

Dear Padre,

Why do our bishops not marry? Scripture plainly says that they must be the husband of one wife and have faithful children.

This is an excellent question and brings us face to face with an important truth: for Catholics, the sacred Scripture is not the singular source of our practice and discipline. We also look, with equal authority, to the living Tradition of the Church. The magisterium is entrusted with the authentic interpretation of both Scripture and Tradition.

With this theological and historical context as a necessary background to your question, the answer to your query is this: the lived Tradition of the Church does not support a married clergy, including bishops. Although the Scripture allows for it, and provides some general guidelines, the lived Tradition of the Church does not. The Roman Catholic Church has a celibate clergy and will continue to have a celibate clergy unless and until the magisterium, in union with the pope, determines otherwise. There have been some discussions about changing this discipline, but now there is not much momentum that would suggest any imminent change.


In the wider Orthodox Catholic Church, in union with Rome, there is a provision for a married clergy, but, even in these traditions, there is no exception made for married bishops. Bishops are and will continue to be celibate regardless of what Scripture may allow. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 12	January 13	January 14	January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Anthony, Abbot	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 1:1–8 Mk 1:14–20	1 Sm 1:9–20 Mk 1:21–28	1 Sm 3:1–10, 19–20 Mk 1:29–39	1 Sm 4:1–11 Mk 1:40–45	1 Sm 8:4–7, 10–22a Mk 2:1–12	1 Sm 9:1–4, 17–19; 10:1a Mk 2:13–17	Is 49:3, 5–6 1 Cor 1:1–3 Jn 1:29–34

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In the family, faith is handed on together with life, generation after generation. It is shared like food at the family table and like the love in our hearts. In this way, families become privileged places in which to encounter Jesus, who loves us and desires our good, always.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 1, 2025

Jesus, Servant Leader

MIGUEL DULICK

John, miracle son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, cousin of Jesus and known as “the Baptist,” offers a “baptism of repentance.” Then Jesus shows up. The eternal Son of God a penitent? John is shocked and resists, saying it is Jesus who should baptize him. But Jesus insists, “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15).

At the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus is humbling himself, much as he did toward the end, when he washed the feet of his disciples. Then it was Peter who would resist what seemed inappropriate by the standards of this world. Jesus is giving us an example, the way of the servant leader, as described in today’s beautiful passage from Isaiah. Jesus is the servant leader, the Father’s Son, over whom the Holy Spirit danced like a dove, and the Father, with his booming voice from the heavens, said of him, “This is my beloved Son!” (Matthew 3:17).

Jesus allowing himself to be baptized may seem like a contradiction, but given all that follows, we know he is offering his followers a consistent model of what he expects from those who choose to be his disciples. As St.

Paul would later write to the Church in Philippi, “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped” (Philippians 2:5–6). ●



Reflect

This week, I'll think about my baptism, when I was called to serve as Jesus served.



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



St. Paul Catholic Church

713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

The Baptism of The Lord
January 10 & 11, 2026



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Parish Announcements

Free Concert

Adoration

Please join us on Wednesday, January 14 at 5:30PM for Eucharistic Adoration and Liturgy of the Hours.

First Communion

Letters for first communion have gone out to 2nd grade students. If you did not receive your letter, please contact the church office.

Parish Council

We would like to thank Kevin Mahoney, Allyson Johnston, Bryan Brabston, and Janis Koestler for their service on Parish Council. We welcome our new council members; Mary Margaret Edney, Chris Rabalais, Terry Winschel, and Melissa Smithhart. Thank you to all for serving our parish.

The Four Seasons of the Arts along with the City of Vicksburg is sponsoring “Mozart by Candlelight Concert” featuring the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra performing Sunday, January 11th at Holy Trinity Church, at 7:00 PM. MSO will feature two of its own talented artists as they present “Mozart Magic.” The concert is free to the public. Donations are welcome.

World Marriage Day 2026

The Catholic Diocese of Jackson and the Office of Family Ministry would like to invite all couples who are celebrating their 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th (or longer) anniversaries in 2026, to the Diocesan World Marriage Day Celebration. Saturday, February 7, at 1PM at St. Peter Cathedral in Jackson or Saturday, February 14, at 5 PM at St. James in Tupelo. There will be Mass followed by a reception. RSVP to www.jacksondiocese.org/family-ministry. For any questions, contact the Office of Family Ministry at 601-960-8487

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget\$7,700

Online Giving

Dec 29 - Jan 1 \$2,055

Weekend Offertory

Dec 27 & 28 \$6,987

Jan 3 & 4 \$5,936

Jan 10 & 11 \$____

Jan 17 & 18 \$____

Jan 24 & 25 \$____

Special Collections

January 11: Saltillo Mission



Sign up for automatic online giving at www.osvhub.com/st-paulscatholic-church

Weekend Mass Schedule†

Saturday

#Confession 3:15-3:45 PM
Mass 4:00 PM

Sunday

#Confession 9:45-10:15 AM
Mass 10:30 AM

Daily Mass Schedule†

Monday 7:00 AM
Tuesday 12:00 PM
Wednesday 7:00 AM
Thursday 12:00 PM
Friday 7:00 AM

† All schedule updates can be found in the Parish Calendar section of the bulletin.

