



Are You Listening?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” (See Psalm 95.) Our psalm prayer invites us to respond to the Word of God. A positive response should be assumed as ordinary: very few among us would deliberately ignore God’s voice. The challenge is not in responding “yes” to the invitation of the Lord but rather in “hearing” his voice.

There are so many voices that daily compete for attention. We seem to be bombarded every waking moment with some kind of noise that demands attention and action. At one time, Neil Diamond might have been able to celebrate the “Beautiful Noise” of the city, but it is far more difficult for us today. Frankly, the noise around us is deafening, and most people long for true silence, a break in the pattern, a vacation from the frantic anxiety that seems to be present.

A wonderful Lenten practice—indeed, a spiritual practice that goes well beyond Lent—is to freely choose to disconnect from distraction. Resist the temptation to plug in the earbuds. Refrain from the distraction of social media content. Leave your cell phone in the living room, go sit in the backyard, and pay attention to nothing. “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:11), the psalmist reminds us. Listen for God’s voice, hear his call, and respond to the invitation. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

The love of God has been
poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has
been given to us.

ROMANS 5:5

Reflect

*Do I need more silence?
Do I find silence difficult?*

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: 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

<p><u>Third Sunday of Lent Saturday March 7, 2026</u> 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass Int: Parishioners 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Lambert Jansen, d</p> <p><u>Sunday March 8, 2026</u> 8:00 AM St John Mass Int: JC & Janet Peters, d; deceased members of Benny & Anna Thielemier family 10:30 AM St Paul Mass Int: Parishioners</p> <p><u>Monday March 9, 2026</u> No Mass</p> <p><u>Tuesday March 10, 2026</u> 6 PM St Paul Mass Int: Doug Guterman, d</p> <p><u>Wednesday March 11, 2026</u> 9:00 AM St Paul Mass Int: Christopher Steimel, d 6:15 PM St Paul PRE Mass Int: Keith Sutton, d</p>	<p><u>Thursday, March 12, 2026</u> 12:00 PM St John Mass Int: Susan (Barre) Kremers, d; Lee Taylor, d 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Arkie DeClerk, d</p> <p><u>Friday March 13, 2026</u> 9:00 AM St Paul Mass Int: Living/Deceased members of Barta & Rosa Baltz family 2:30 PM St Paul Stations of the Cross 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross St John; fish fry to follow</p> <p><u>Forth Sunday of Lent Saturday March 14, 2026</u> 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass Int: Parishioners 6:00 PM St Paul Mass Int: Billie DeClerk, d</p> <p><u>Sunday March 15, 2026</u> 8:00 AM St John Mass Int: Madeline Throesch, d; Victor Throesch, 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 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
 March 14- Alex Baltz March 15- Jeff Evers
 March 21- Susan Meier March 22- Matt & Jennifer Hibbard
 March 28- Nick DeClerk March 29- Scott & Kim Hills

Financial Report	
March 5, 2026	\$9,026.52
2026 year to date	\$71,740.86
Children's Collection	\$245.00
St Joseph, January 2026	\$2,905.00
DOLR	\$3,863.81
Food Bank, February 2026	\$1,106.06



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.



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

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



Church Cleaning Schedule March 14- Judith Meier, Anna Mae Higginbotham, Barabara 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 March 14, 2026

Host Ministers: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Trish Thielemier, Rose Hutsell

Cups: Tom & Chris Baltz

Altar Servers: Luke, Jacob, Blakely Jansen

10:30 AM Sunday March 15, 2026

Host Ministers: Monica Loyd, Shelly James

Cups: Rene' Tyler, Debbie Hibbard

Cups: Angie DeClerk, Anna Higginbotham

Altar Servers: Leo Clark, Owen Smith, Etta Clark

6:00 PM Saturday March 21, 2026

Host Ministers: Dc Tate, Maggie Baltz

Cups: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Susan Meier, Paige Radcliff

