



Stairway to Heaven

MIGUEL DULICK

Even by the Ascension, after forty days of eating and drinking with the resurrected Lord, the obtuseness of the Apostles still frustrates Jesus. In Acts, they're ready for a fight, "to restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Matthew reports that "they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Pentecost cannot come soon enough, when they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and all will be made known.

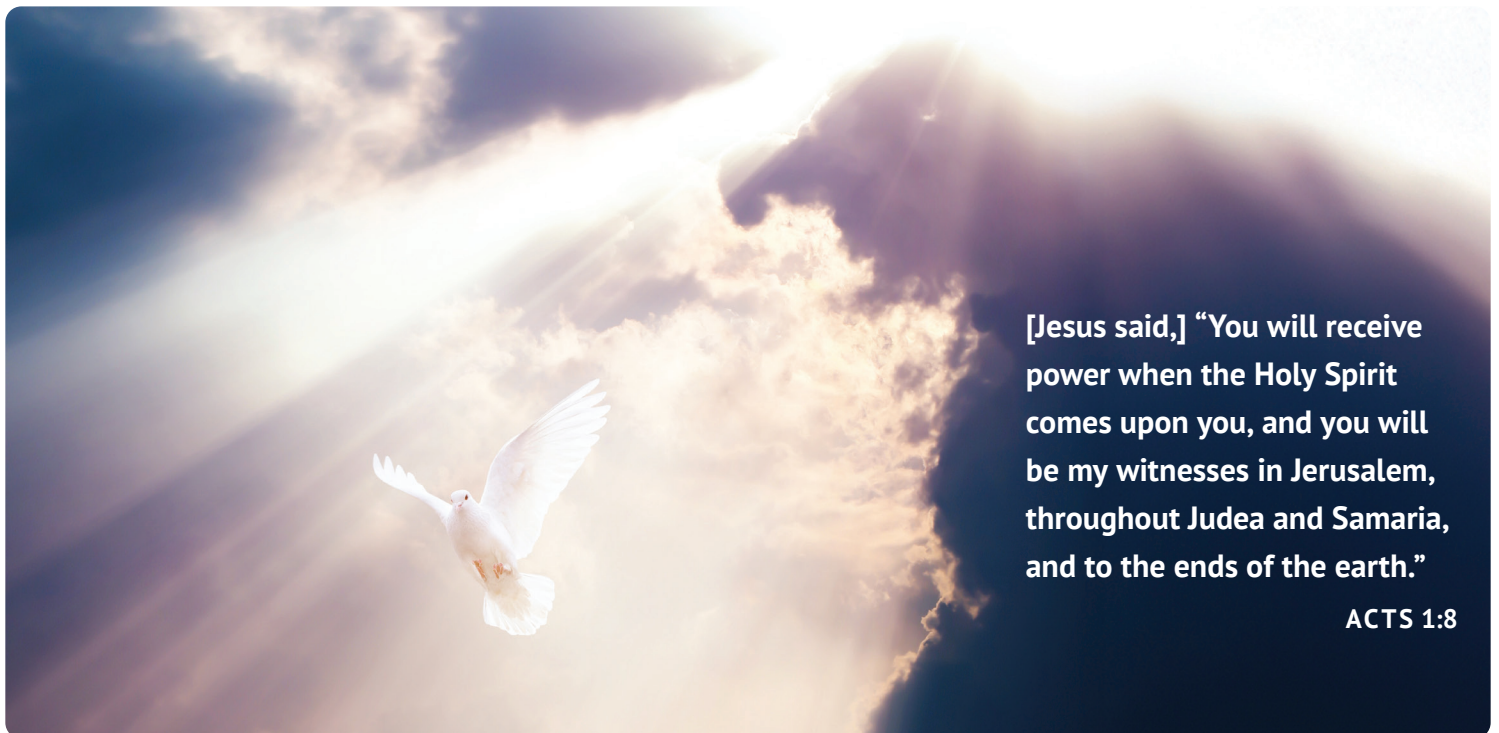
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LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY



[Jesus said,] "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8

Reflect

How can I better cooperate with the Holy Spirit?

