



## When Life Is on Empty

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A**s he stood in line in front of me, the back of his T-shirt read, “Pain is weakness leaving the body.” Though unsaid, it implied that the parting pain would be replaced by newfound strength. Yet, the more I thought about it, I wondered if that is always the case. Some pain simply leaves one empty, like the grief that comes with the death of one’s child. That emptiness never leaves, it is never replaced. So too, the pain of living with mental illness, as it seems to isolate one from many of life’s joys and satisfactions. Or, eventually, the aging process in all of us, as it slips in and steals the treasures of life, one by one. Pain is not always weakness leaving the body. Sometimes, it is the pain of an alien spirit settling in for the long haul.

If St. Paul’s assertion that Jesus came and “emptied himself...coming in human likeness...even [to] death on a cross,” then those times that seem to empty us of all we would hold dear are the times when we slowly take on the image of Jesus in our own lives. It is at such times when we are most powerless but also when God’s spirit shines through our broken and wounded lives, if only because we become totally dependent upon God. It is Saint Teresa of Kolkata who is said to have once remarked that even God cannot fill what is already full. ●

### Reflect

***What emptying am I experiencing?  
Can I accept it as becoming more like Jesus?***



**[Christ Jesus] emptied himself...  
becoming obedient to death,  
even death on a cross.**

**PHILIPPIANS 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: Karen Liebhaber 897-0698  
 Pastoral Council Vice Chairperson: Allison Swann 219-9824  
 Adult Inquiry Class, OCIA: Jamey Sullinger-758-0246  
 Youth Minister: Dylan Clark 892-3319  
 catholicillym@gmail.com  
 Youth Ministry Core Team: Christie Yemma, Larry Weick,  
 Rob & Michelle Olvey, Terri Jansen, Christina Thielemier  
 Lectors: Kathi Bergman 378-2081  
 Ushers: Joseph Difani & Doug Thielemier  
 Altar Servers: Tiffany Baltz: 810-2523  
 Catholic Outreach: Teresa Baltz 930-5700  
 Finance Committee Chairperson: Ben DeClerk 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 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, Tues-  
 day & 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.

#### **Mass Schedule**

##### **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

##### **Saturday, September 13**

4:00 PM St Joseph Mass

Int: Parishioners

6:00 PM St Paul Mass

Int: John and Marcella Lamar d,  
 Joseph & Joanna Thibeault d.

Joseph & Anna Baltz d.

##### **Sunday September 14**

8:00 AM St John Mass

Int: Jim Thielemier d, Betty  
 Steimel d.

10:30 AM St Paul Mass

Int: Parishioners

##### **Monday September 15**

No Mass

##### **Tuesday September 16**

6:00 PM St Paul Mass

Int: Ronnie Rose, d, Margaret  
 Thompson, d.

##### **Wednesday September 17**

9:00AM St Paul Mass

Int: Bob Meier, d

6:15 PM St Paul PRE Mass

Int: PRE Students & Catechist

##### **Thursday, September 18**

6:00PM St John Mass

Int: Loretta Layton d, Romilda  
 Hurn d.

St Paul Mass

No Mass scheduled

##### **Friday, September 19**

9:00 AM St Paul Mass

Int: Jim Adkins, d.

##### **Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

##### **Saturday, September 20**

4:00 PM St Joseph Mass

Int: Parishioners

6:00 PM St Paul Mass

Int: Bob & Lill Gogan, d. Ronnie  
 Rose, d.

##### **Sunday September 21**

8:00 AM St John Mass

Int: Pamela Galvin d, Jonathan  
 Cagle d.

