Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent (B)

Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7 / 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 / Mark 13:33–37

Beginning with the End

ANN M. GARRIDO

Today marks the beginning of a new liturgical year, but you would not guess it by today's gospel passage, which speaks of the end of time. Time's "end" is an important theme throughout Scripture. Unlike other ancient peoples, the Hebrews intuited that time was not locked in an eternal cycle. Time was "going somewhere." God had a purpose for history; a dream yet to be realized. Commonly in Scripture, this "end" is described as "the Lord's Coming" or, in New Testament Greek, "the *Parousia*." History exists that God might enter and fill time with the divine presence, making Earth God's home.

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Advent is a time of preparation for the feast of Christmas—recalling how God came to make a home with us in the person of Jesus Christ two thousand years ago. But even more so, it is a time of preparation for the *Parousia*, when what took place in the person of Jesus will take place within all of creation. When, as Paul says, God will be "all in all" (1 Corinthians 15:28).

As the liturgical year begins anew, may we, too, enter this season with the "end" in mind. God is still at work in history, seeking a home within us and within our time. ●

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*



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Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
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Parish Secretary: Christine Baltz 724-549-6324
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School Principal: Rebecca Steimel 892-5639
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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 catholichillym@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 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 Gottsponer 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

First Sunday of Advent Saturday Nov 28, 2026
4:00 pm St Joseph Mass
Int: Parishioners
6:00 pm St Paul Mass
Int: Bob & Lil Gogan, d

Sunday Nov 29, 2026
8:00 am St John Mass
Int: Dr Albert Baltz, d; Treva Throesch, d; Pat Parker, d
10:30 am St Paul Mass
Int: Parishioners

Monday Nov 30, 2026
No Mass

Tuesday Dec 1, 2026
6:00 pm St Paul Mass
Int: Amy Prichard, d

Wednesday Dec 2, 2026
9:00 am St Paul Mass
Int: Robert E & Helen Gschwend, d

Thursday Dec 3, 2026
9:00 am St Paul Mass
Int: Dr Albert Baltz, d
12:00 pm St John Mass
Int: Dickie Flanigan, d; Max Baltz, d; Loretta Layton, d

Friday Dec 4, 2026
9:00 am St Paul Mass
Int: Henry Dust, d

Second Sunday of Advent Saturday Dec 5, 2026
4:00 pm St Joseph Mass
Int: Parishioners
6:00 pm St Paul Mass
Int: Joseph & Joanna Thibeault, d

Sunday Dec 6, 2026
8:00 am St John Mass
Int: Henry Thielemier, d; Richard & Ellen Thielemier 55th Anniv.; Bryan & Teresa Thielemier 40th Anniv.
10:30 am St Paul Mass
Int: Parishioners

Sacristan Schedule
Dec 5- Susan Meier Dec 6- Josh & Jill Neely
Dec 12- Chris Baltz Dec 13- Matt & Jennifer Hibbard
Dec 19- Nick DeClerk Dec 20- Scott & Abby Tyler

Financial Report	
November 28, 2026	$12,003.95
2026 year to date	$388,799.61
Children's Collection	$131.81
St Joseph October 2026	$3,187.00
DOLR October 2026	$676.00
Food Bank, October 2026	$1,093.00

On-line giving: Zeffy. Scan the QR code to begin.

Church Cleaning Schedule Dec 4 Sarah Counts, Rene' Tyler, Karen Star, Rita Rowe. **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 December 5, 2026
Host Ministers: Dc Drake, Mitch Baltz
Cups: Shea Niswonger, Kelly Throesch
Cups: Teresa Baltz, Rose Hutsell
Altar servers: Jake Baltz, Dru & Evelyn Steimel

10:30 am Sunday December 6, 2026
Host Ministers: Dc Drake, Cyndy Busick
Cups: Claire Garoutte, Jill Neely
Cups: Jennifer Nichols, Brin Presley
Altar Servers: Leo Clark, Austin James, Etta Clark

6:00 pm Saturday December 12, 2026
Host Ministers: Alex & Tiffany Baltz
Cups: Tom & Chris Baltz
Cups: Rose Hutsell, Trish Thielemier
Altar Servers: Aubrey & Cannon Hogan, Avery Seagraves

