



[Jesus said,] “Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

MATTHEW 22:21

## Sidestepping Side-taking

ANN M. GARRIDO

**J**esus had to know something was up when both the Pharisees and the Herodians approached him together. Pharisees and Herodians were never together. Herodians survived by cooperating with the Roman Empire. The Pharisees found such cooperation an affront to God’s law.

“Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?” they asked. It was a trap. If he answered “no,” the Herodians could report him to the Romans for fomenting rebellion. If he answered “yes,” the crowd watching would see Jesus as a sellout to an unpopular foreign power. But Jesus did not take the bait. He refused to give a “yes” or a “no,” instead allowing onlookers to see that his Pharisee and Herodian challengers were carrying the Roman coin in their pockets—hence participating in the Roman economy—whereas he did not even possess the coin they were asking about. He was living and working for a different ruler altogether. Their question was outside his realm of concern.

So often we, too, can find ourselves trapped in heated political conversations where questions are asked in such a way that they seem to allow only a yes-or-no answer. The askers want to reveal, “Are you with us or are you against us?” as if there are no other options. As followers of Jesus, we know that there are issues of ultimate concern for us—“battle hills worth dying on.” Jesus himself had one: Calvary. But Jesus himself did not feel as if he needed to take a stand on every hot political issue of his day. Sometimes he sidestepped those conversations. So can we.●



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY

### Reflect

***When confronted, do I prefer to “take the bait” or find common ground?***

**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**

Pastor: Reverend Samy: 870-892-3319

email: pastorpaul267@gmail.com

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

catholicillm@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 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.

**Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church**  
**1415 Harb Street Corning AR 72422**  
**Mailing Address 800 Eleventh St**  
**Corning, AR 72422**

#### **Mass Schedule**

##### **Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Saturday Oct 17, 2026**

4:00 pm St Joseph Mass

Int: Parishioners

5:30 pm Holy Rosary

6:00 pm St Paul Mass

Int: Ferd & Anna Sorg family members

##### **Sunday Oct 18, 2026**

8 am St John Mass

Int: Pat, Minnie & Troy O'Donnell, d; Pat Parker, d, D/C mem of Bernie & Anna Thielemier family

10:00 am Holy Rosary

10:30 am St Paul Mass

Int: Parishioners

##### **Monday Oct 19, 2026**

No Mass

##### **Tuesday Oct 20, 2026**

6:00 pm St Paul Mass

Int: Dr. Albert Baltz, d

##### **Wednesday Oct 21, 2026**

9:00 am St Paul Mass

Int: Thomas Lindner, d

##### **Thursday Oct 22, 2026**

12:00 pm St John Mass

Int: Marge Baltz, d; Don Thielemier, d; Victor Throesch, d

6:00 pm St Paul Mass

Int: Joe & Agnes Bergman, d

##### **Friday Oct 23, 2026**

9:00 am St Paul Mass

Int: Robert & Helen Decker Gschwend, d

##### **Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Saturday Oct 24, 2026**

4:00 pm St Joseph Mass

Int: Parishioners

5:30 pm Holy Rosary

6:00 pm St Paul Mass

Int: Bob & Lil Gogan, d

##### **Sunday Oct 25, 2026**

8:00 am St John Mass

Int: Lee Taylor, d; Bob & John Thielemier, d; Madeleine Throesch, d

10:00 am Holy Rosary

10:30 am St Paul Mass

Int: Parishioners

#### **Sacristan Schedule**

Oct 24- Nick DeClerk Oct 25- Scott & Abby Tyler

Oct 31- Alex Baltz - Nov 1- Jeff Evers

Nov 7- Susan Meier Nov 8- Josh & Jill Neely

| Financial Report          |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| October 15, 2026          | \$7,154.12   |
| 2026 year to date         | \$341,771.16 |
| Children's Collection     | \$22.00      |
| St Joseph August 2026     | \$3,274.00   |
| DOLR September 2026       | \$344.00     |
| Food Bank, September 2026 | \$1,102.00   |



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

**Church Cleaning Schedule Oct 24 - Rose Hutsell, Debbie Hibbard, Debbie & Paula Schaechtel, & Cathy Eversol. 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 October 24, 2026**

Host Ministers: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Cups: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Altar Servers: Luke, Jacob & Blakley Jansen

