



Behold the Lamb of God!

ANN M. GARRIDO

Of the many names Scripture provides to help us ponder the mystery of Jesus, one of the most intriguing is the name that John the Baptist offers at the opening of today’s gospel: “Behold the Lamb of God!” (John 1:29).

Scripture scholars debate what John means here. Is he alluding to the Passover lamb—that unblemished lamb whose blood the enslaved Israelites were to post over their doorways? The angel of death knew to “pass over” these homes. Perhaps John was saying that by Jesus’ blood, the people would be freed from death.

Or was John thinking about the guilt offerings mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures when priests offered animal sacrifices to God as a way of seeking the removal of their sins? Leviticus mentions use of a scapegoat who would carry the sins of the people away into the desert. (See Leviticus 20–28.) Could John have understood that Jesus would bear the sins of the world?

Or did John have in mind the great constellation Aries, the ram, considered the prince of the stars of the sky, the center from whom all the other constellations were mapped in ancient times? Perhaps John was pointing out that Jesus was the center around whom heaven and earth revolve, like the ruling lamb mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

Today at Mass, when the host is elevated and you hear John’s words again—“Behold the Lamb of God!”—take a moment to savor these words anew. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Which understanding of the “Lamb of God” resonates with me?

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”

JOHN 1:29



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>Second Sunday in Ordinary</u> <u>Time Saturday January 17, 2026</u> 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass Int: Parishioners 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Bob & Margaret Anderson Family, John Myrle, Jack Helter Family</p> <p><u>Sunday January 18, 2026</u> 8:00 AM St John Mass Int: Martin Wren, d. Deceased members of the Benny & Anna Thielemier Family 10:30 AM St Paul Mass Int: Parishioners</p> <p><u>Monday January 19, 2026</u> No Mass- Office Closed</p> <p><u>Tuesday January 20, 2026</u> 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Keith Sutton, d</p> <p><u>Wednesday, January 21, 2026</u> 9:00 AM St Paul Mass Int: Jim & Shirley Lamb Healing & prayers</p>	<p><u>Thursday, January 22, 2026</u> 12:00 PM St John Mass Int: Loretta (Hausman) Layton, d & Max Baltz, d 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Ashley Ruiz-Espinoza, d</p> <p><u>Friday, January 23, 2026</u> 9:00 AM St Paul Mass Int: Billie DeClerk, d</p> <p><u>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> <u>Saturday January 24, 2026</u> 4 PM St Joseph Mass Int: Parishioners 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Larry J Jansen, d</p> <p><u>Sunday January 25, 2026</u> 8:00 AM St John Mass Int: Rudy & Joseph Hausman, d 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 24- Nick DeClerk January 25- Josh & Jill Neely
 January 31- Joan Gross February 1- Scott & Kim Hills
 February 7- Susan Meier February 8- Jeff Evers

Financial Report	
January 14, 2026	\$11,355.64
2026 year to date	\$30,839.90
Children’s Collection	\$72.15
St Joseph, December 2025	\$3,356.00
DOLR	\$2,410.00
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 24, 2026 - Judith Meier, Anna Mae Higginbotham, Barbara Seagraves, Kathy Adkins. , 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 24, 2026

Host Ministers: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Mitch & Teresa Blatz

Cups: Rose Hutsell, Trish Thielemier

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Dru & Evelyn Steimel

10:30 AM Sunday January 25, 2026

Host Ministers: Claire Garoutte, Cyndy Busick

Cups: Angie Declerk, Rene' Tyler

Cups: Debbie Hibbard, Brin Presley

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

6:00 PM Saturday January 31, 2026

Host Ministers: Dc Puello & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Cups: Kelly Throesch, Susan Meier

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Keegan Presley, Valentina Nguyen

10:30 AM Sunday February 1, 2026

Host Ministers: Jennifer Hibbard, Shelly James

Cups: Monica Loyd, Michelle Olvey

Cups: Terri Jansen, Kim Hills

Altar Servers: Leo & Etta Clark, Owen Smith

6:00 PM Saturday February 7, 2026

Host Ministers: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Susan Meier, Paige Radcliff

Cups: Rose Hutsell, Trish Thielemier

Altar Servers: Peyton Radcliff, Abel & Riles Johnson

10:30 AM Sunday February 8, 2026

Host Ministers: Abby Tyler, Claire Garoutte

Cups: Rene' Tyler, Debbie Hibbard

Cups: Leroy & Jennifer Nichols

Altar Servers: Hayden Moore, Austin James, Aven Thielemier

Knights of Columbus News

Knight of the month: Dwayne Capps

Knight family of the month: Caden Niswonger Family

Women of Hope: A Day of Retreat

When: Friday January 30, 2026

5:15pm - 8 pm

Saturday January 31, 2026

8 am- 3 pm

Where: Christ the King Catholic Church

4000 N Rodney Parham Rd

Little Rock, AR 72212

Register: WomenofhopeAR.org

Featured guests: Mary Bielski & Sarah Kroger

Youth Ministry has started a parish food pantry. We would like to start by asking for donations from the parish. Please bring any non-perishable food you can spare to the parish office.