10:30 am Sunday December 13, 2026
Host Ministers: Debbie Hibbard, Michelle Olvey
Cups: Veronica Rose, Rene' Tyler
Cups: Abby Tyler, Shelly James
Altar Servers: Zoey Hibbard , Cash Cox, John Henry Garoutte

6:00 pm Saturday December 19, 2026
Host Ministers: Mitch & Teresa Baltz
Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma
Cups: Shea Niswonger, Kelly Throesch
Altar servers: Jake Baltz, Keegan Presley, Valentina Nguyen

10:30 am Sunday December 20, 2026
Host Ministers: Shelly James, Terri Jansen
Cups: Monica Loyd, Cyndy Busick
Cups: Angie DeClerk, Jennifer Hibbard
Altar Servers: Mary Morgan, Kipton, & Sawyer Jansen

Nursing Home & Homebound

December: Anna Mae Higginbotham, Sarah Counts, Charlotte Baltz.

If you or a fellow parishioner is unable to attend Mass due to illness, surgery, or recovery & would like to receive Holy Communion on Wednesdays, please call the church office so we can get you on the schedule.

Lectors: December: Saturday: Kathy Bergman

Sunday: Brittany Singleton

Ushers for December:

Saturday: Joe Bergman, Joey Radcliff

Sunday: Joe Difani, Mike Higginbotham, Joe Tom, Josh Neely, Bradon Tillie

The 2027 lector schedule is currently being developed. If your are interested in being a lecture, please contact Kathi Bergman at 870-378-2081. Thank you

First Saturday devotion to our Blessed Mother. Holy hour and confessions begin at 11:00 am, December 5th.

Jesus, I Know him! St Paul Catholic School's Annual Christmas Bazaar Dec 5: Miss Merry Christmas Pageant, Bingo night, and Buddy's Christmas Bash. **Dec 6th** Christmas Bazaar.

Buddy's Christmas Bash includes: Hayride, games, letters to Santa, reindeer food, bounce houses & lots of fun! 6:30 pm-9:30 pm. **Ages 3-12 cost $35 at St Paul cafeteria**.

Bingo night Dec 5th 7:15 pm parish life center. After you drop the kids off at Buddy's Bash, join us for a joyful evening of chili, fellowship, & Bingo fun!

SCAN HERE

SCAN HERE

IF you have an item or a service you would like to donate for the silent auction, please drop them off at the church office.

Bazaar silent auction will begin Nov 22. here is the link:

stpaulbazaar26.givesmart.com

Solemnity of Immaculate Conception Holy Mass Schedule: Holy Day of Obligation

Monday December 7, 2026 5:00 pm St Joseph Mass

Tuesday December 8, 2026 9:00 am St Paul Mass

Tuesday December 8, 2026 6:00 pm St John Mass

Church office will be closed Tuesday Dec 8th.

Please join us on Thursday December 10th at 6:00 pm for our Advent Reconciliation Service at St Paul's Church. As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas, we invite everyone to take this opportunity to receive God's mercy, forgiveness, & peace through the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Help needed- Overnight companion. Rita Dust is looking for someone to stay with her overnight 3-4 nights a week. If you or someone you know would be interested in helping, please contact Rita at 870-202-9218 for more information. Thank you for your kindness & help.

Religious Gift Shop. Did you know the church office has a small religious gift shop? We offer a variety of items perfect for sacraments, special occasions, or personal gifts. Stop by during regular office hours.

Special collection next weekend 12/5 Retirement fund for religious

Please pray for: Bishop Anthony Taylor, Kogan Vaughn. Samuel Thompson, Roy Billeaudeau, David Bassford, Suzanne Broadway, and Elizabeth Hick.

Good News!

November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent (B)

Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7 / 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 / Mark 13:33–37

ANN M. GARRIDO

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Dear Padre

November 29, 2026

To justify or rationalize cutting off family members with whom there is discord, someone recently referenced Jesus telling his disciples that he did not come to bring peace, but to bring division. Are we called to pursue division in family or other relationships when we think someone has done something wrong and has not received the justice we think this person deserves?