10:30 AM St Paul Mass

Int: Parishioners

#### **Sacristan Schedule**

September 20- Joan Gross September 21- Jeff Evers  
 September 27 - Susan Meier September 28- Scott & Kim Hills  
 October 4- Nick DeClerk October 5- Scott & Abby Tyler  
 October 11- Alex Baltz October 12- Jeff Evers

Financial Report	
September 7, 2025	\$10,206.00
2025 year to date	\$313,847.00
Children's Collection	\$142.00
St Joseph, July	\$2,368.00
DOLR	\$660.32
Food Bank, August 2025	\$1,070.69



**BECAUSE VIBRANT  
CHURCHES MATTER**

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



Church Cleaning Committee-Schedule September 21. Roberta  
 Waymon, Bridgette Rose, Teresa Baltz, Abby Tyler, Claire  
 Garoutte. **To volunteer to join a group and help maintain  
 our church, call the office or ask someone to join group.**

## **Eucharistic Ministers/Altar Servers Schedule**

### **6:00 PM Saturday September 20, 2025**

Host Minister: Dc Tate and Alex Baltz

Cups: Tiffany Baltz, Pauletta Walker

Cups: Paige Radcliff, Chris Baltz

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Leo and Etta Clark

### **10:30 AM Sunday September 21, 2025**

Host Minister: Dc Tate and Cyndy Busick

Cups: Shelly James, Terri Jansen

Cups: Monica Loyd, Jennifer Hibbard

Altar Servers: Kipton & Mary Morgan Jansen, Zoey Hibbard

### **6:00 PM Saturday September 27, 2025**

Host Minister: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Rose Hutsell, Susan Meier

Cups: Kelly Throesch, Mitch Baltz

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Dru & Evelyn Steimel

### **10:30 AM Sunday September 28, 2025**

Host Minister: Scott & Kim Hills

Cups: Claire Garoutte, Abby Tyler

Cups: Rene' Tyler, Jill Neely

Altar Servers: Hayden Moore, Aven Thielemier, Cash Cox

## **Knights of Columbus News:**

### **Knight of the month:**

David Meier

### **Knight Family of the month:**

Dwayne Capps Family

### **Usher schedule for September:**

**Saturday:** Roberta Waymon & Joey Radcliff

**Sunday:** Travis DeClerk, Chris Hoggard, Marty Moore, James Presley

Church Co-Ed Softball League will be starting Sept 30th. We are looking for some men & women to join the team! Reach out to Kyle Sutton @ 870-758-0737. Games will be on held on Tuesday evenings.

**Bible study Lectio "Eucharist" Discovering the Mass in the Bible by Dr. Brant Pitre** will be held on Monday's from 11am-12pm at the Parish Life Center classroom, beginning September 22, 2025. Bring your Bible and learn more about the miracle of the Holy Eucharist. Everyone is welcome to join. If you have any question call Teresa Baltz at 870-930-5700.

## **Christmas Choir**

Plans for music for midnight mass on 12-24-25 are under way. Mass will be preceded by a 30 min choral prelude beginning @ 10PM. Rehearsal will begin mid to late September and will be on Monday nights from 6pm -7pm. We are very pleased to welcome back our director Jeremy Carter, who has taken the choir to the next level! We would love to have you join the choir. A sampling of music can be emailed by request. We are very proud of our Wicks organ with 65 ranks, 66 stops and over 1,000 pipes. We are able to really showcase the organ at Christmas and Easter vigil.

Please contact Catherine Jarrett at 870-810-7349 or email at

[cathyj9623@hotmail.com](mailto:cathyj9623@hotmail.com)

Please pray for Bishop Anthony Taylor, Joe Bergman, Albert Baltz, Kelly McCandless, David Bassford, Debbie Junkersfeld, Jan Richardson, Ella Scobey, Tommy O'Donnell, Stephanie Garner, Dennis Blount, River Bridgeforth, Les McPherson,, Bridgette Kasinger, Gary Baltz, Jacqueline Weick, Sheila Saala, Jessica Pfeffer, Mary Broadway, Jake Kasinger, Karin Conradson, Gail Pinion, Josh Nichols, Jo Ann Manis, Pam Flanigan Becky Catron, Tanya Flanigan Smith, Luke Steimel, Donna Baltz, Vivian Blackshear, David Weick, Christina Smith, Dorothy Hoelscher, Mike Cook, Tim Junkersfeld, Arkie DeClerk, Leonard Thielemier, Nekayah Thomas, Virginia Sacher, Brooke Junkersfeld, Joe T Carroll, Lane Clayton, Jo Vatsula, Jim Kick and Keith Broadway.