Any parishioners that need your 2025 year end contribution totals, please call the church office during business hours.

Homebound and Nursing Home Ministry

January: Chris Baltz & Maria Dickson

Next weekend: January 25, 2026 Special Collection: Black & Indian Missions

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, Margaret Weyer, and Keith Broadway.

Good News!

January 18, 2026
 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 / 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 / John 1:29-34

ANN M. GARRIDO

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Dear Padre

January 18, 2026

I thought only priests and bishops should distribute Holy Communion at Mass. In my parish, the priest allows laypeople to help him, and I thought laypeople couldn't because our hands are not consecrated.

You're not the only person with this concern, so thank you for taking the time to write. The distribution of holy Communion has nothing to do with "consecrated hands." Ordinary ministers of Communion include bishops and priests, as you rightly identify, but also deacons and installed acolytes. Of the four ordinary ministers, only the hands of bishops and priests are consecrated. Laypeople are extraordinary ministers and are installed to help the priest so that everyone can receive holy Communion without long lines or wearying the (sometimes elderly) priest. Most extraordinary ministers of Communion approach this ministry very prayerfully.

Your question brings up the subject of the full participation of the laity in the Mass, which is part of a highly contentious theological discussion on social media. There is an unfortunate conflict between so-called "traditional Catholics" and "Vatican II Catholics" or, as they are often misrepresented, "Novus Ordo" Catholics. Some Catholics are led to believe that the "new Mass" is not authentic, even though it has been the ordinary form of the Mass for well over fifty years—that is, since the authoritative Second Vatican Council. Many good and faithful people suffer with doubt and anxiety as a result of this confusion. ●

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
 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)

Saturday with the Sisters

Come for a monastic
experience with the Olivetan
Benedictine Sisters!



Saturday, January 24
2:00-8:00 PM

Scan for more
information and
to register.

HOLY ANGELS CONVENT 1.24.26



WOMEN OF *Hope*

A DAY OF RETREAT

Come and be filled.

Women of Hope, A Day of Retreat provides a simple and sacred space in which women can be filled with Jesus, the Author of Hope. This day will fill your soul and transform your heart. Join us as we journey through the Gospels, guided by Mary of Bethany.

When

An Evening of Preparation
Friday, January 30, 2026
5:15 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

A Day of Retreat
Saturday, January 31, 2026
8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Where

Christ the King Catholic Church
4000 N Rodney Parham Rd
Little Rock, AR 72212

Register

Registration Fee \$75
For more information, visit us at
WomenofHopeAR.org



Featured Guests



MARY BIELSKI
Featured Speaker



SARAH KROGER
Praise & Worship

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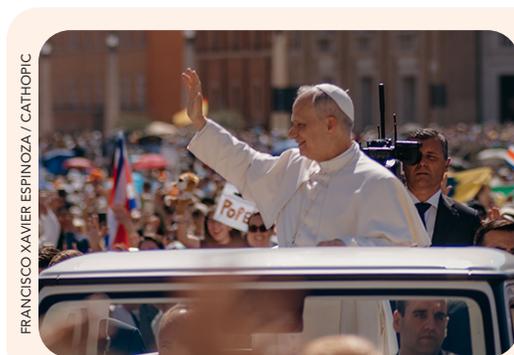
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Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



THOMAS ORRICO / CATHOPIC

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 19	January 20	January 21	January 22	January 23	January 24	January 25
Weekday	Weekday	St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children	Weekday	St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 15:16–23 Mk 2:18–22	1 Sm 16:1–13 Mk 2:23–28	1 Sm 17:32–33, 37, 40–51 Mk 3:1–6	1 Sm 18:6–9; 19:1–7 Mk 3:7–12	1 Sm 24:3–21 Mk 3:13–19	2 Sm 1:1–4, 11–12, 19, 23–27 Mk 3:20–21	Is 8:23–9:3 1 Cor 1:10–13, 17 Mt 4:12–23 or 4:12–17



FRANCISCO XAVIER ESPINOZA / CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Ours is a time marked by a growing search for spirituality, particularly evident in young people, who are longing for authentic relationships and guides in life. Hence, it is important that the Christian community be farsighted in discerning the challenges of today's world and in nurturing the desire for faith present in the heart of every man and woman.

MESSAGE TO SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS, ROME, MAY 28, 2025