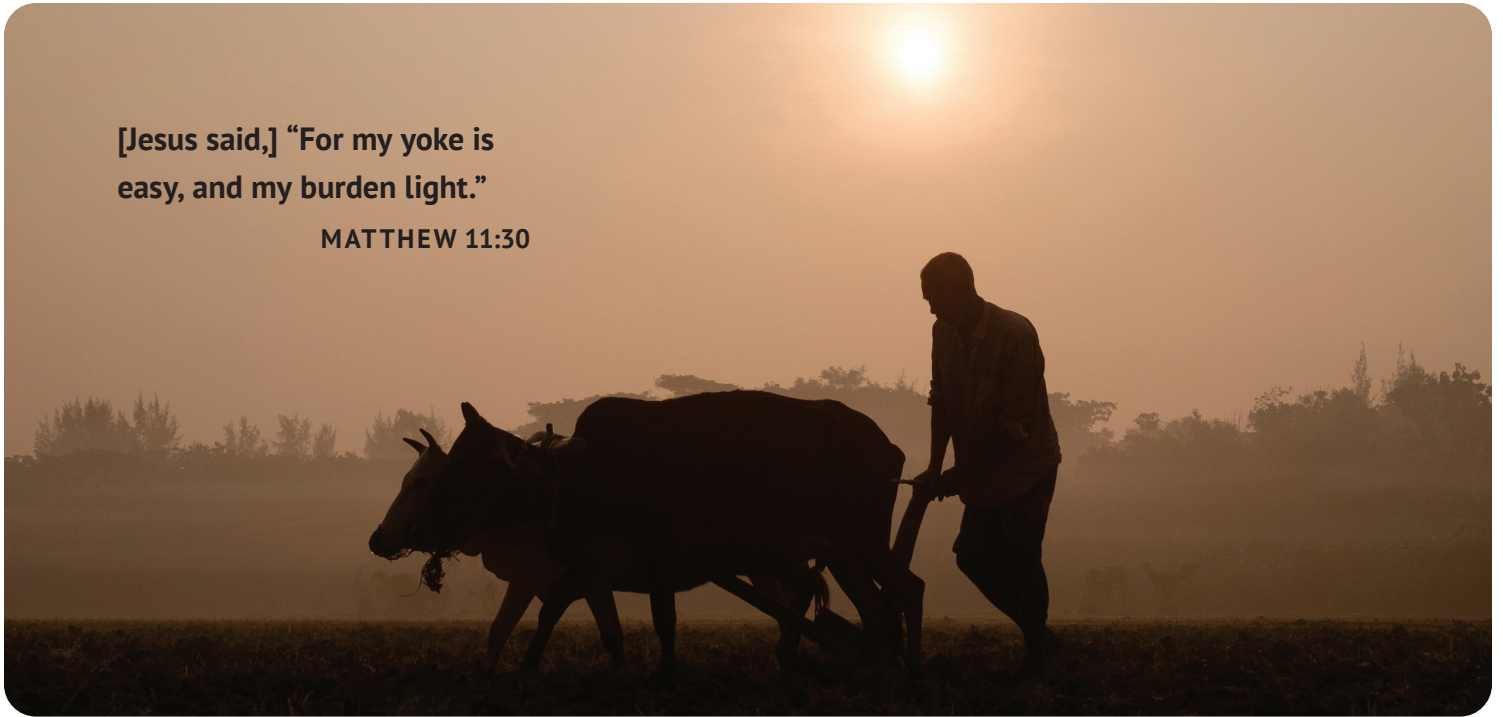




[Jesus said,] “For my yoke is
easy, and my burden light.”

MATTHEW 11:30



Take Up the Yoke

ANN M. GARRIDO

The invention of the yoke 6,000 years ago marked one of the great advances in human history. The yoke—a wooden beam fitted across the neck—harnessed the energy of two cattle pulling in the same direction, hastening the tilling of soil and transport of goods.

It is easy to see why, among many ancient peoples, the yoke became a symbol of subjugation. When the Roman army won a battle, they forced defeated soldiers to walk beneath a “yoke” of spears to indicate they were now in a state of servitude. The prophet Jeremiah once walked through Jerusalem wearing a yoke to warn the people they were about to be conquered by Babylon.

In Judaism, however, the Torah was also sometimes referred to as a yoke. It was a law to be submitted to, but it also was a way of life that offered an alternative to the cruel “yokes” imposed by kings. The Book of Sirach encourages youth to “Take [Torah’s] yoke upon your neck; that your mind may receive her teaching.... See for yourselves! I have labored only a little but have found much” (Sirach 51:26–27).