Good News!

September 14, 2025  
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Numbers 21:4b-9 / Philippians 2:6-11 / John 3:13-17

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

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If St. Paul’s assertion that Jesus came and “emptied himself...coming in human likeness... even [to] death on a cross,” then those times that seem to empty us of all we would hold dear are the times when we slowly take on the image of Jesus in our own lives. It is at such times when we are most powerless but also when God’s spirit shines through our broken and wounded lives, if only because we become totally dependent upon God. It is Saint Teresa of Kolkata who is said to have once remarked that even God cannot fill what is already full. ●

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Dear Padre

September 14, 2025

A Protestant friend tells me that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. That doesn’t seem accurate to me. What does the Church teach about the meaning of Jesus’ death on the cross?

Jesus understood his mission to be sacrificing his own life “as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). His fidelity to that mission was even at the cost of death. However, saying Jesus’ death was payment for our sins doesn’t mean that a vengeful God was appeased by the slaughter of his own innocent son. Rather, we are redeemed because of the mutual love between Father and Son, as well as the love Christ had for us all when he offered his life. “It is love ‘to the end’ (see John 13:1) that confers on Christ’s sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 616). It is in this sense that Jesus’ death was a payment—not one to be exacted—but a unique sacrifice “that completes and surpasses all other sacrifices,” when “the Father handed his Son over to sinners in order to reconcile us with himself,” and the Son of God freely and lovingly offered his human life to his Father “in reparation for our disobedience” (CCC 614). Christ “bore our sins in his body upon the cross.... By his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24). Viewed in light of the resurrection, Christ’s death has meaning in eternal life’s triumph over sin. ●

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](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**

*September 13, 2025 – September 21, 2025*

**St. John**

Sun Sept 14: Betty Steimel (d); Jim Thielemier (d)  
Thur Sept 18: Romilda Hurn (d); Loretta Layton (d)  
Sun Sept 21 : Pamela Galvan (d); Jonathan Cagle (d)

**St. Paul**

Sat, Sept 13: John & Marcella Lamar(d)  
Sun, Sept 14: For the Parishioners  
Tues, Sept16: Ronnie Rose (d); Margaret Thompson (d)  
Wed, Sept 17, 9:00AM: Bob Meier (d)  
6::15PM: PRE Students & Catechist  
Thur, Sept 18: NO MASS  
Fri, Sept 19: Jim Adkins (d)  
Sat, Sept 20: Bob & Lil Gogan (d); Ronnie Rose (d)  
Sun, Sept 21: For the Parishioners

**Ministry Schedule**

	September 14th	September 21st	September 28th	October 5
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Pat Wren Tina Sharp Jane Smith Rebecca Steimel	Pat Wren Tina Sharp Jane Smith Rebecca Steimel	Stella Steimel Lori Steimel Joe Steimel Becky Brown	Stella Steimel Lori Steimel Joe Steimel Becky Brown
<b>Servers</b>	Wade Zitzelberger Holden Zitzelberger Casyn Steimel	Max Hoose Madison Throesch Jaxon Steimel	Kadence McKenzie Haley Stout Caroline Stout	Isaac Throesch Parker Liebhaber Madeleine Throesch
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>September:</b> Christian Helms & Lori Steimel <b>October:</b> Bridgette Kasinger & Rebecca Steimel			
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>September:</b> Mike Taylor & Sonny Throesch <b>October:</b> Dickie Flanigan & Ron Zitzelberger			
<b>Money Counters</b>	<b>September:</b> Richard & Ellen Thielemier & Elaine Wallis <b>October:</b> Jessica Stout, Joe & Lori Steimel			

**Weekly Financial Report**

**September 7, 2025**    Loose Cash:     \$443.00                      Checks & Envelopes:     \$2185.00

**FALL FESTIVAL CHAIR PERSON’S NEEDED:** We are in need of volunteers to be in charge of the FOOD and RAFFLE committee. Anyone interested please contact Father Stephen as soon as possible. A special thanks to Tina Sharp and Jane Smith for leading the food committee, and Ellen Thielemier and Elaine Wallis for heading the Raffle for the past several years.

