

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	1 Sm 1:9-20	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20	1 Sm 4:1-11	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a	Is 49:3, 5-6 1 Cor 1:1-3 Jn 1:29-34
Mk 1:14-20	Mk 1:21-28	Mk 1:29-39	Mk 1:40-45	Mk 2:1-12	Mk 2:13-17	

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to 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



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RODRIGO DE MIGUEL / CATHOPIC

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord (A)

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 / Acts 10:34-38 / Matthew 3:13-17



Jesus, Servant Leader

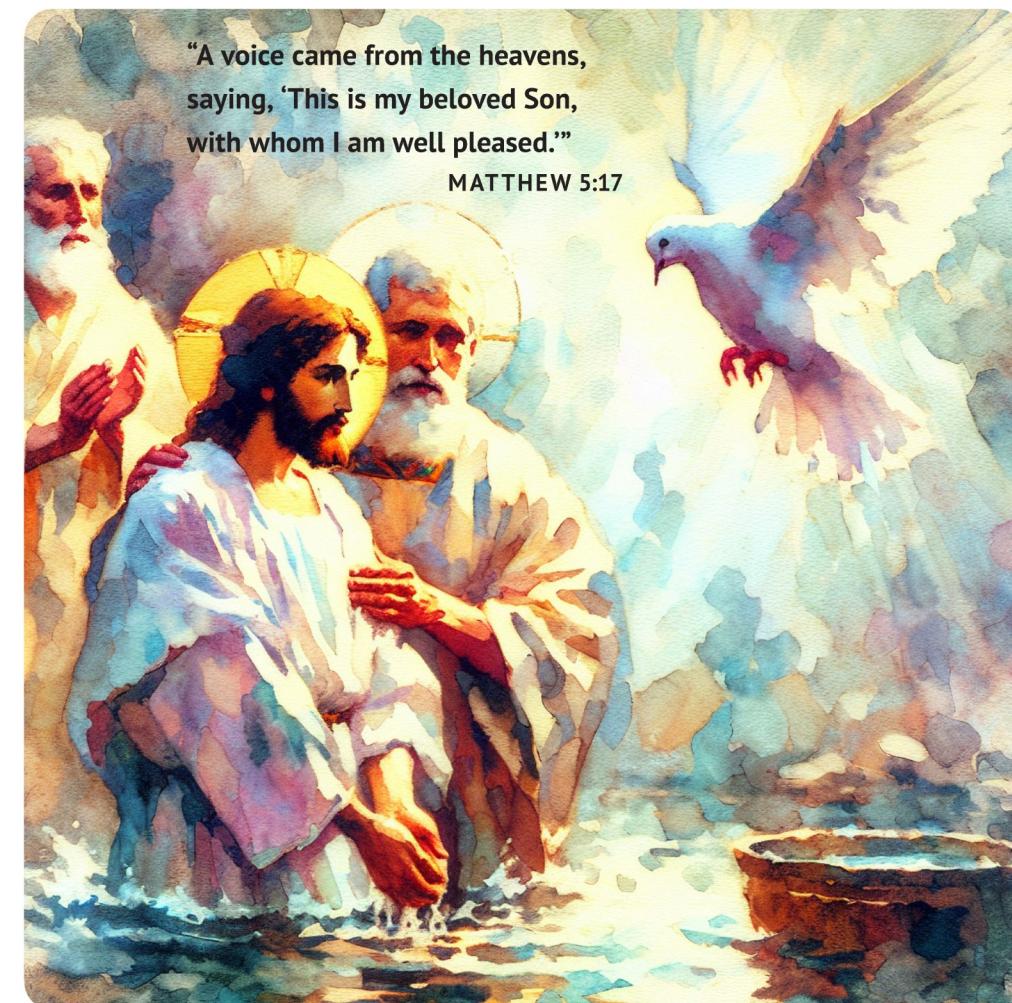
MIGUEL DULICK

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

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St. Paul Catholic Church

713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

The Baptism of The Lord
January 10 & 11, 2026

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 Rabalaish, Terry Winschel, and Melissa Smithhart. Thank you to all for serving our parish.

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

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

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



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The Baptism of The Lord
January 10 & 11, 2026

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

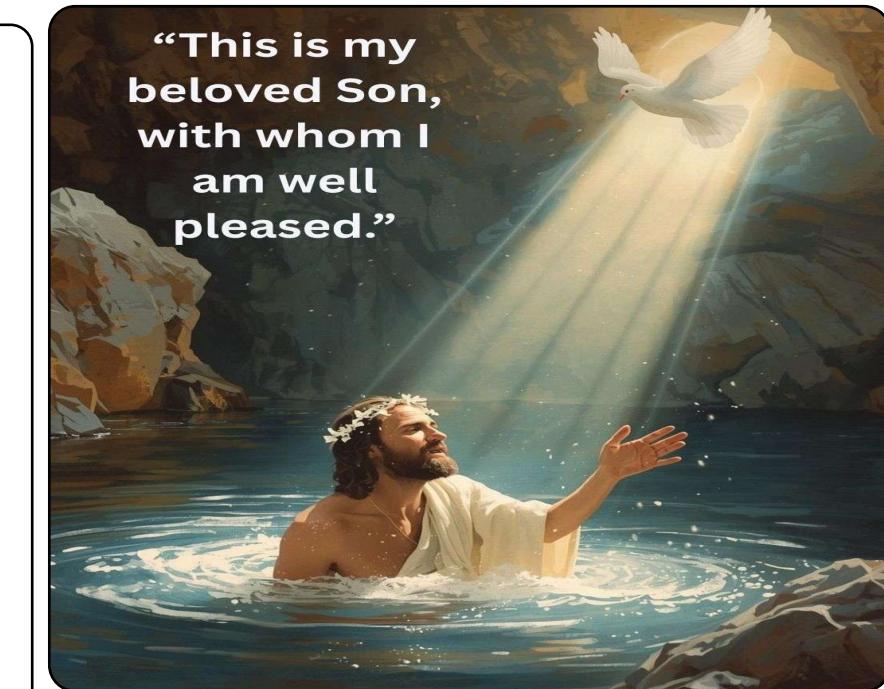
Wednesday 7:00 AM

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.



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

Pastoral Care

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

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

Altar Flowers
Cynthia Montalbano

Meals On Wheels
Jan Jackson, Christy Guizerix, and Rae Perry

Baptism Prep
Barbara Hill

Homebound
Janis Koestler

Confirmation
Jordan Amborn

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.