It is unclear exactly what Jesus meant when he invited us to accept *his* yoke, but it is likely that he was echoing the invitation of Sirach. He wanted us to know that following God’s law makes it possible for us to work together, accomplishing much that we could not do on our own. And that God’s law is a gentle law—one that enables rather than oppresses. Are you willing to receive Christ’s gentle teaching and make it your own? ●

Reflect

Is there a teaching of Jesus you find challenging?

Dear Padre,

Is it appropriate to display the American flag in our church?

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JOAQUIN OSSORIO CASTILLO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There is a burning question in our hearts, a need for truth that we cannot ignore, which leads us to ask ourselves: what is true happiness? What is the true meaning of life? What can free us from being trapped in meaninglessness, boredom, and mediocrity?... We need to lift our eyes...to the “things that are above” (Colossians 3:2).

HOMILY, TOR VERGATA, AUGUST 3, 2025

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

July 6
Weekday
Hos 2:16, 17c–18, 21–22
Mt 9:18–26

Tuesday

July 7
Weekday
Hos 8:4–7, 11–13
Mt 9:32–38

Wednesday

July 8
Weekday
Hos 10:1–3, 7–8, 12
Mt 10:1–7

Thursday

July 9
Weekday
Hos 11:1–4, 8e–9
Mt 10:7–15

Friday

July 10
Weekday
Hos 14:2–10
Mt 10:16–23

Saturday

July 11
St. Benedict, Abbot
Is 6:1–8
Mt 10:24–33

Sunday

July 12
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:10–11
Rom 8:18–23
Mt 13:1–23 or 13:1–9

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 Samy: 870-892-3319
 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: Jill Neely 501-658-6818
 Adult Inquiry Class, OCIA: Jamey Sullinger 870-758-0246
 Youth Minister: Dylan Clark 870-892-3319 catholicillym@gmail.com
 Youth Ministry Core Team: 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

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Saturday July 4, 2026

4:00 pm St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Henry Dust, d

Sunday July 5, 2026

8:00 am St John Mass
 Int: Romilda Hurn, d; Bob Wren, d; L/D members Frank & Josephine Thielemier family
 10:30 am St Paul Mass
 Int: Parishioners

Monday July 6, 2026

No Mass

Tuesday July 7, 2026

6:00 pm St Paul mass
 Int: Doug Guterman, d

Wednesday July 8, 2026

6:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Ronnie Rose, d

Thursday July 9, 2026

12:00 pm St John Mass
 Int: Wilma Wren, d; L/D members of Will & Katie Thielemier family
 6:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Deceased members of Joe & Anna Sorg family

Friday July 10, 2026

12:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Ronnie Rose, d

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Saturday July 11, 2026

4:00 pm St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Joseph & Joanna Thibeault, d

Sunday July 12, 2026

8:00 am St John Mass
 Int: Delta Hausman, d; Victor Throesch, d; L/D members of Carl & Emma Throesch 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

July 11- Susan Meier July 12- Jeff Evers
 July 18- Nick DeClerk July 19- Josh & Jill Neely
 July 25- Alex Baltz July 26- Matt & Jennifer Hibbard

Financial Report	
July 2, 2026	\$9,537.51
2026 year to date	\$216,210.45
Children's Collection	N/A
St Joseph April 2026	\$3,523.32
DOLR June 2026	\$1,099.00
Food Bank, June 2026	\$988.98



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

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



Church Cleaning Schedule July 11, 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.



BECOME A

TABLE HOST


Taste of Faith

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 1**



**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
POCAHONTAS, ARKANSAS**

ONE EVENING. ONE TABLE. A LASTING IMPACT.

By hosting a table, you'll gather family and friends for a wonderful evening while supporting the education and formation of our diocesan seminarians.

HOSTING IS SIMPLE.

INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS

WELCOME YOUR GUESTS

ENJOY AN INSPIRING EVENING TOGETHER

NO FUNDRAISING

NO DECORATING

NO PUBLIC SPEAKING

JUST HOSPITALITY.

There is no cost to attend, but there will be an opportunity to donate that evening.

Good News!