**10:30 am Sunday October 25, 2026**

Host Ministers: Shelly James, Terri Jansen

Cups: Monica Loyd, Jill Neely

Cups: Michelle Olvey, Brin Presley

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

**6:00 pm Saturday October 31, 2026**

Host Ministers: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Shea Niswonger, Kelly Throesch

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Keegan Presley, Valentina Nguyen

**10:30 am November 1, 2026**

Host Ministers: Cyndy Busick, Angie DeClerk

Cups: Claire Garoutte, Shelly James

Cups: Terri Jansen, Monica Loyd

**6:00 pm November 7, 2026**

Host Ministers: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Cups: Paul Christie Yemma

Cups: Rose Hutsell, Trish Thielemier

**10:30 am November 8, 2026**

Host Ministers: Jill Neely, Michelle Olvey

Cups: Jennifer Nichols, Brin Presley

Cups: Veronica Rose, Rene' Tyler

Altar Servers: Leo & Etta Clark, Caroline Thielemier

October 21, 2026 the Rosary will be held at the Grotto at 6:15pm. Please join the PRE class as they say the Holy Rosary.

### **Nursing Home & Homebound**

**November:** Joan Gross, Jeanette Thielemier & Susan Meier

**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 November:** Saturday: David Vaughn Sunday: Claire Garoutte

### **Ushers for November:**

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

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

**CYM BAKE SALE:** Annual CYM Bake Sale will be held on **Sunday October 25th following the 10:30 am Mass.** Parishioners who would like to support this wonderful cause are asked to bring their donations to the Church office before the 10:30 am Mass. Thank you for your generosity & continued support of our CYM.

Choir practice for midnight Mass has begun. It's not too late to join! **Email Catherine Jarrett at [cathyj9623@hotmail.com](mailto:cathyj9623@hotmail.com).** Practice is on Monday's @ 6 pm at the church.

Shea Niswonger is needing a part time babysitter for her baby girl Lennon. Please call Shea @ 870-378-7432 or Angie Capps @ 870-378-0564.

Plans are underway for our Annual School Bazaar, which will be held Dec 5th-6th. If you are interested in volunteering and helping make this year's bazaar a success, please call **Allison Swann at 870-219-9824**. We appreciate your help & support.

### **Knight of Columbus News**

**Knight of the Month:** Josh Barham

**Family Knight of the Month:** Matt & Sue Fair

Catholic Kids Club will be hosting a trunk or treat at St John's Hall on October 24th at 4:30 pm. They will be serving Chili afterwards. Everyone is welcome. Anyone wanting to volunteer to do a trunk please contact Laura Throesch 870-810-3746 or Christina Cox 870-810-1853. **Catholic Kids Club is Oct 18th at 4:30 pm** the lesson will be about All Saints Day & All Souls Day. Activity will be Saints Bingo 6+, pumpkin magnets 5 & under. Snacks chips & dip.

**2026 Fall into Christmas craft bazaar.** Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Hall. October 23rd- 24th. Friday noon- 6:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am- 3:00pm. Please join us for our annual craft bazaar.

320 W Free St Walnut Ridge

**Please pray for:** Bishop Anthony Taylor, Kogan Vaughn, Samuel Thompson, Roy Billeau, David Bassford, and Suzanne Broadway.

# Good News!

October 18, 2026

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 45:1, 4–6 / 1 Thessalonians 1:1–5b / Matthew 22:15–21

ANN M. GARRIDO

Jesus had to know something was up when both the Pharisees and the Herodians approached him together. Pharisees and Herodians were never together. Herodians survived by cooperating with the Roman Empire. The Pharisees found such cooperation an affront to God’s law.

“Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?” they asked. It was a trap. If he answered “no,” the Herodians could report him to the Romans for fomenting rebellion. If he answered “yes,” the crowd watching would see Jesus as a sellout to an unpopular foreign power. But Jesus did not take the bait. He refused to give a “yes” or a “no,” instead allowing onlookers to see that his Pharisee and Herodian challengers were carrying the Roman coin in their pockets—hence participating in the Roman economy—whereas he did not even possess the coin they were asking about. He was living and working for a different ruler altogether. Their question was outside his realm of concern.

