



Leaving Room for the Unexpected

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

The Father is the reckless Sower. He sows not only in the good soil, where a harvest might be anticipated, but also in the difficult soil, where nothing seems to take root. He sows with abandon, seemingly wasting good seed, for no other reason than to experience the joy of creation and the endless possibilities of expecting to be surprised.

There is nothing wrong with well-laid-out plans and careful, methodical use of the resources available. However, planning should not exclude the possibility of the creative manifestation of the power of God in an unanticipated manner. Our planning should not restrict and constrict but rather enable and encourage. We have all experienced the unexpected flower that somehow lives surrounded by pavement. Or the hardy tree that clings to the side of the mountain. They should not be there. It should not be possible. Nothing can grow there. Yet, there they are, doing the impossible and proclaiming the improbable.

Thankfully, we serve a God who sees more than we are ever able to see. Who imagines for us more than we have ever dreamed possible. Who not only sows but also tends and waters, enabling stupendous growth, until it is time for the abundant harvest. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Have you ever been surprised by grace? Could you have missed it?

[God said,] So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me, achieving the end for which I sent it.

ISAIAH 55:11



Dear Padre,

I look at what's going on in our world today, and I start to lose faith. How can I keep my faith strong in a time that seems faithless?

Evil isn't a new phenomenon. The Book of Judges, for example, presents a faithless time that may rival what's happening in our world today. Judges' twenty-one chapters are so full of vandalism and war, murder and assassination, fratricide and suicide, that it makes a grim statement on the worst of humanity. Judges reminds us of humanity's need for salvation. In *A Catholic Guide to the Bible*, author Oscar Lukefahr writes, "Left to itself, humanity degenerates into a frightful caricature of what we ought to be. We see such lessons repeated in recent history.... In the Book of Judges, we see our need for God." It's easy to lose faith when our focus is on how bad the world is rather than on how we can do our part to make it holy. Pope St. John Paul II wrote in *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, "Awareness of our own sinfulness, including that which is inherited, is the first condition for salvation; the next is the confession of this sin before God, who desires only to receive this confession so that he can save man. To save means to embrace and lift up with redemptive love, with love that is always greater than any sin." Don't lose Christian hope! While Christ already triumphed over sin and death, the reality of evil remains until God's kingdom is fully realized on earth as it is in heaven. (See 1 John 5:18–20.) ●



GUSTAVO PRAZAO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Mission is not so much about “departing,” but instead “remaining” in order to proclaim Christ through hospitality and welcome, compassion and solidarity. We are to remain...so as to look upon those who arrive from lands that are distant and violent; to remain and open our arms and hearts to them, welcoming them as brothers and sisters, and being for them a presence of consolation and hope.



HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 5, 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 13
Weekday
Is 1:10–17
Mt 10:34–11:1

Tuesday

July 14
St. Kateri Tekakwitha,
Virgin
Is 7:1–9
Mt 11:20–24

Wednesday

July 15
St. Bonaventure,
Bishop and Doctor of
the Church
Is 10:5–7, 13b–16
Mt 11:25–27

Thursday

July 16
Weekday
Is 26:7–9, 12, 16–19
Mt 11:28–30

Friday

July 17
Weekday
Is 38:1–6, 21–22, 7–8
Mt 12:1–8

Saturday

July 18
Weekday
Mi 2:1–5
Mt 12:14–21

Sunday

July 19
Sixteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Wis 12:13, 16–19
Rom 8:26–27
Mt 13:24–30 or
13:24–30

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

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: Kyle Sutton 758-0737
 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



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, Tues-
 day & 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.

Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church
1415 Harb Street Corning AR 72422
Mailing Address 800 Eleventh St
Corning, AR 72422

Mass Schedule

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordi- nary 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

Monday July 13, 2026

No Mass

Tuesday July 14, 2026

6:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Helen Decker Gschwend,
 d Georgeanne Bruner James, d

Wednesday July 15, 2026

12:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Larry Pfeffer, d

Thursday July 16, 2026

12:00 pm St John Mass
 Int: Jonathan Cagle, d; Jane Jun-
 kersfeld, d; Kathy Mitchell
 (healing)
 6:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Bernard & Arkie DeClerk, d

Friday July 17, 2026

12:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Emma, Floyd, Jim & Charles
 Blount, d

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Saturday July 18, 2026

4:00 pm St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Monica Baltz, d; Justin Baltz, d

Sunday July 19, 2026

8:00 am St John Mass
 Int: Aggie Barns Summer, d; JC &
 Janet Peters, d; Mike Thielemier, d
 10:30 am St Paul Mass
 Int: Parishioners

Sacristan Schedule

July 18- Nick DeClerk July 19- Josh & Jill Neely
 July 25- Alex Baltz July 26- Matt & Jennifer Hibbard
 August 1- Joan Gross August 2- Scott & Abby Tyler

Financial Report	
July 9, 2026	\$11,041.09
2026 year to date	\$227,251.54
Children's Collection	\$165.00
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 18- 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 July 18, 2026

