuesday January 6, 2026</u> 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Anna Roosa-Nichols, d</p> <p><u>Wednesday, January 7, 2026</u> 9:00 AM St Paul Mass Int: Dr. Albert Baltz, d</p>	<p><u>Thursday, January 8, 2026</u> 12:00 PM St John Mass Int: Wilma Wren, d & Dr Albert Baltz, d 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Ashley Ruiz-Espinoza, d</p> <p><u>Friday, January 9, 2026</u> 9:00 AM St Paul Mass Int: Wade Harper, d</p> <p><u>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Saturday January 10, 2026</u> 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass Int: parishioners 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Billie DeClerk, d</p> <p><u>Sunday January 11, 2026</u> 8:00 AM St John Mass Int: Dick & Sarah Thielemier, d and Dickie & Doris Flanigan (healing) 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 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
 January 3- Joan Gross January 4- Jeff Evers
 January 10- Alex Baltz January 11- Scott & Abby Tyler
 January 17- Susan Meier January 18- Matt & Jennifer Hibbard

Financial Report	
December 31, 2025	16,044.59
2025 year to date	\$475,357.46
Children’s Collection	\$112.05
St Joseph, November	\$5,204.00
DOLR	\$8,149.00
Food Bank, December 2025	\$2,050.00



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

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



Church Cleaning Schedule Jan 4, 2026 - 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 January 10, 2026

Host Ministers: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Cups: Trish Thielemier, Kelly Throesch

Cups: Tom & Chris Baltz

Altar Servers: Abel & Riles Johnson, Aubrey Hogan

10:30 AM Sunday January 11, 2026

Host Ministers: Claire Garoutte, Jill Neely

Cups: Brin Presley, Shelly James

Cups: Abby Tyler, Terri Jansen

Altar Servers: Mathias Duran, Mary Morgan & Kipton Jansen

6:00 PM Saturday January 17, 2026

Host Ministers: Dc. Drake, Maggie Baltz

Cups: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Altar Servers: Luke, Jacob & Blakely Jansen

10:30 AM Sunday January 18, 2026

Host Ministers: Angie DeClerk, Debbie Hibbard

Cups: Leroy & Jennifer Nichols

Cups: Michelle Olvey, Jennifer Hibbard

Altar Servers: Leo Clark, Owen Smith & Etta Clark

6:00 PM Saturday January 24, 2026

Host Ministers: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Mitch & Teresa Blatz

Cups: Susan Meier, Paige Radcliff

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Dru & Evelyn Steimel

10:30 AM Sunday January 25, 2026

Host Ministers: Claire Garoutte, Cyndy Busick

Cups: Angie Decker, Rene' Tyler

Cups: Debbie Hibbard, Brin Presley

Altar Servers: Zoey Hibbard, Austin James, & Caroline Theilemier

Homebound and Nursing Home Ministry

January: Chris Baltz & Maria Dickson

January Ushers:

Saturday: Benny Baltz, Nick DeClerk

Sunday: Travis DeClerk, Chris Hoggard, Marty Moore, James Presley

Please pray for the Gladys Zosso family. Gladys passed away December 22, 2025.

Everyone is welcome, January 4 - Would you like to learn more about the origins of the Sacred Mass & Prayers? Fr. Michael Wurtz will give a presentation on Sunday January 4th @ 8:45am in the Parish Life Center. Gather @ 8:30am to grab a donut & coffee/drink. Babysitting will be provided in the Life Center.

Youth Ministry will be starting a parish food pantry. We will eventually be looking into a larger program, but would like to start by asking for donations from the parish. Please bring any nonperishable food you can spare to the parish office.

This was truly an amazing response and thank you letter.

Dear Angel Tree Donors,

Thank you so much for the incredible generosity you showed our Angel tree students at M.D. Williams. Because of you All our kids will feel loved, seen, and truly special this Christmas. We are so thankful for your kindness you shared with our school.

M.D. Students & Staff

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, Richard Jenkins, Jim & Shirley Lamb, Steve Bodden, Linda Davenport, Dorothy Ward, Bonnie Schmidt, Elizabeth Smith, and Keith Broadway.

Good News!

January 4, 2026
The Epiphany of the Lord (A)

Isaiah 60:1-6 / Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Matthew 2:1-12

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage” (Matthew 2:2) describes the spark that sent the Magi on their journey. Something unusual in the sky, interpreted as a sign of something wonderful—in response, they changed direction in their lives and devoted themselves to a completely different path. As wonderful as it might well be, a special star in the heavens is not the ordinary experience of how we learn to follow the Lord or discern his will. If only there could be a sign in God’s universe for each of us, beckoning us forward, clarifying what we need to do, setting down the path that needs to be followed. Perhaps life would be much simpler. Or perhaps not?

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Dear Padre

January 4, 2026

I recently lost my husband of sixty years. I prayed for him through his four-year illness. Since he has died, I cannot pray. Any advice for me?

My heartfelt condolences on your profound loss. When someone we love dies, a part of us dies too. Sometimes, the trauma is so severe that it can even affect our relationship with God.

Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief. In the denial stage, some people can’t accept the reality of the death. It becomes too much to handle. In the anger stage, some may question their belief in God—especially if their prayer requests (such as, “Please God, if you heal my loved one, I will...”) weren’t successful in the bargaining stage. People in the depression stage feel overwhelmed by the reality of the loss and may not always feel like connecting with others—even with God in prayer. However, in the acceptance stage, emotions stabilize, and a person comes to terms with their new reality. Nothing makes up for the absence of a loved one, but people manage to cope and live on.

It’s because you loved so deeply that the loss feels so deep. God accepts you completely; God understands how you feel. He wants you to be at peace and live life fully. Our compassionate God yearns to help console you and offer assistance in your healing process until you can embrace him again in prayer. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, 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
 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

January 3, 2026 – January 11, 2026

<p><u>St. John</u> Sun Jan 4: Paul, Ruth & Tom Weisenbach (d); L & D members of the Carl & Emma Thielemier family Thur Jan 8: Wilma Wren (d); Max Baltz & Dr. Albert Baltz (d) Sun Jan 11: Dick & Sarah Thielemier (d); Dickie & Doris Flanigan (healing)</p> <p><u>St. Paul</u> Sat Jan 3: Bernard Baltz (d); Henry Dust (d) Sun Jan 4: For the Parishioners Tues Jan 6: Anna Roosa-Nichols (d) Wed Jan 7: Dr. Albert Baltz (d) Thur Jan 8: Ashley Ruiz-Espinoza (d) Fri Jan 9 : Wade Harper (d) Sat Jan 10: Billie DeClerk (d) Sun Jan 11: For the Parishioners</p>

Ministry Schedule

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Eucharistic Ministers	Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Vernon Hausman Candace Steimel	Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Vernon Hausman Candace Steimel	Jim Bergman Lori Bergman Pam Durbin Mike Taylor	Jim Bergman Lori Bergman Pam Durbin Mike Taylor
Servers	Wade Zitzelberger Holden Zitzelberger Casyn Steimel	Max Hoose Madison Throesch Jaxon Kasinger	Henry Taylor Haley Stout Caroline Stout	Isaac Throesch Parker Liebhaber Madeleine Throesch
Lectors	January: David Blevins & Brenda Liebhaber February: Bridgette Kasinger & Jessica Stout			
Ushers	January: Dwayne Hausman & Don Liebhaber February: Glen Hausman & Luke Zitzelberger			
Money Counters	January: Richard & Ellen Thielemier, Elaine Wallis February: Bonny Schmidt, Don & Brenda Liebhaber			

Weekly Financial Report

December 28 2025 Loose Cash \$317.00 Checks & Envelopes: \$2820.00
 Christmas Collection: \$2025.00 Poinsettias: \$40.00 Hall Rental: \$100.00

ST JOHN’S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT: As we near the end of the Christmas season, come join us for an evening of Christmas music. The event will take place on Thursday, January 8th starting at 6:00PM. There will be a reception following in the Parish Hall.

TIME TO TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: We will be taking down the Christmas decorations in the Church Sunday, December 11th immediately following 8:00AM Mass. There are lots of things to carry to the rectory basement and the choir loft. We would appreciate any and all help.

BLACK & INDIAN MISSIONS: This special collection is taken up in all parishes across Arkansas. The support the Diocese of Little Rock receives from this national collection helps support the [Diocesan Council for Black Catholics](#) and other ministries, events and formation to encourage the Christian life in culturally appropriate ways. This collection has supported evangelization programs in almost every diocese in the United States for more than 130 years. This collection will be taken up December 25th.

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS: Angelia Blevins, Emory Blevins, Johnathan Cagle, Marty Cagle, Difani Families, Gene & Betty Durbin, James & Becky Franks, Hurn family, Charles Smith, Lee Taylor, Bob & John Thielemier, Dick & Sarah Thielemier, Will & Katie Thielemier, Carl & Emma Throesch, Paul & Mary Throesch, Victor Throesch, Alfred & Minnie Weisenbach, Loyd, Marion, Larry & Phyllis Wren

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, 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, Bob Wren, 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, Gladly Zosso, and all those listed in our petition book. May God grant them healing.

Dear Padre,

I recently lost my husband of sixty years. I prayed for him through his four-year illness. Since he has died, I cannot pray. Any advice for me?

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Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief. In the denial stage, some people can't accept the reality of the death. It becomes too much to handle. In the anger stage, some may question their belief in God—especially if their prayer requests (such as, “Please God, if you heal my loved one, I will...”) weren't successful in the bargaining stage. People in the depression stage feel overwhelmed by the reality of the loss and may not always feel like connecting with others—even with God in prayer. However, in the acceptance stage, emotions stabilize, and a person comes to terms with their new reality. Nothing makes up for the absence of a loved one, but people manage to cope and live on.

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Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



YANDRY FERNÁNDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Let us resolve to bring [God's] love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 25, 2025



YANDRY FERNÁNDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOPIC

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

January 5
St. John Neumann, Bishop
1 Jn 3:22–4:6
Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

Tuesday

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:7–10
Mk 6:34–44

Wednesday

January 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:11–18
Mk 6:45–52

Thursday

January 8
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:19–5:4
Lk 4:14–22a

Friday

January 9
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5–13
Lk 5:12–16

Saturday

January 10
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14–21
Jn 3:22–30

Sunday

January 11
The Baptism of the Lord
Is 42:1–4, 6–7
Acts 10:34–38
Mt 3:13–17