So often we, too, can find ourselves trapped in heated political conversations where questions are asked in such a way that they seem to allow only a yes-or-no answer. The askers want to reveal, “Are you with us or are you against us?” as if there are no other options. As followers of Jesus, we know that there are issues of ultimate concern for us—“battle hills worth dying on.” Jesus himself had one: Calvary. But Jesus himself did not feel as if he needed to take a stand on every hot political issue of his day. Sometimes he sidestepped those conversations. So can we. ●

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## Dear Padre

October 18, 2026

What does it mean when it says we’re in Cycle A or B or C? Or Years I and II?

When the bishops of the Church at the Second Vatican Council in 1963 called for a revision of our liturgy, they asked that “The treasures of the Bible...be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God’s word. In this way, a more representative portion of the holy Scriptures will be read to the people in the course of a prescribed number of years” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 51).

At Sunday Masses, the Scriptures are divided up over three years (called Years A, B, and C). At these Masses, the gospel is the primary reading. The first reading, taken from the Old Testament, and the responsorial psalm touch upon the same theme as the gospel. In the Easter season, the first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. The second reading follows consecutive passages from the letters of Paul or the other apostles, independent of the other readings.

At weekday Masses, most of the Bible is read over a period of two years. Odd-numbered years are Year I, and even-numbered years are Year II.

All of this should help us open those treasures that the Church says are ours in the Scriptures. ●

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](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)<br>3:30PM Confessions, St. Joseph (Corning)<br>4:00PM Mass, St. Joseph (Corning)<br>6:00PM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)             |
| Sunday        | 7:30AM Confessions, St. John (Engelberg)<br>8:00AM Mass, St. John (Engelberg)<br>10:30AM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)                                                          |
| Monday        | No Mass                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Tuesday       | 5:00PM Confessions, St. Paul (Pocahontas)<br>6:00PM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)                                                                                               |
| Wednesday     | 9:00AM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (School Year)<br>12:00 Noon Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (Summer)                                                                           |
| Thursday      | 8:00AM-12:00 Noon Adoration, St. John (Engelberg)<br>12:00 Noon Mass, St. John (Engelberg)<br>5:00PM Confessions, St. Paul (Pocahontas)<br>6:00PM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) |
| Friday        | 9:00AM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (School Year)<br>12:00 Noon Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (Summer)                                                                           |

## Mass Intentions

*October 18, 2026 – October 25, 2026*

### St. John

Sun Oct 18: Pat, Minnie & Tommy O'Donnell (d); Pat Parker (d); Deceased members of Bennie & Anna Thielemier fam

Thur Oct 22: Marge Baltz (d); Don Thielemier (d); Victor Throesch (d)

Sun Oct 25: Lee Taylor (d); Bob & John Thielemier (d); Madeleine Throesch (d)

### St. Paul

Sat. Oct 17: L & D members of Ferd & Anna Sorg      Thur Oct 22: Joe & Agnes Bergman (d)

Sun Oct 18: Parishioners      Fri Oct 23: Robert & Helen Decker Gschwend (d)

Tues Oct 20: Dr. Albert Baltz (d)      Sat. Oct 24: Bob & Lil Gogan (d)

Wed Oct 21: Thomas Lindner (d)      Sun Oct 25: Parishioners

## Ministry Schedule

|                              | October 18                                                                                            | October 25                                                      | November 1                                                  | November 8                                                  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b> | Mike Taylor<br>Patty Hoose<br>Brenda Liebhaber<br>Jessica Stout                                       | Mike Taylor<br>Patty Hoose<br>Brenda Liebhaber<br>Jessica Stout | Kelly Alphin<br>Pat Wren<br>Linda Elmore<br>Rebecca Steimel | Kelly Alphin<br>Pat Wren<br>Linda Elmore<br>Rebecca Steimel |
| <b>Servers</b>               | Wade Zitzelberger<br>Holden Zitzelberger<br>Raelyn Alphin                                             | Caterina Throesch<br>Caroline Stout<br>Shiloh Orrick            | Parker Liebhaber<br>Haley Stout<br>Casyn Steimel            | Catarina Throesch<br>Jaxon Kasinger<br>Isaac Throesch       |
| <b>Lectors</b>               | <b>October:</b> Maria Taylor & Amy McKenzie<br><b>November:</b> Brenda Liebhaber & Elaine Wallis      |                                                                 |                                                             |                                                             |
| <b>Ushers</b>                | <b>October:</b> Dwain Hausman & Don Liebhaber<br><b>November:</b> Sid Thielemier & Bernard Thielemier |                                                                 |                                                             |                                                             |

### **Pastor Speaks**

Dear Faith Family Members,

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ. on 11<sup>th</sup> of October, we would celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Saint John's Catholic Church building Engleberg. I welcome you all for the celebration of the Holy Mass at 10:30 AM and the fellowship meal that follows.

