

[Jesus said,] “Do not be afraid....
Nothing is concealed that will
not be revealed, nor secret that
will not be known.”

MATTHEW 10:26

The Freedom of Letting Go of Secrets

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

Secrets. The disabling fear of discovery. Trying so hard to conceal something that we do not want others to know. Often, we guard secrets closely because we believe we will be embarrassed, punished, or excluded if our secrets are made known.

Sometimes, we hold tightly to secrets because we are ashamed. We keep other secrets because of the dynamics of family life: “We do not share our family business with anyone.” All secrets can be difficult to keep—some more than others. Perhaps the most difficult secret to hold is one that we fear defines our personal integrity and authenticity. It is the fear not only of discovery but also of perception: How will I be perceived if this is made known? Will I still be accepted? Or, even more painful: Will I be rejected, and how complete will the rejection be?

The “good news” of the gospel is that “nothing is concealed that will not be revealed” (Matthew 10:26). In other words, there is nothing that can remain tucked away forever. Everything is revealed in one way or another. Gospel grace and freedom result when a person chooses to freely release whatever it is that burdens them, including closely held secrets. It is the ultimate experience of dying to self to claim eternal life. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

What am I afraid to reveal to others? Can I try telling God?

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: 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

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary
Time Saturday June 20, 2026

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

Sunday June 21, 2026

8:00 am St John Mass
 Int: Dickie & Doris Flanigan (healing); Treva Throesch, d; Betty Steimel, d
 10:30 am St Paul Mass
 Int: Parishioners

Monday June 22, 2026

No Mass

Tuesday June 23, 2026

6:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Frances Baltz, d

Wednesday June 24, 2026

12:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Bob & Lil Gogan, d

Thursday June 25, 2026

12:00 pm St John Mass
 Int: Bob & John Thielemier, d; Mike Thielemier, d; Lee Taylor, d
 6:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Brother James "Homer" Lindsey, d

Friday June 26, 2026

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

Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary

Time Saturday June 27, 2026

4:00 pm St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 pm St Paul Mass
 Int: Monica & Bernard Baltz, d

Sunday June 28, 2026

8:00 am St John Mass
 Int: Edgar Throesch, d; Madeleine Throesch, d; Dick & Sarah Thielemier, 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 weekends, 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

Sacristan Schedule

June 27- Alex Baltz June 28- Matt & Jennifer Hibbard
 July 4- Joan Gross July 5- Scott & Abby Tyler
 July 11- Susan Meier July 12- Jeff Evers

Financial Report	
June 17, 2026	\$24,663.45
2026 year to date	\$199,083.17
Children's Collection	\$238.00
St Joseph May 2026	\$3,319.00
DOLR May 2026	\$747.00
Food Bank, May 2026	\$1,005.31



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

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



Church Cleaning Schedule June 27- Susan Meier, Monica Loyd, Dayna Difani, JoAnn Guterman, Sherry Curran. **To volunteer to join a group & help maintain our church call the office or ask someone to join a group.**



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.

Eucharistic Ministers/Altar Servers Schedule

6:00 PM Saturday June 27, 2026

Host Ministers: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Paul & Kristie Yemma

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Leo & Etta Clark

10:30 AM Sunday June 28, 2026

Host Ministers: Shelly James, Terri Jansen

Cups: Michelle Olvey, Brin Presley

Cups: Veronica Rose, Jill Neely

Altar Servers: Zoey Hibbard, Cash Cox, John Henry Garoutte

6:00 PM Saturday July 4, 2026

Host Ministers: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Cups: Pauletta Walker, Trish Thielemier

Cups: Rose Hutsell, Kelly Throesch

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Keegan Presley, Valentina Nguyen

10:30 AM Sunday July 5, 2026

Host Ministers: Cyndi Busick, Shelly James

Cups: Abby Tyler, Jenifer Nichols

Cups: Jill Neely, Veronica Rose

Altar Servers: Zoey Hibbard, Austin James, Owen Smith

6:00 PM Saturday July 11, 2026

Host Ministers: Susan Meier, Paige Radcliff

Cups: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Tom & Chris Baltz

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Peyton Radcliff, Riles Johnson

10:30 AM Sunday July 12, 2026

Host Ministers: Claire Garoutte, Terri Jansen

Cups: Jeff Evers, Monica Loyd

Cups: Debbie Hibbard, Rene' Tyler

Altar Servers: Cash Cox, Caroline Thielemier, John Henry Garoutte

Jubilee Mass: A Mass of Thanksgiving will be concelebrated at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23 at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Little Rock to honor Fr. John Oswald (65 years), Msgr. Lawrence Frederick (60 years), Msgr. David LeSieur (50 years), Fr. Joseph Marconi, Fr. Salvador Vega-Alvarenga, and Fr. Arokiasamy M. Irudayaraj (25 years) on their anniversary of priestly ordination. Senior priests will be honored during this Mass as well. A dinner reception will follow in McDonald Hall that is open to everyone. For additional information contact María Velázquez at 501-664-0340, ext. 340.

The Application Period for the 2026 Diocese of Little Rock, Respect Life Grant is now open. June 1- August 31, 2026 If you have any questions, please email respectlife@dolr.org. Or go to Respect Life Grant Application DOLR.org

Catholic kids Club will meet June 28th @ St. Johns Hall at 4:30 PM. We will have a 7 Sacrament scavenger hunt. We will talk about the significance of each sacrament. All kids are invited to attend.

