



## A Gift for All People of All Times

ANN M. GARRIDO

**W**hen reading aloud today's passage from **Acts of the Apostles**, do you stumble over the names of **the peoples gathered as I do?** "Parthians, Medes, and Elamites." Where is "Cappadocia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia"? And why were all these peoples in Jerusalem in the first place?

It might help to know that Pentecost did not originate as a Christian feast. There are three pilgrimage festivals that drew Jews from across the Mediterranean region to Jerusalem. Sukkot celebrates the fall harvest and God's protection during the exodus from Egypt. Two are in the spring: Passover, the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, recalling the night the Jews were freed from enslavement in Egypt; and Shavuot, or *Pentecost* in Greek, remembering the giving of God's law on Mount Sinai.

The scene described in Acts echoes the story at Mount Sinai. The peoples who gathered outside the house in Jerusalem represent the breadth and diversity of peoples known at that time, and not just at that time. Some of the civilizations mentioned had not existed for hundreds of years. The book of Acts wants us to know that the gift of the Holy Spirit was an event of such significance that somehow *all* were mysteriously present—not just those of times gone by, but even we who live in such far-away, hard-to-pronounce places as Islamabad or Albuquerque. Today, we celebrate a gift that transcends time and geography. A gift that continues to draw all of us together in wonder and awe. ●



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THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY

### Reflect

***Do I often remember that the Church encompasses people of every nation:  
those gone before us and those to come?***



**[The Jews] were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language?"**

**ACTS 2:7–8**

**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**

**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

**Monday May 25, 2026**

No Mass - Office Closed

**Tuesday May 26, 2026**

6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Dan Earsa, d

**Wednesday May 27, 2026**

9:00 AM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Br. James "Homer" Lindsey, d

**Thursday May 28, 2026**

12:00 St John Mass  
 Int: Dr. Albert Baltz, d; JC & Janet Peters, d; Mike Thielemier, d  
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 No Mass & No Confession

**Friday May 29, 2026**

No Mass

**Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Saturday May 30, 2026**

4:00 PM St Joseph Mass  
 Int: Parishioners  
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Ronnie Rose, d

**Sunday May 31, 2026**

8:00 AM St John Mass  
 Int: Betty Steimel, d; Dick & Sarah Thielemier, d; Deceased members of Benny & Ann Thielemier 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 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**



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 30- Alex Baltz May 31- Matt & Jennifer Hibbard  
 June 6- Joan Gross June 7- Scott & Abby Tyler  
 June 13- Susan Meier June 14- Jeff Evers

Financial Report	
May 21, 2026	\$5,946.87
2026 year to date	\$174,862.92
Children's Collection	\$62.00
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 30-** Angie De-Clerk, Sonya Walker, Maria Dickson, Ashlyn Shipley. **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 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

#### **6:00 PM Saturday June 6, 2026**

Host Ministers: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Pauletta Walker, Rose Hutsell

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Avery Seagraves, Valentina Nguyen

#### **10:30 AM Sunday June 7, 2026**

Host Ministers: Claire Garoutte, Debbie Hibbard

Cups: Jennifer Hibbard, Veronica Rose

Cups: Michelle Olvey, Brin Presley

Altar Servers: Kipton & Sawyer Jansen, Austin James

#### **6:00 PM Saturday June 13, 2026**

Host Ministers: Susan Meier, Paige Radcliff

Cups: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Altar Servers: Abel Johnson, Aubrey & Cannon Hogan

#### **10:30 AM Sunday June 14, 2026**

Host Ministers: Cyndy Busick, Shelly James

Cups: Abby Tyler, Terri Jansen

Cups: Jill Neely & Jennifer Nichols

Altar Servers: Hayden Moore, Keegan Presley, Aven Thielemier

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

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.

Congratulations to Logan Baltz & Katherine Junkersfeld on their marriage this past weekend, May 16, 2026, here at St Paul. We wish them many blessings and a beautiful life together as Mr. and Mrs. Logan Baltz.