Can you imagine how tremendously we had been blessed by God with the Holy Church standing there for such a long time? This Holy edifice had given an opportunity to grow and mature in the Catholic Faith. It was a sacred space for several generations. It was here God heard our prayers and wiped away our tears. We need to be proud of our Church that offers us the sacraments and the word of God to satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst.

On this auspicious occasion, let us remember the words of saint Paul, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" (1Cor 6:9).

## Weekly Financial Report

**October 11 2026**    Loose Cash    \$879.00    Checks & Envelopes: \$2045.00  
BRAD:                \$475.00

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY:** This is the only worldwide collection mandated by the Code of Canon Law for all dioceses throughout the world. It is a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. Your prayers and generous financial support directly benefit the mission church, and helps deepen your relationship with Jesus by helping so many missionaries around the world. This will be collected this Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**FALL FESTIVAL:** Fall Festival this year will be Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup>. We will again be having the meal, raffle, bingo and the online & in-person auction. If you have anything to donate, please contact Jessica Stout 870-378-0300 or Rose Throesch 870-378-6282. The deadline for on-line donations is October 22<sup>nd</sup> and will run from October 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. Additional information about the festival will come soon.

**CATHOLIC KIDS CLUB:** October 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:30PM. Lesson: All Saints and All Souls Day. Activity: All Saints Bingo 6+ and foam pumpkin magnet for ages 1-5. Chips and dip for snack.

**TRUNK OR TREAT:** October 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30PM. Any volunteers to do a trunk please contact Laura Throesch 870-810-3746 or Christina Cox 870-810-1853.

**FIRST COMMUNION PICTURES:** We are making a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary book. We are looking for any First Communion pictures that weren't included in the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary book. If you have any, please contact Becky Brown, Jane Smith or Johnathan Wren.

**KNIGHT OF THE MONTH:** Josh Barham

**FAMILY OF THE MONTH:** Matt & Sue Fair

**PRAY FOR:** All the sick that request our prayers, especially, Pope Leo, Bishop Anthony Taylor, Josephine Mary (Father Samy's mother) Suzanne (Wren) Broadway, Kogan Vaughn, Doris Flanigan, Samuel Thompson, Lisa (Baltz) Riggs, 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.

# Dear Padre,

## What does it mean when it says we're in Cycle A or B or C? Or Years I and II?



GEMINI

When the bishops of the Church at the Second Vatican Council in 1963 called for a revision of our liturgy, they asked that “The treasures of the Bible...be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God’s word. In this way, a more representative portion of the holy Scriptures will be read to the people in the course of a prescribed number of years” (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 51).

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Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)

| Monday                                                                  | Tuesday     | Wednesday   | Thursday    | Friday      | Saturday   | Sunday                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| October 19                                                              | October 20  | October 21  | October 22  | October 23  | October 24 | October 25                        |
| Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs | Weekday     | Weekday     | Weekday     | Weekday     | Weekday    | Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Eph 2:1–10                                                              | Eph 2:12–22 | Eph 3:2–12  | Eph 3:14–21 | Eph 4:1–6   | Eph 4:7–16 | Ex 22:20–26                       |
| Lk 12:13–21                                                             | Lk 12:35–38 | Lk 12:39–48 | Lk 12:49–53 | Lk 12:54–59 | Lk 13:1–9  | 1 Thes 1:5c–10                    |
|                                                                         |             |             |             |             |            | Mt 22:34–40                       |

### 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*.



URBET ORBI BLESSING/ CATHOPIC

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today let us ask Mary, Mother of the Church, to be able to serve, with Jesus and like Jesus, those men and women thirsting for truth and justice. This is not the time for opposition between one church and another, between “us” and “them”—those who worship God seek to be men and women of peace, who worship him in Spirit and in truth.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 8, 2026

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