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Saturday May 16, 2026
 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Ann Meier, d

Sunday May 17, 2026
 8:00 AM St John Mass
 Int: Vitus Barre' Jr, Madeleine Throesch, d, Paul, Ruth, Tom Weisenbach, d
 10:30 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Brother James "Homer" Lindsey

Monday May 18, 2026
 No Mass

Tuesday May 19, 2026
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Lawrence "Larry" Baltz, d; Ashley Ruiz-Espinosa, d

Wednesday May 20, 2026
 9:00 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Shirley Sorg, d

Thursday May 21, 2026
 12:00 St John Mass
 Int: Loretta Layton, d; Bob & John Thielemier, d; L/D Members of Jake & Dorthy Liebhaber family
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Hellen Decker Gschwend, d; Martha Keifer Decker, d; Nadine Decker Carpenter, d

Friday May 22, 2026
 9:00 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Tom Baltz, d

Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday
Saturday May 23, 2026
 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Bob & Lil Gogan, d

Sunday May 24, 2026
 8:00 AM St John Mass
 Int: Rudy & Joseph Hausman, d; Lee Taylor, d Victor Throesch, d
 10:30AM 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

May 23- Nick DeClerk May 24- Josh & Jill Neely
 May 30- Alex Baltz May 31- Matt & Jennifer Hibbard
 June 6- Joan Gross June 7- Scott & Abby Tyler

Financial Report	
May 14, 2026	\$15,837.39
2026 year to date	\$168,916.05
Children's Collection	\$153.60
St Joseph April 2026	\$3,523.32
DOLR April 2026	\$5,022.00
Food Bank, April 2026	\$1,118.31



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

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



Church Cleaning Schedule May 23- Suzie 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 May 23, 2026

Host Ministers: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Pauletta Walker, Rose Hutsell

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Leo & Etta Clark

10:30 AM Sunday May 24, 2026

Host Ministers: Jill Neely & Jennifer Nichols

Cups: Michelle Olvey, Brin Presley

Cups: Monica Loyd, Veronica Rose

Altar Servers: Austin James, Kegan Presley, Aven Thielemier

6:00 PM Saturday May 30, 2026

Host Ministers: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Cups: Trish Thielemier, Susan Meier

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Altar Servers: Luke, Jacob, & Blakely Jansen

10:30 AM Sunday May 31, 2026

Host Ministers: Shelly James, Terri Jansen

Cups: Rene' Tyler, Abby Tyler

Cups: Angie DeClerk, Anna Higginbotham

Altar Servers: Owen Smith, Keegan Presley, Caroline Thielemier

Knights of Columbus News:

Knight of the month: Father Stephen Elser

Family of the month: Kelly & Bridgette Rose Family

Any adults interested in volunteering for VBS; please contact Jill Neely at 501-658-6818. VBS will be held July 26-29.

The Parish Food Bank is still collecting donations for our CYM Food Pantry. Please drop off any nonperishable food items at the church office during regular business hours. Thank you for your generosity and support of this important ministry.

The Adoration Chapel has extra copies of the Arkansas Catholic. If you would like one, please feel free to take a copy home with you. Thank you.

Nursing Home and Homebound Ministry: May

Joan Gross, Jeanette Thielemier, Susan Meier

May Ushers:

Saturday: Joe Bergman, Bobby Meier, Kyle Sutton, Terry Throesch

Sunday: Travis DeClerk, James Presley

Sunday June 7 @ 5PM Fr. Stephen's Farewell Reception.

Come show your appreciation for our dear Fr. Stephen before he goes to "shepherd his next flock".

Join us at 6:30 pm for our 5th Annual Corpus Christi Procession as we give public witness to our Catholic Faith by honoring the Real Presence of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. The procession will begin in the church, continue to the Courthouse & return to the Parish Life Center. Rides will be available. We will serve salad, sandwiches, drinks. Ice cream will be served after the procession. Please bring a finger food to this celebration.