July 5, 2026
 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Zechariah 9:9–10 / Romans 8:9, 11–13 / Matthew 11:25–30

ANN M. GARRIDO

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July 5, 2026

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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

4650 Engelberg Road, Pocahontas, AR 72455



Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev Arokiasamy “Samy” Madhichettyirudayaraj (870) 892-3319
 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

July 5, 2026 – July 12, 2026

<p><u>St. John</u> Sun July 5: Romilda Hurn (d); Bob Wren (d); Living & deceased members of Frank & Josephine Thielemier family Thur July 9: Wilma Wren (d); Living & deacease members of the Will & Katie Thielemier family; Dickie & Doris Flanigan (healing) Sun July 12: Delta Hausman (d); Victor Throesch (d); Living & deceased members of the Carl & Emma Throesch family</p> <p><u>St. Paul</u> Sat July 4: Henry Dust (d) Sun July 5: Parishioners Tues July 7: Doug Guterman (d) Wed July 8: Ronnie Rose (d) Thur July 9: Deceased members of Joe & Anna Sorg family Fri July 10: Ronnie Rose (d) Sat July 11: Joseph & JoAnna Thibeault (d) Sun July 12: Parishioners</p>

Ministry Schedule

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Eucharistic Ministers	Jim Bergman Lori Bergman Pam Durbin Mike Taylor	Jim Bergman Lori Bergman Pam Durbin Mike Taylor	Jenniet Galvan Deb Martin Patty Hoose	Jenniet Galvan Deb Martin Patty Hoose
Servers	Perry Throesch Jaxon Steimel Lucy Throesch	Parker Liebhaber Haley Stout Casyn Steimel	Max Hoose Henry Taylor Jaxon Kasinger	Wade Zitzelberger Holden Zitzelberger Caroline Stout
Lectors	July: Brenda Liebhaber & Elaine Wallis August: David Blevins & Sonny Throesch			
Ushers	July: Dale Throesch & John Wren August: Ben Throesch & Jim Bergman			
Money Counters	July: Deb Martin, Dwain & Cathy Hausman August: Jessica Stout, Joe & Lori Stemel			

Weekly Financial Report

June 28, 2026 Loose Cash \$386.00 Checks & Envelopes: \$1180.00

WELCOME FATHER SAMY: We are pleased to welcome Father Samy to St. John the Baptist. We pray that all your days here will be filled with peace and blessings.

PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION: Next week we will take up the Peter’s Pence Collection to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including the charitable works of Pope Leo XIV. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Be a sign of hope with your generosity.

BECOME A TASTE OF FAITH TABLE HOST: St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church is seeking table hosts for this year’s Taste of Faith Dinner on Saturday, August 1. Hosting a table is simple! Invite family and friends to join you for an evening of faith, fellowship, and support for the education of our diocesan seminarians. There is no cost to attend, no decorating, and no fundraising requirement. Simply gather your guests and enjoy a meaningful evening together. For more information about becoming a table host, please contact: Jill Neely – 501-658-6818, Elaine Wallis – 501-412-2933, Tamara Roberson – 870-761-2666

BRAD FOOD BANK: Due to the fact that July 12th will be a collection for Peter’s Pence, we will wait till July 19th to have our monthly collection for our area Food Bank.

100th ANNIVERSARY MEMENTO’S: We would like to have a display of any old items that might have come out of our Church. If you have anything such as candlesticks or any other Church items, please let us know. Also, if anyone has any Church related old pictures, we would like to use them. Thank you.

VBS: VBS will be here before you know it Get signed up for the fun! If you would like to volunteer, reach out Jill Neely 501-658-6818

DATES TO REMEMBER: **100th Anniversary** of current Church: Sunday October 11th, Mass will be at 10:30AM with luncheon following.

EUCHARIST ADORATION: It is good that Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament goes hand-in-hand with the Eucharistic Celebration, thus prolonging, in a certain sense, the mystery of the Holy Mass. Please call 870-810-0612 for questions or more information.

PRAY FOR: All the sick that request our prayers, especially, Bishop Anthony Taylor, Father James Schaefer, Samuel Thompson, Lisa (Baltz) Riggs, Pam Zosso, Lettie Hausman, River Wood, Diane Kimble Ramsey, Caren Kiefer, Dennis Weisenbach, Father Matthew Flatly (diocese of Jefferson City), Doris Flanigan, Bonny Schmidt, Marie Peters, Pam Murphy, Bridgette Kasinger, Danny McCurdy, Paula Johnson, David Cissel, Owen Rowe, Jake Kasinger, Dickie Flanigan, Sharon Thielemier (Patrick), Betty Baltz, Karen O’Gara, Earnie Durbin, and all those listed in our petition book. May God grant them healing.