**HALL WORK DAY:** In preparation for the Fall Festival, we will be having a work day on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00AM. All volunteers and tools are welcome.

**CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS:** We are still in need of volunteers to help to regularly clean the Church. Contact Lori Steimel at 870-758-0435 to volunteer for a month of cleaning.

**CHILDREN’S MASS:** There will be a children’s Mass Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>. If any parent has any questions, contact Jessica Stout.

**POKER RUN:** Ladie’s of Grace will be hosting a fund raiser for Safe Haven Baby Box. The poker run will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

**SAVE THE DATES:** Halloween Hayride – Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>  
Fall Festival – November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
All Soul’s cemetery blessing – November 9<sup>th</sup>  
Children’s Christmas Party – December 9<sup>th</sup>  
Adult Christmas Party – December 12<sup>th</sup>

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Included as an insert in this bulletin is our financial report for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. If you have any questions or concerns about the finances of our parish, please feel free to contact Fr. Stephen.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** “Not only are we to receive and adore the Eucharist, we must live the Eucharist. We are to let the rays of mercy from the monstrance pass through us and go out through all the world.” – St. Faustina Please call 870-810-0612 for questions or more information.

**PRAY FOR:** All the sick that request our prayers, especially, Bishop Anthony Taylor, Bonny Schmidt, Albert Baltz, Owen Sanders, Marie Peters, Chelsea Martin, Mark Throesch, Johnathan Wren, Pam Murphy, Red Oaks, Bob Wren, Treva Throesch, Bridgette Kasinger, Danny McCurdy, Paula Johnson, David Cissel, Owen Rowe, Dennis Burrow, Jake Kasinger, Evan Hargett, Dickie Flanigan, Sharon Thielemier (Patrick), Betty Baltz, Kathy Adkins, 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,

***A Protestant friend tells me that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. That doesn't seem accurate to me. What does the Church teach about the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross?***

Jesus understood his mission to be sacrificing his own life “as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). His fidelity to that mission was even at the cost of death. However, saying Jesus’ death was payment for our sins doesn’t mean that a vengeful God was appeased by the slaughter of his own innocent son. Rather, we are redeemed because of the mutual love between Father and Son, as well as the love Christ had for us all when he offered his life. “It is love ‘to the end’ (see John 13:1) that confers on Christ’s sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 616). It is in this sense that Jesus’ death was a payment—not one to be exacted—but a unique sacrifice “that completes and surpasses all other sacrifices,” when “the Father handed his Son over to sinners in order to reconcile us with himself,” and the Son of God freely and lovingly offered his human life to his Father “in reparation for our disobedience” (CCC 614). Christ “bore our sins in his body upon the cross.... By his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24). Viewed in light of the resurrection, Christ’s death has meaning in eternal life’s triumph over sin. ●



NANCY WIECHEC / CNS

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
September 15	September 16	September 17	September 18	September 19	September 20	September 21
<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	<i>Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs</i>	<i>Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
1 Tm 2:1–8 Jn 19:25–27 or Lk 2:33–35	1 Tm 3:1–13 Lk 7:11–17	1 Tm 3:14–16 Lk 7:31–35	1 Tm 4:12–16 Lk 7:36–50	1 Tm 6:2c–12 Lk 8:1–3	1 Tm 6:13–16 Lk 8:4–15	Am 8:4–7 1 Tm 2:1–8 Lk 16:1–13 or 16:10–13



## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

***I chose to take the name Leo XIV...mainly because Pope Leo XIII in his historic encyclical Rerum Novarum addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution. In our own day, the Church offers...the treasury of [its] social teaching in response to...new challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice, and labor.***

**ADDRESS TO THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS,  
ROME, MAY 10, 2025**