Catholic Kids Club at St John's Hall Sunday May 17th @ 4:30 pm. Jammies & Jesus.

Wear your favorite pj's. If you would like to volunteer or donate please contact Christina Cox 870-810-1853, Carson Hausman 870-378-1185 or Laura Throesch 870-810-3746.

A note from the Lamb's: We would like to thank all of you for the lovely reception to send us on our way to California. We are so blessed to have been a member of St Paul the Apostle parish for 12 1/2 years. We've made many friends and will make every effort to keep in touch. Again, Thank You and God Bless! Jim & Shirley Lamb.

Congratulations to Bridget Hawk from St Joseph the Worker in Corning receiving her First Holy Communion on April 25, 2026

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

Good News!

May 17, 2026
The Ascension of the Lord (A)

Acts 1:1-11 / Ephesians 1:17-23 / Matthew 28:16-20

MIGUEL DULICK

Even by the Ascension, after forty days of eating and drinking with the resurrected Lord, the obtuseness of the Apostles still frustrates Jesus. In Acts, they're ready for a fight, "to restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Matthew reports that "they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Pentecost cannot come soon enough, when they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and all will be made known.

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Dear Padre

May 17, 2026

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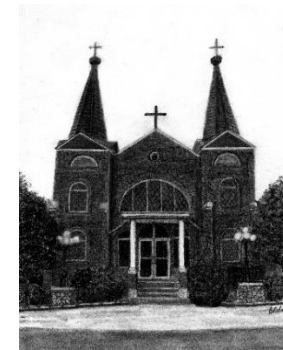
No one but our heavenly Father knows the precise time of our Lord's return. (See Mark 13:32-37.) If this uncertainty about when Jesus will return evokes more apprehension than anticipation, it doesn't help that prophets of doom make predictions based on a distorted understanding of apocalyptic literature in the Bible. An example of this literary form includes the Book of Revelation. It contains elements of a final judgment and cosmic struggle between good and evil written in highly symbolic and imaginative language; however, it wasn't intended to provide a literal description or timeline of how the world ends. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, St. Paul also uses apocalyptic imagery to say that all the faithful will be "caught up" ("rapt up") to meet the Lord at his Coming. Some use this single text to vividly imagine true believers being "raptured" from the earth and escaping the destruction of humankind at the end times, but it's a misinterpretation. For Catholics, these apocalyptic passages offer hope and guidance: despite the powerful forces of evil, Christ will overcome. His death and resurrection already ushered in the last age. We don't know how long this age will last before the final consummation, hence the need to be watchful and prepared. ●

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)
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BILLION PHOTOS / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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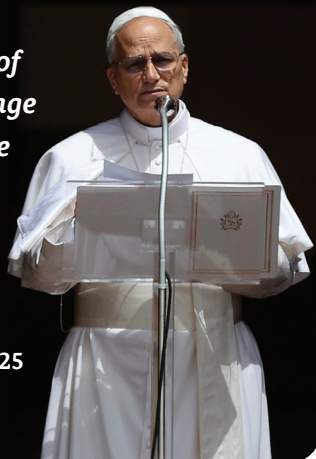
Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Where are you...when the poor are blamed for their poverty, forgotten and discarded, in a world that values profit more than people? [W]here are you in a hyper-connected life where loneliness corrodes social bonds and makes us strangers even to ourselves?...

Fraternity...means rediscovering the face of the other...the very image of God in the face of the poor, the refugee, and even the adversary.

**ADDRESS TO MEETING
ON FRATERNITY, ROME,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2025**



MARCO IACOBELLI EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK

Monday

May 18
Easter Weekday
Acts 19:1-8
Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday

May 19
Easter Weekday
Acts 20:17-27
Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday

May 20
Easter Weekday
Acts 20:28-38
Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday

May 21
Easter Weekday
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
Jn 17:20-26

Friday

May 22
Easter Weekday
Acts 25:13b-21
Jn 21:15-19

Saturday

May 23
Easter Weekday
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
Jn 21:20-25

Sunday

May 24
Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13
Jn 20:19-23