**Path of the Apostles: Pilgrimage to Greece & Ephesus.** Due to an overwhelming response, Arkansas Catholic is hosting a 2nd pilgrimage, to walk in the footsteps of St Paul, St John the Evangelist & according to tradition the Blessed Virgin Mary. Join Fr William Burmester, pastor of St Edward Church in Texarkana Sept 27-Oct 8, 2027. To learn more, an informational meeting will be held Sunday May 31 at 3PM in the parish hall at St Edward Church in Texarkana. RSVP at

<https://bit.ly/greecepilgrimage2027>. Register online or download the brochure at [Arkansas-catholic/pilgrimage](http://Arkansas-catholic/pilgrimage). For more information contact Kathy Primm 501-771-0987 or [kathy@suesmithvacations.com](mailto:kathy@suesmithvacations.com).

**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, 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 24, 2026  
Pentecost Sunday (A)

Acts 2:1–11 / 1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12-13 / John 20:19–23

ANN M. GARRIDO

**When reading aloud today's passage from Acts of the Apostles, do you stumble over the names of the peoples gathered as I do?** "Parthians, Medes, and Elamites." Where is "Cappadocia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia"? And why were all these peoples in Jerusalem in the first place?

It might help to know that Pentecost did not originate as a Christian feast. There are three pilgrimage festivals that drew Jews from across the Mediterranean region to Jerusalem. Sukkot celebrates the fall harvest and God's protection during the exodus from Egypt. Two are in the spring: Passover, the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, recalling the night the Jews were freed from enslavement in Egypt; and Shavuot, or *Pentecost* in Greek, remembering the giving of God's law on Mount Sinai.

The scene described in Acts echoes the story at Mount Sinai. The peoples who gathered outside the house in Jerusalem represent the breadth and diversity of peoples known at that time, and not just at that time. Some of the civilizations mentioned had not existed for hundreds of years. The book of Acts wants us to know that the gift of the Holy Spirit was an event of such significance that somehow *all* were mysteriously present—not just those of times gone by, but even we who live in such faraway, hard-to-pronounce places as Islamabad or Albuquerque. Today, we celebrate a gift that transcends time and geography. A gift that continues to draw all of us together in wonder and awe. ●

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# Dear Padre

May 24, 2026

**I am a senior Catholic woman. All my life, I have waited for the Church to welcome women as priests. I have volunteered with numerous faiths over the years and have worked with pastors and rabbis who are women. Why does the Catholic Church not recognize that women have callings to the priesthood?**

My answer will probably not be acceptable to you, and it might even make you a little more frustrated and perhaps even discouraged. The understanding of the Church is that the call to priesthood is not based on merit. If it were based on merit, and that was the single important criterion, your question might be phrased in a different way. I will let you imagine what that might be!

The tradition, practice, and discipline of the Church continues to insist that the call to ordained priesthood requires the respondent to be male. Any explanation beyond this simple statement would be strained and of little use. We are aware of the traditions that are practiced in other Christian denominations. We are probably aware of the Roman Catholic theology of priesthood that is offered in support of the practice. We can probably offer example after example in support or in disagreement of the practice. None of it matters when it comes up against the hard truth of the tradition, practice, and discipline: the priesthood requires a baptized male for validity. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, 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](mailto:frstephenelser@gmail.com)  
 Secretary: Jane Smith (870) 378-5052 [stjohns4650@gmail.com](mailto: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

*May 23, 2026 – May 31, 2026*

### St. John

May 24: Rudy & Joseph Hausman. (d); Lee Taylor (d); Victor Throesch (d)  
 Thur May 28: Dr. Albert Baltz (d); JC and Janet Peters (d); Mike Thielemier (d)  
 May 31: Betty Steimel (d); Dick & Sarah Thielemier (d); Deceased members of Benny & Anna Thielemier

### St. Paul

Sat May 23: Bob & Lil Gogan (d)  
 Sun May 24: Parishioners  
 Tues May 26: Dan Earsa (d)  
 Wed May 27: Brother James “Homer” Lindsey (d)  
 Thur May 28: NO MASS & NO CONFESSIONS  
 Fri May 29: NO MASS  
 Sat May 30: Ronnie Rose (d)  
 Sun May 31: Parishioners

**ST. JOHN’S KID CLUB FUND RAISER:** This morning, May 24<sup>th</sup> the youth will have a lemonade stand after Church. They will be asking for donations. This will be a fundraiser to support their meeting needs. Also, on June 14<sup>th</sup> after 8:00AM Mass they will be hosting a pancake breakfast. Please help support our youth.