Altar Servers: Peyton, Reese Radcliff, Abel Johnson

10:30 AM Sunday March 22, 2026

Host Ministers: Dc Tate, Claire Garoutte

Cups: Kim Hills, Terri Jansen

Cups: Abby Tyler, Jennifer Hibbard

Altar Servers: Zoey Hibbard, Keegan Presley, Caroline Thielemier

6:00 PM Saturday March 28, 2026

Host Ministers: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Cups: Rose Hutsell, Pauletta Walker

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Avery Seagraves, Valentina Nguyen

10:30 AM Sunday March 29, 2026

Host Ministers: Monica Loyd, Scott Hill

Cups: Cyndi Busick, Jill Neely

Cups: Michelle Olvey, Brin Presley

Altar Servers: Austin James, Cash Cox, Aven Thielemier

Knights of Columbus meeting March 11th at 8 PM

Ushers March:

Saturday: Roberta Waymon, Joey Radcliff

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

Nursing Home and Homebound Ministry March:
Debbie Hibbard, Judith Meier, Zachary Singleton

Enrich your faith in, "Why We Believe" by Dr Pitre during Lent. Join Fr Stephen in the Parish Life Center this Sunday at 6 PM. The Eucharist: Jesus' Real Presence? What does the Bible teach about Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist? hosted by the KC's. Light hors d'oeuvres and childcare will be provided.

Calling all children and teens (2nd grade and up)! Join the Children's Easter Choir for Easter Sunday. Practice will be on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM following PRE.

All Stations begin at 5:30 PM. KC Fish Fry available after Stations on **select dates:**
St John Station of the Cross: March 13th.(Fish Fry)
St Paul Stations of the Cross: March 20th, March 27th.(Fish Fry).

Subiaco Jazz Band to perform March 12th at 12:30 PM in the Parish Life Center. All parishioner are welcome to attend.

If any parishioner would like to purchase a lily for the Easter holiday in memory or honor of a loved one, please contact the church office to place your order. The cost is \$25 per lily.

Next weekend March 14 & 15 Special collection: Catholic Relief Services.

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 Flanagan 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!

March 8, 2026
Third Sunday of Lent (A)

Exodus 17:3-7 / Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 / John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

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Dear Padre

March 8, 2026

When I was young, my parish covered all the statues during part of Lent. What did it mean exactly? Do any churches still do this?

In 2001, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the practice of veiling statues and crosses during the last two weeks of the season of Lent, beginning on the fifth Sunday of Lent. This practice is optional, at the discretion of the local pastor. According to the Roman Missal, “Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.”

Covering crosses and statues in violet cloth in the final weeks of Lent indicates a shift in the Church’s focus from Jesus in the desert (gospel for the first Sunday of Lent) to Christ during his Passion. Similar to other Lenten disciplines of penance and fasting that align us in solidarity with Christ, the veiling custom is meant to deepen our appreciation for Christ’s ultimate sacrifice. It represents our “fasting” from sacred depictions of the cross on which hung our salvation and from images of the saints, who glorify Christ and in whom he is glorified. This concealment creates an absence to make our hearts grow fonder for the Lord, who “bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24). ●

Fr. Byron J. 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

March 8, 2026 – March 15 2026

<p><u>St. John</u> March 8: JC & Janet Peters (d); Deceased members of the Benny & Anna Thielemier family Thur Mar 12: Susan (Barre) Kremers (d); Lee Taylor (d) March 15: Madeleine Throesch (d); Victor Throesch (d)</p> <p><u>St. Paul</u> Sat Mar 7: Lambert Jansen (d) Sun Mar 8: For the Parishioners Tues Mar 10: Doug Guterman (d) Wed Mar 11, 9:00AM: Christopher Steimel (d); 6:15PM PRE: Keith Sutton (d) Thur Mar 12: Arkie DeClerk (d) Fri Mar 13: Living & deceased members of Barta & Rosa Baltz family Sat Mar 14: Billie DeClerk (d) Sun Mar 15: For the Parishioners</p>