The actual quote is, "Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword." Jesus continues, "For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's enemies will be those of his household" (Matthew 10: 34–36).

In this passage, Jesus is talking about the sacrifice involved in becoming his follower. Many Jews who wished to become followers of Jesus in the early days of the Church had to choose between family and their own conscience. Jesus says, "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10: 37-38).

To apply this idea to arguments among family members is probably stretching Jesus' intention further than what he had in mind. ●

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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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

November 29, 2026 – December 6, 2026

St. John: All the departed souls of our Parish

Sun Nov 29: Dr. Albert Baltz (d); Treva Throesch (d); Pat Parker (d)
Thur Dec 3,: Dickie Flanigan (d); Max Baltz (d); Loretta Layton (d)
Sun Dec 6: Henry Thielemier(d); Richard & Ellen Thielemier (55th anniv); Bryan & Teresa Thielemier (40th anniv)

St. Paul: All the departed souls of our Parish

Sat. Nov 28: Bob & Lil Gogan (d)
Sun Nov 29: Parishioners
Tues Dec 1: Amy Prichard (d)
Wed Dec 2: Robert E & Helen Gschwend (d)
Thur Dec 3, 9:00AM: Dr. Albert Baltz (d)
Fri Dec 4: Henry Dust (d)
Sat. Dec 5: Joseph & Joanna Thibeault (d)
Sun Dec 6: Parishioners

Ministry Schedule

	November 29	December 6	December 13	December 20
Eucharistic Ministers	Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Lori Steimel Joe Steimel	Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Lori Steimel Joe Steimel	Becky Brown Vernon Hausman Candace Steimel Pam Durbin	Becky Brown Vernon Hausman Candace Steimel Pam Durbin
Servers	Wade Zitzelberger Holden Zitzelberger Raelyn Alphin	Parker Liebhaber Casyn Steimel Jaxon Kasinger	Madeleine Throesch Haley Stout Jaxon Steimel	Caterina Throesch Lucy Throesch Shiloh Orrick
Lectors	**November:** Brenda Liebhaber & Elaine Wallis **December:** Bridgette Kasinger & Jessica Stout			
Ushers	**November:** Sid Thielemier & Bernard Thielemier **December**: Joe Steimel & Dwayne Capps			
Money Counters	**November:** Chuck & Mary Barnes; Betty Taylor **December**: Linda Elmore; Don & Brenda Liebhaber			

Weekly Financial Report

November 22, 2026: $1642.00 **Catholic Campaign for Human Development:** $306.00

PRAY FOR: All the sick that request our prayers, especially, Pope Leo, Bishop Anthony Taylor, Lettie Hausman, Josephine Mary (Father Samy's mother) Suzanne (Wren) Broadway, Kogan Vaughn, Doris Flanigan, Samuel Thompson, River Wood, Caren Kiefer, Bonny Schmidt, Pam Murphy, Paula Johnson, David Cissel, Owen Rowe, Sharon Thielemier (Patrick), Karen O'Gara, and all those listed in our petition book. May God grant them healing.

SOLEMNITY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHEDULE - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: This is a Holy Day of Obligation with several Masses to choose from. The schedule is as follows: Monday December 7th 5:00PM at Corning; Tuesday the 8th at 9:00AM St. Paul's; **Tuesday December 8th 6:00PM St. John's**.

SERVERS FOR December 8th: Caroline Stout, Haley Stout, Isaac Throesch

ANGEL TREE: This year the angel tree will be different than in years past. We will only have gifts, with no food products. You are welcome to bring food products in addition to the requested presents.
Our deadline this year is a bit earlier. Please have your wrapped gifts with the corresponding tag attached, under the tree by Sunday, December 6th or delivered to Cathy Hausman by December 9th.

ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY: St. John's adult Christmas party is Friday, December 11 at **St.** John's Hall. Happy hour will begin at 5:00PM, potluck dinner is at 6:00PM. Baked ham, rotisserie chicken and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert. If you would like to play dirty Sants, please bring a wrapped $15 gift. We will also be playing a few games of bingo for homemade treats as well as other games. Come enjoy an evening of fellowship during this Christmas season.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY: St. John's annual children's Christmas party will be Tuesday, December 15th. Pizza and games will start at 6:00PM. Santa will arrive at 6:30. If you would like your children to participate with Santa, please bring a small gift.

ST PAUL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Saturday December 5th: Miss Merry Christmas Pageant, at St. Paul Life Center starting at 2:00PM. Buddy's Christmas Bash (hayride, games, letters to Santa, reindeer food, bounce houses) 6:30 -9:30. Ages 3-12 cost $35.00 at St. Paul cafeteria. BINGO & chili: 7:15PM at Parish Life Center. Sunday December 6th -**Bazaar**. The online auction will begin Nov 22 at stpauazaar26.givesmart.com

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2 PRE/CYM	3	4	5
6 OCIA 9:00	7 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00	8	9 PRE/CYM	10 PARISH Reconciliation SERVICE 6:00	11	12
13 OCIA 9:00	14 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00	15	16 PRE/CYM	17	18	19
20 OCIA 9:00	21 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00	22	23 NO PRE.CYM CHRISTMAS BREAK	24 *Christmas Eve* OFFICE CLOSED	25 *Christmas* OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 NO OCIA	28	29	30 NO PRE/CYM CHRISTMAS BREAK	31 *New Year's Eve*	1	2

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Pastor Speaks

Advent: A time to slow down, to listen, and to prepare

Wish you all a happy and fruitful season of Advent. At this season, the Holy Mother Church invites us to prepare the way, for Christ is coming to meet us. We are very serious to prepare for a guest coming to visit our home. We clean and decorate, prepare a delicious meal and we have all the stories about our families to share with the guest.

The guest we are going to encounter on the day of Christmas is much more important. He comes to be amidst us as we share our Christmas day meal, make efforts to clean our hearts with good confession and listen to our prayers.

Blessed Archbishop Fulton Sheen saw Advent as a call to inner transformation. He taught that before Christ can be born in a stable in Bethlehem, He must first be born in the stable of our hearts. This means clearing away the clutter — pride, selfishness, distractions — and making room for humility, charity, and prayer. He often said that the world's greatest tragedy is not that people are unaware of God, but that they are too busy to notice Him. Advent is our chance to slow down, to listen, and to prepare.

Let not our external concerns deviate us from **Jesus who is the reason for the season.**

In these four weeks of Advent, may our everyday prayer be, 'Maranatha', Come Lord Jesus, do not delay.

In this beautiful season, may Jesus Bless you and your dear ones.

Fr Samy

Dear Padre,

To justify or rationalize cutting off family members with whom there is discord, someone recently referenced Jesus telling his disciples that he did not come to bring peace, but to bring division. Are we called to pursue division in family or other relationships when we think someone has done something wrong and has not received the justice we think this person deserves?

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KEIRA BURTON / PEXELS

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Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / DearPadre.org



CRISTIAN GUTIÉRREZ, LC / CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We journey as if on a bridge that connects Earth to heaven, a bridge that the Lord has built for us. Let us always keep our eyes fixed on both shores, so that we may love God and our brothers and sisters with all our hearts in order to journey together and find ourselves one day united in the house of the Father.

HOMILY, ISTANBUL, NOVEMBER 29, 2025

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Monday
November 30
St. Andrew, Apostle
Rom 10:9–18
Mt 4:18–22

Tuesday
December 1
Advent Weekday
Is 11:1–10
Lk 10:21–24

Wednesday
December 2
Advent Weekday
Is 25:6–10a
Mt 15:29–37

Thursday
December 3
St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Is 26:1–6
Mt 7:21, 24–27

Friday
December 4
Advent Weekday
Is 29:17–24
Mt 9:27–31

Saturday
December 5
Advent Weekday
Is 30:19–21, 23–26
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6–8

Sunday
December 6
Second Sunday of Advent
Is 40:1–5, 9–11
2 Pt 3:8–14
Mk 1:1–8

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

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A Redemptorist Ministry

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