



Judged or Invited?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2) is the message preached by Jesus after the arrest of John the Baptist. It is important to place this message in context. Jesus is not repeating the preaching of the Baptist. His message is unique and compelling.

Look closely at what Jesus is saying. Do not automatically fill in the blanks with the memories of every sermon you have heard. Try to hear Jesus’ words again, for the first time. Is the emphasis on “repent,” or is the emphasis on the announcement, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand”? Does it make any difference?

Repeat these words and change the emphasis each time. Play with the words. Let the words play with you. Notice how you respond. Notice what makes a difference. Notice how you react, and, most of all, notice whether you feel invited or you feel judged.

The Baptist made no bones about it. You are being judged: “Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees” (Matthew 3:10). Jesus, on the other hand, seems not to judge but to invite: “for the

kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).

In the invitation, we are challenged to see in

a different way. Use different skills. Refrain from automatic judgments. Seek to understand but, most of all, to accept and to love. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

**What does “repent” mean to me?
A threat or an invitation?**



**“Repent, for the kingdom
of heaven is at hand!”**

MATTHEW 3:2

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary
Time Saturday January 24, 2026

4:00 PM St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Larry J Jansen, d

Sunday January 25, 2026

8:00 AM St John Mass
 Int: Rudy & Joseph Hausman, d
 10:30 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Parishioners

Monday January 26, 2026

No Mass

Tuesday January 27, 2026

6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Stephen Hick, Healing & Prayers

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

9:00 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Bob & Lil Gogan, d

Thursday, January 29, 2026

12:00 PM St John Mass
 Int: Paul, Ruth & Tom Weisenbach, d Loyd & Marion Wren Family
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Bernard Baltz, d

Friday, January 30, 2026

9:00 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Ronnie Rose, d

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary
Time Saturday January 31, 2026

4 PM St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Deceased members of Bartha & Rosa Baltz Family

Sunday February 1, 2026

8:00 AM St John Mass
 Int: Bob & John Thielemier, d & Pat Parker, 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

January 31- Joan Gross February 1- Scott & Kim Hills
 February 7- Susan Meier February 8- Scott & Abby Tyler
 February 14- Nick DeClerk February 15- Jeff Evers

Financial Report	
January 22, 2026	\$8,758.67
2026 year to date	\$28,242.93
Children's Collection	\$115.00
St Joseph, December 2025	\$3,356.00
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 24, 2026 - Susie Roberts, Bridget Tedder, Jeanette Thielemier, Lisa Erwin. 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 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

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

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

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 nonperishable 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.

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 will begin soon! Please contact Catherine Jarrett 870-810-7349 if you are interested. Practice will begin Feb 2nd.

Next weekend **January 31, 2026** Special Collection: CASA

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!

January 25, 2026
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 8:23-9:3 / 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17 / Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

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Dear Padre

January 25, 2026

Why can't a Protestant receive the Eucharist at a Catholic Mass?

United by baptism, fellow wChristians are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. As such, they are always welcome at Catholic Mass, but they do not ordinarily participate in holy Communion. “Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to holy Communion” (Code of Canon Law, 844 §4).

When Catholics receive Holy Communion, they firmly believe the bread and wine are transformed into the Real Presence of Christ. In the Eucharist, we become part of the body of Christ and share in holiness and unity with one another. Our “Amen” to “The Body of Christ” and “The Blood of Christ” means, “Truly, so be it!” It indicates that we affirm our belief in this mystery, which is fundamental to our Catholic identity. If non-Catholics receive the Eucharist but do not embrace this identity and same belief, it may disrespect Catholics who do, as well as disrespect their own identity in the denomination to which they belong.

However, at Mass, fellow Christians can join their prayers with Catholics in praising God. Together, we also pray that the divisions which separate us will finally disappear, in keeping with Christ’s prayer for us “that they may all be one” (John 17:21). ●

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 24, 2026 – February 1, 2026

<p><u>St. John</u> Sun Jan 25: Wilma Wren (d); Rudy & Joseph Hausman; Aggie (Barnes) Summers Thur Jan 29: Loyd & Marion Wren family (d); Paul, Ruth & Tom Weisenbach (d) Feb 1: Bob & John Thielemier (d); Pat Parker (d)</p> <p><u>St. Paul</u> Sat Jan 24: Larry J Jansen (d) Sun Jan 25: For the Parishioners Tues Jan 27: Stephen Hick (healing & prayers) Wed Jan 28: Bob & Lil Gogan (d) Thur Jan 29: Bernard Baltz (d) Fri Jan 30: Ronnie Rose (d) Sat Jan 31: Deceased members of the Bartha & Rosa Baltz Family Sun Feb 1: For the Parishioners</p>

Ministry Schedule

	January 25	February 1	February 8	February 15
Eucharistic Ministers	Jim Bergman Lori Bergman Pam Durbin Mike Taylor	Jenniet Galvan Deb Martin Patty House Brenda Liebhaber	Jenniet Galvan Deb Martin Patty House Brenda Liebhaber	Jessica Stout Kelly Alphin Pat Wren Linda Elmore
Servers	Isaac Throesch Parker Liebhaber Madeleine Throesch	Lucy Throesch Caroline Stout Jaxon Steimel	Perry Throesch Jaxon Kasinger Catarina Throesch	Wade Zitzelberger Holden Zitzelberger Casyn 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 & Kathy Hausman			

Weekly Financial Report

January 18 2025 Loose Cash: \$1140.00 Checks & Envelopes: 384 .00
 Hall Rental: \$100.00

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 January 25.

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.

ST PAUL MARDI GRAS: St Paul's PTO Mardi Gras is going to be Dinner and Bingo this year. It will be held on Saturday Feb 7th at 6:30 pm at the Parish Life Center. Dinner is \$35, Bingo cards are \$5, and it will be adult only. Come join us for a fun-filled evening and support our St. Paul PTO!

WOMEN OF HOPE: A DAY OF RETREAT: Friday January 30, 2026 5:15PM – 8:00PM
 Saturday January 31, 2026 8:00AM – 3:00PM at Christ the King Catholic Church 4000 N Rodney Parham Rd. Little Rock, AR 72212 **Register:** WomenofhopeAR.org **Featured Guests:** Mary Bielski & Sarah Kroger

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: Enrich your faith in, “Why We Believe” by Dr Pitre during Lent. 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, 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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CARLOS DANIEL / CATHOPIC

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 26	January 27	January 28	January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1
<i>Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. John Bosco, Priest</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5 Mk 3:22-30	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19 Mk 3:31-35	2 Sm 7:4-17 Mk 4:1-20	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29 Mk 4:21-25	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17 Mk 4:26-34	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17 Mk 4:35-41	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13 1 Cor 1:26-31 Mt 5:1-12a

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, all too much violence exists in the world and our societies. Amid wars, terrorism, human trafficking, and widespread aggression, our children and young people need to be able to experience the culture of life, dialogue, and mutual respect. Above all, they need the witness of...those who have suffered injustice and violence [and] resist the temptation to seek revenge.

ADDRESS TO THE "ARENA OF PEACE," ROME, MAY 30, 2025



CATHOPIC