

Dear Padre,

Can a non-Catholic serve and hold an office in a Catholic parish organization?

According to their knowledge, competence, and position, the Christian faithful have an obligation to assist in the necessary works of the Church and promote the common good of the parish—its worship, its apostolic mission, its charities, the care of its ministers, and its care of the poor. (See *Code of Canon Law*, 222.) In general, canon law and most diocesan regulations stipulate that members of primary decision-making entities must be active, registered Catholics who participate in the sacramental life of the Church. For example, members of a pastoral council must be “in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL 512 §1). However, non-Catholics—such as spouses of parishioners or experts in their fields (e.g., finance, law, architecture)—are sometimes invited to lend their skills by serving on advisory boards and committees or in other support roles that are usually in a non-voting capacity. In all cases, the pastor or bishop has the discretion to involve non-Catholics in specific initiatives. For instance, a bishop “can invite as observers to the diocesan synod other ministers or members of churches or ecclesial communities which are not in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL, 463 §3). A non-Catholic interested in serving should consult the local priest about available opportunities, based on the norms of a diocese. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, “Samaritan” spirit—one that is welcoming, courageous, committed, and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ. Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly, or afflicted.



MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

August 24
St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Rv 21:9b–14
Jn 1:45–51

Tuesday

August 25
Weekday
2 Thes 2:1–3a, 14–17
Mt 23:23–26

Wednesday

August 26
Weekday
2 Thes 3:6–10, 16–18
Mt 23:27–32

Thursday

August 27
St. Monica
1 Cor 1:1–9
Mt 24:42–51

Friday

August 28
St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
1 Cor 1:17–25
Mt 25:1–13

Saturday

August 29
The Passion of St. John the Baptist
1 Cor 1:26–31
Mk 6:17–29

Sunday

August 30
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer 20:7–9
Rom 12:1–2
Mt 16:21–27

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 23, 2026

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 22:19–23 / Romans 11:33–36 / Matthew 16:13–20



Who Do You Say That I Am?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” An easy answer if you just report what other people say and what you have heard. No commitment. No revelation. No risk. But it all changes when the question is more to the point: “Who do *you* say that I am?” Tell me what you know, not what you heard. The silence is almost deafening. Vulnerability, not just anonymous reporting, is required in the asked-for response. No surprise—it is Peter who answers. Never one to hide his emotions or edit his thoughts, it is Peter who reveals what he knows, perhaps even what he is unsure of, perhaps the truth that he only hopes for but has not yet declared. “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Jesus responds with a prayer of blessing; the apostles, on the other hand, remain silent. Although we are very familiar with Peter’s assent of faith, his declaration was almost unheard-of or unexpected from a first-century Jewish man. It was dangerous to identify someone as Messiah. It was blasphemous to name someone as the Son of the Living God. Yet, in faith and humility, Peter made the declaration and, in the naming, entrusted his life, his hope, and all that he believed firmly into the hands of Jesus. This was no simple act. This was no ordinary day. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”

MATTHEW 16:16



Reflect

How would you answer if Jesus asked you, “Who do you say that I am?” (He is asking you!)



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St. Paul Catholic Church
713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

21st SUN of O.T.
August 22 & 23, 2026



St. Paul Catholic Church
713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

21st SUN of O.T.
August 21 & 22, 2026

Parish Announcements



OCIA (formerly RCIA) classes are Starting! Do you know someone who would like to know more about the Catholic faith? Our OCIA classes offer an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and explore the possibility of becoming Catholic. Share the faith and invite someone to **“Come & See!” on Wednesday, September 16, at 6:00 PM in Gynn Hall here at St. Paul Catholic Church.** For more information contact the church office at 601-636-0140 or email stpaulvick@att.net

Confession

There will be no confession on Saturday, August 22. There will be confession on Sunday, August 23.

K of C Drawdown

The Knights of Columbus Annual \$3,000 Drawdown will be Sunday, October 11. You may purchase tickets early online at <https://kc898.square.site/>

Hallow

The St. Michael Lent Reflection has started! St. Michael's Lent is a 40-day period of prayer and penance that goes until the Feast of the Archangels on September 29. It is available to all parishioners through the parish Hallow App. Be sure to click on the church tab and register with St. Paul. If you need help accessing the app, please contact the office. The link is: <https://hallow.app.link/98TCuXMcp5b>

ACTS Retreat

The ACTS of Central Mississippi Women's Retreat will be held October 22-25 at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Retreat Center in Osyka, MS. The retreat begins Thursday evening with departure from Holy Savior Catholic Church in Clinton, MS, and concludes there with the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass. The application deadline is September 12, 2026. For more information, contact Jennifer Ratliff at jenniferrogillio@yahoo.com or Allie Roach at Alliegamble62@yahoo.com

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget \$7,700

Online Giving

August 3 - August 9 \$2,192

Weekend Offertory

August 1 & 2.....\$5,201

August 8 & 9.....\$6,788

August 15 & 16.....\$3,316

August 22 & 23.....\$ __, __

August 29 & 30.....\$ __, __

Special Collections

August 16: Solidarity Fund for Church in Africa.....\$525



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

Knights of Columbus

<https://facebook.com/kc898>

www.ms-kojc.com/898

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



AUG 25 Rosary @ 6:30 PM followed by Recruitment and Retention Social, all Catholic men welcome.

AUG 26 K of C Bible study after 5:30 PM Mass @ St. Michael.

SEP 1 Rosary @6:30 PM followed by Council Meeting

Weekend Mass Schedule†

Saturday

‡Confession 2:30-3:30 PM
Mass 4:00 PM

Sunday

‡Confession 9:30-10:00 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

AUG 24, MON	Karen Schumaker, Healing
AUG 25, TUES	Dan Fordice, Deceased
AUG 26, WED	Karen Schumaker, Healing
AUG 27, THUR	Betty Howard Brinkley, Deceased
AUG 28, FRI	Betty Howard Brinkley, Deceased
AUG 29, SAT	Frank & Ethel Lane, Deceased

To request a Mass Intention for a Daily Mass or the Saturday Vigil Mass, please call, email, or visit the parish office. *Sunday Mass is offered for all St. Paul's parishioners.



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 of Vicksburg



Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers placed at the Ambo are in memory of Mike Hill

PastoralCare

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

Parish Calendar

AUG 23, SUN	Children's Church led by Blair Ashley
AUG 25, TUES	Offertory Counters: Elias Arrendondo & Lorraine Smithhart
AUG 29, SAT	Meals on Wheels
SEPT 1, TUES	Anointing Mass 12:00 PM
SEPT 7, MON	Labor Day. Office Closed.