**2026 PRIESTHOOD ORDINATION:** With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God and grateful for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Bishop Anthony B. Taylor will ordain five men to the priesthood at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 30, at Christ the King Catholic Church in Little Rock. They are Deacons Quinton Thomas, Duwan Booker, Joseph Minh Phong Nguyen, Tuan Do, and Christopher Elser.

- The night before, on Friday, May 29, a holy hour to pray for these men and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Christ the King.
- The first Mass for Fr. Quinton Thomas will be on Sunday, May 31 at 10:00 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church (Jonesboro).
- The first Mass for Fr. Christopher Elser will be on Sunday, May 31 at 10:00 a.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church (Little Rock).

**CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION AND FAREWELL PARTY:** Sunday June 7 – 5:00PM Father Stephen’s Farewell Reception; **6:30PM – 5<sup>th</sup> annual Corpus Christi Procession;** Ice cream served after the procession.

Give public worship to our Catholic Faith by honoring the real presence of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament beginning in church, processing to the Courthouse and returning to the Parish Life Center. Rides will be available for those unable to walk. Come show your deep appreciation for our dear Father Stephen before he goes to “Shepherd his next flock”. Salad, sandwiches, drinks, ice cream provided. Please bring a finger food for the celebration.

**FAREWELL PARTY FOR FATHER STEPHEN:** Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 with a Choir Concert in Church. This will last about an hour and immediately following we will have a Farewell Reception in the Parish Hall. Meat will be provided by the Parish. We will be having a sign-up sheet a couple weeks before to sign up for potato dishes, vegetables and desserts. Let’s make this a special event with a large turn-out.

**100<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**EUCHARIST 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, Father James Schaefer, Scott Trim, 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.

## Ministry Schedule

	May 24	May 31	June 7	June 14
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Stella Steimel Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Becky Brown	Stella Steimel Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Becky Brown	Cathy Hausman Tina Sharp Jane Smith Rebecca Steimel	Cathy Hausman Tina Sharp Jane Smith Rebecca Steimel
<b>Servers</b>	Wade Zitzelberger Holden Zitzeberger Jaxon Kasinger	Perry Throesch Caroline Stout Haley Stout	Madeleine Throesch Lucy Throesch Parker Liebhaber	Henry Taylor Catarina Throesch Jaxon Kasinger
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>May:</b> Lori Steimel & Maria Taylor <b>June:</b> Amy McKenzie & Christian Helms			
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>May:</b> Andrew Steimel & Steve Liebhaber <b>June:</b> Richard Thielemier & Jerry Lindsey			
<b>Money Counters</b>	<b>May:</b> Jessica Stout, Joe & Lori Steimel <b>June:</b> Lori Bergman, Nick Wren, Konner & Sara Mulock			

## Weekly Financial Report

<b>May 17 2026</b>	Loose Cash	\$350.00	Checks & Envelopes: \$1629.00
	Special Collection:	\$219.00	Hall Rental: \$50.00

# Dear Padre,

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CARLOS DANIEL / CATHOPIC

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*At Pentecost, the apostles spoke the languages of those they met, and the confusion of Babel was finally resolved by the harmony brought about by the Spirit. Whenever God's "breath" unites our hearts and makes us view others as our brothers and sisters, differences no longer become an occasion for division and conflict.*

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

### Monday

May 25

*The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church*

Gn 3:9–15, 20 or  
Acts 1:12–14  
Jn 19:25–34

### Tuesday

May 26

*St. Philip Neri, Priest*  
1 Pt 1:10–16  
Mk 10:28–31

### Wednesday

May 27

*Weekday*  
1 Pt 1:18–25  
Mk 10:32–45

### Thursday

May 28

*Weekday*  
1 Pt 2:2–5, 9–12  
Mk 10:46–52

### Friday

May 29

*Weekday*  
1 Pt 4:7–13  
Mk 11:11–26

### Saturday

May 30

*Weekday*  
Jude 17, 20b–25  
Mk 11:27–33

### Sunday

May 31

*The Most Holy Trinity*  
Ex 34:4b–6, 8–9  
2 Cor 13:11–13  
Jn 3:16–18