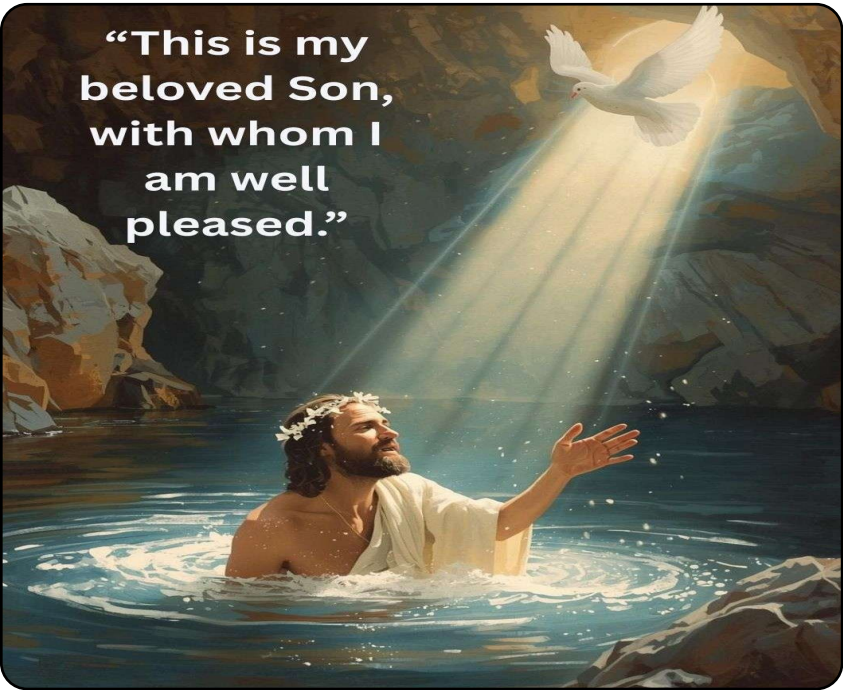
‡ For Confessions during the week, please call the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions

JAN 12, MON Special Intentions
JAN 13, TUES Ray Gorman, Deceased
JAN 14, WED Laura Ables, Healing
JAN 15, THUR Jimmy Kendrick, Deceased
JAN 16, FRI Special Intentions
JAN 17, SAT Special Intentions

To request a Mass Intention for a Daily Mass or the Saturday Vigil Mass, please call, email, or visit the parish office. Each Mass with no intention is offered for all St. Paul’s parishioners.

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”



Today’s Readings

Visit bible.usccb.org or scan this QR code to find the readings



Check out our Social Media!



St. Paul Catholic Church

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers placed at the Ambo are in memory of S. Dewey Purser, the late husband of Jean Purser.

Pastoral Care

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in urgent need of anointing, please call the church office Emergency Ext 106

Parish Calendar

JAN 11, SUN Children’s Church led by: Blair Ashley
JAN 12, MON Offertory Counters: Elias Arredondo and Lorraine Smithhart
JAN 14, WED Adoration 5:30 PM. RCIA 6 PM in Glynn Hall
JAN 18, SUN Food Pantry Collection
JAN 21, WED Lunch & Scripture 12 PM at Billy’s

Knights of Columbus

<https://facebook.com/kc898>

www.ms-kofc.com/898

Become a KNIGHT. Scan this QR code to join the Knights today!



JAN 13 Rosary 6:30 PM followed by Recruitment & Retention social
JAN 14 K of C Bible Study after 5PM Mass @ St. Michael's
JAN 17 Midwinter meeting Hattiesburg

St. Paul Parish Staff

Pastor Fr. Rusty Vincent Office Manager Ashley Roesch Office Assistant Janis Koestler
Bookkeeper Beverly Connelly Maintenance Charles Hahn Organist Karen Harrison

Leadership & Ministries

Parish Council President Kevin Mahoney Finance Council Chair Bill Fulcher

Bereavement Story Ebersole RCIA Connie and David Hosemann, and Bruce Ebersole Meals On Wheels Jan Jackson, Christy Guizerix, and Rae Perry
Altar Flowers Cynthia Montalbano Homebound Janis Koestler Children’s Church Ashley Lawrence
Baptism Prep Barbara Hill Confirmation Jordan Amborn