Ministry Schedule

	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Eucharistic Ministers	Cathy Hausman Tina Sharp Jane Smith Rebecca Steimel	Stella Steimel Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Becky Brown	Stella Steimel Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Becky Brown	Lori Steimel Joe Steimel Vernon Hausman Candace Steimel
Servers	Lucy Throesch Caroline Stout Jaxon Steimel	Wade Liebhaber Holden Liebhaber Casyn Steimel	Max Hoose Perry Throesch Jaxon Kasinger	Parker Liebhaber Haley Stout Caroline Stout
Lectors	March: Christian Helms & Rebecca Steimel April: Sonny Throesch & Elaine Wallis			
Ushers	March: Jeremy Stout & Stuart Blalock April: Chuck Barnes & Danny Steimel			
Money Counters	March: Deb Martin, Dwain & Cathy Hausman April: Mike & Connie Kasinger, Crystal Blalock			

Weekly Financial Report

2026 Loose Cash \$333.00 Checks & Envelopes: \$1500.00
 Hall Rental: \$50.00

FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS SCHEDULE:

All Stations begin at 5:30PM. KC Fish Fry available after Stations on select dates.

St. John Stations of the Cross: Mar. 6th, Mar. 13th (Fish Fry)

St. Paul Stations of the Cross: Mar. 20th, Mar. 27th (Fish Fry)

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: Collection will be taken up Sunday March 15th. This special collection is taken up across Arkansas. Give to this effort to help CRS provide emergency relief, human development and peace initiatives in 99 countries around the world, where nearly half the population lives on less than \$2 a day. For more information, contact Kelly Wewers, director of stewardship and development, at (501) 664-0340, ext. 391.

BRAD FOOD BANK: This Sunday March 8th the second collection will be taken up for our area food bank.

KC FISH FRY: The KC's will be having a fish fry at St. John's on March 13th following Stations of the Cross. Home-made desserts are welcome and appreciated.

LENTEN CONFESSIONS: This Lent, we will have the confession service for our three parishes on Tuesday, March 17th at 6:00PM. We will have four additional priests available to hear confessions. Please come experience God's mercy and forgiveness this Lenten season by Making use of the sacrament of confession!

PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE: Ladies of Grace will have a bake sale on Palm Sunday to help fund their projects for the year. The online auction will run on their Facebook page March 23rd - 27th. And there will also be goodies for sale after 8am Palm Sunday Mass March 29th. Please see Jessica Stout if you have something to sell in the online auction.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: Is the Eucharist Jesus' Real Presence? What does the Bible teach about Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist? Join us in the Parish Life Center on Sunday evening, March 8th for our continuing Lenten study from 6:00-7:00 pm. Light hors D'oeuvres and childcare will be provided.

EUCCHARIST 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, Diane Kimble Ramsey, Caren Kiefer, Jerry Lindsey, 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.

Dear Padre,

When I was young, my parish covered all the statues during part of Lent. What did it mean exactly? Do any churches still do this?

In 2001, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the practice of veiling statues and crosses during the last two weeks of the season of Lent, beginning on the fifth Sunday of Lent. This practice is optional, at the discretion of the local pastor. According to the Roman Missal, “Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.”

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CATHOPIC

Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MARCH 9	MARCH 10	MARCH 11	MARCH 12	MARCH 13	MARCH 14	MARCH 15
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1–15ab Lk 4:24–30	Dn 3:25, 34–43 Mt 18:21–35	Dt 4:1, 5–9 Mt 5:17–19	Jer 7:23–28 Lk 11:14–23	Hos 14:2–10 Mk 12:28–34	Hos 6:1–6 Lk 18:9–14	1 Sm 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a Eph 5:8–14 Jn 9:1–41 or 9:1, 6–9, 13–17, 34–38

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

We feel a deep and burning thirst that no drink in this world can satisfy. Knowing this, let us not deceive our hearts by trying to satisfy them with cheap imitations!... Let us turn this thirst into a step stool, like children who stand on tiptoe, in order to peer through the window of encounter with God.

HOMILY, ROME, AUGUST 3, 2025