VBS will be here before you know it! Get signed up for the fun!



If you would like to volunteer, reach out to Jill Neely 501-658-6818

Taste of Faith

SAVE THE DATE

AN EVENING OF FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, & FAITH

SATURDAY
AUGUST 1 2026
6:00 PM
HAPPY HOUR

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church- Life Center
Pocahontas, AR

SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION AND FORMATION
OF OUR SEMINARIANS

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, Blake Edwards, Dorothy Ward, Bonnie Schmidt, Elizabeth Smith, Margaret Weyer, Diane Kimble Ramsey, Fr. James Schaefer, Ronnie Risner, Larry Weick, Paige Catt, Kelly McCandless, and Keith Broadway.

Good News!

June 21, 2026
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Jeremiah 20:10–13 / Romans 5:12–15 / Matthew 10:26–33

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

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Dear Padre

June 21, 2026

For the past year or so, I have been trying to pray on a regular basis, but I am constantly distracted. My mind wanders so easily. Do you have any suggestions?

Distractions in prayer are an inescapable part of the human condition and the results of our imagination. Even great saints experienced distractions in prayer. Some of their suggestions may help. For example, when St. Thérèse of Lisieux struggled with prayer, she would recite an Our Father or Hail Mary or read from the gospels. Praying as an act of faith or returning to God’s presence and love can turn our focus away from other concerns, but, even then, distractions may still arise.

When we become aware of distractions, we should calmly renew our focus and continue our prayer. Saint Teresa of Ávila wrote in *The Interior Castle*, “We should not be distressed by reason of our thoughts, nor allow ourselves to be worried by them.... [Thoughts are] inevitable. Do not let [them] disturb or grieve you.” No matter how often distractions return or how long they last, they are not sinful; rather, they are opportunities to show God that we are sincere about praying.

Saint Alphonsus, another great teacher of prayer, reminds us that prayer is necessary, beneficial, and always possible. He advises us to hang in there, because the devil would like nothing better than for us to stop praying. ●

The Redemptorists / 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)



Taste of Faith

Benefitting Seminarian Education

Join us for an inspiring evening of fellowship, dinner, and meaningful conversation as we come together to support the seminarians of the Diocese of Little Rock.

Taste of Faith helps provide education, formation, and essential support for the men preparing to serve our parishes as future priests throughout Arkansas. The cost to educate and support one seminarian is estimated at approximately **\$45,000 each year**, helping provide tuition, room and board, health insurance, and other essential needs.

There is **no cost to attend** this special event. During the evening, guests will have the opportunity to prayerfully consider making a financial contribution in support of vocations and seminarian education.

Designed as an evening of fellowship and conversation, Taste of Faith offers a welcoming atmosphere for adults to gather in support of this important mission.

Your presence, prayers, and support help make a lasting impact on the future of our Church.

We invite parishioners, friends, and neighboring parishes from across Northeast Arkansas to join us for this meaningful evening supporting the future of our Diocese.

Event Information:

Date: Saturday, August 1, 2026 • 6:00 PM Happy Hour (Mass offered at 5pm)

Location: St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church –

1002 Convent St, Pocahontas, AR 72455

Hosted by: Vocations and Seminarians Office and Stewardship and
Development Office

For additional information, please contact:

Jill Neely

501-658-6818

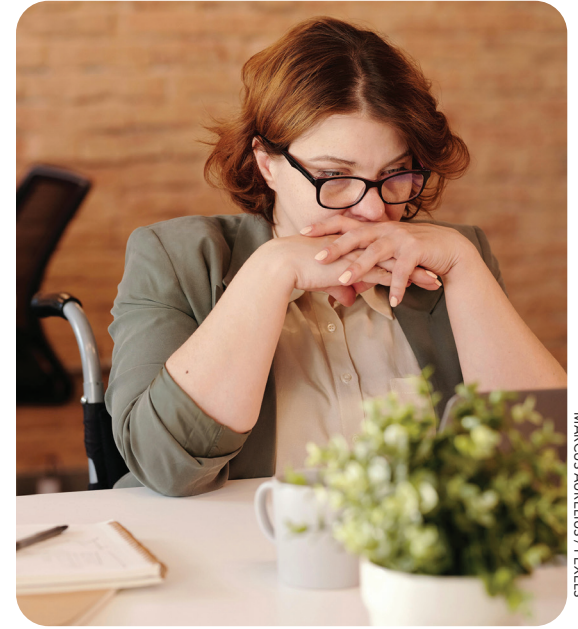
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MARCUS AURELIUS / PEXELS

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28
Weekday	Weekday	<i>The Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i>	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	<i>Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
2 Kgs 17:5–8, 13–15a, 18 Mt 7:1–5	2 Kgs 19:9b–11, 14–21, 31–35a, 36 Mt 7:6, 12–14	Is 49:1–6 Acts 13:22–26 Lk 1:57–66, 80	2 Kgs 24:8–17 Mt 7:21–29	2 Kgs 25:1–12 Mt 8:1–4	Lam 2:2, 10–14, 18–19 Mt 8:5–17	2 Kgs 4:8–11, 14–16a Rom 6:3–4, 8–11 Mt 10:37–42



MARISA CZL / CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

It is wonderful to think that, when we consider our individual calling...each of us can say with confidence: "Despite my weakness, the Lord is not ashamed of my humanity. Instead, he comes to dwell within me. He accompanies me with his Spirit; he enlightens me and makes me an instrument of his love for others, for society, and for the world."

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 25, 2025