Host Ministers: Dc Drake, Maggie Baltz

Cups: Pauletta Walker, Trish Thielemier

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Dru & Evelyn Steimel

10:30 AM Sunday July 19, 2026

Host Ministers: Dc Drake, Cyndy Busick

Cups: Debbie Hibbard, Jennifer Hibbard

Cups: Shelly James, Michelle Olvey

Altar Servers: Mary Morgan, Kipton & Sawyer Jansen

6:00 PM Saturday July 25, 2026

Host Ministers: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Altar Servers: Jacob & Blakely Jansen, Avery Seagraves

10:30 AM Sunday July 26, 2026

Host Ministers: Brin Presley, Abby Tyler

Cups: Rene' Tyler, Veronica Rose

Cups: Jill Neely, Jennifer Nichols

Altar Servers: Leo & Etta Clark, Kogan Vaughn

Knight of the month: Adam Throesch

Knight family of the month: Bobby & Nicole Meier family

Ushers July:

Saturday: Benny Baltz, Nick DeClerk

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

Homebound and Nursing Home for July:

Maria Dickson, Christine Baltz

Discovering Our Dignity Women's Bible Study: Women of the Old & New Testaments were as flawed & broken as we can be, yet the power of God worked in their lives. Discovering Our Dignity will allow you to learn from their experiences and uncover ways to deal with unwanted circumstances & deferred hopes. Through their stories recorded in Scripture, Women of the Bible reach out to touch our "present" in a tender, honest, & loving way- women to women- with ancient wisdom, sage advice & insights from sorrowful failures & emotional wounds. Come join our Sunday evening Women's Bible study beginning Sunday August 23rd @ 6pm in the Parish Life Center. Please call Teresa 870-930-5700 or the church office by August 1st to order your book. Books are \$45.00 for 22 week fall and winter sessions.



There will be a special collection the weekend of July 25-26 to help support the efforts of hosting this year's Taste of Faith event. If you are unable to attend the event and would like to make a donation, please consider this collection. Thank you for your generosity & continued support of this important ministry benefiting seminarian education in our diocese.



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, Dorothy Hoelscher, Tim Junkersfeld, Leonard Thielemier, Nekayah Thomas, Virginia Sacher, Brooke Junkersfeld, Lane Clayton, Jo Vatsula, Richard Jenkins, Blake Edwards, Dorothy Ward, Bonnie Schmidt, Elizabeth Smith, Diane Kimble Ramsey, Fr. James Schaefer, Paige Catt, Kelly McCandless, Roy Billeau, Larry Weick, Samuel Thompson and Keith Broadway.



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 12, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 55:10–11 / Romans 8:18–23 / Matthew 13:1–23 or 13:1–9

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Dear Padre

July 12, 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 12, 2026 – July 19, 2026

St. John

Sun July 12: Delta Hausman (d); Victor Throesch (d); Living & deceased members of the Carl & Emma Throesch family
Thur July 16: Jonathan Cagle (d); Jane Junkersfeld (d); Kathy Mitchell (healing)
Sun July 19: Aggie (Barnes) Summer (d); JC & Janet Peters (d); Mike Thielemier (d)

St. Paul

Sat July 11: Joseph & JoAnna Thibeault (d)
Sun July 12: Parishioners
Tues July 14: Helen Decker Gschwend (d); Georgeanne Brunner James (d)
Wed July 15: Larry Pfeffer (d)
Thur July 16: Bernard & Arkie DeClerk (d)
Fri July 17: Emma, Floyd, Jim & Charles Blount (d)
Sat July 18: Monica Baltz (d); Justin Baltz (d)
Sun July 19: Parishioners

Ministry Schedule

	July 12	July 19	July 26	August 2
Eucharistic Ministers	Jim Bergman Lori Bergman Pam Durbin Mike Taylor	Jenniet Galvan Deb Martin Patty Hoose Brenda Liebhaber	Jenniet Galvan Deb Martin Patty Hoose Brenda Liebhaber	Jessica Stout Kelly Alphin Pat Wren Rebecca Steimel
Servers	Parker Liebhaber Haley Stout Casyn Steimel	Max Hoose Henry Taylor Jaxon Kasinger	Wade Zitzelberger Holden Zitzelberger Caroline Stout	Perry Throesch Madeleine Throesch Catarina Throesch
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

July 5, 2026 Loose Cash \$331.00 Checks & Envelopes: \$2135.00
Hall Rental: \$100.00

PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION: Today is the Peter’s Pence Collection that supports the work of the Universal Church, including the work of the Holy See and the charitable works of Pope Leo XIV. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Leo XIV to be a sign of hope to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous today.

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

PARISH DIRCTORY: Our new Parish Directories are in. You can pick them up on Sunday’s after Mass or Thursday morning during office hours.

BECOME A TASTE OF FAITH TABLE HOST: St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church is seeking table hosts for this years 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

TASTE OF FAITH DONATION: There will be a special 2nd collection on July 25th and 26th to support the efforts of hosting this years Taste of Faith event at St. Paul. If you are unable to attend the event and would like to make a donation, please consider this collection.

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

BIBLE STUDY: Discovering our Dignity Women’s Bible Study. Come join our Sunday evening study beginning Sunday, August 23rd at 6:00PM in the St. Paul Pairsh Life Center. Please call Teresa Baltz at 870-930-5700 or the St. Paul church office by August 1st to order your book. Books are \$45.00.

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH: Adam Throesch
FAMILY OF THE MONTH: Bobby & Nicole Meier

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, and all those listed in our petition book. May God grant them healing.