



SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH

8100 Chapman Avenue, Stanton CA 90680 | (714) 893-2766 | www.stpolycarp.org

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a faith-based Catholic community whose members are enriched by the celebration of the Sacraments and opportunities to deepen our prayer lives. Guided by the Word of God and family values, we strive always to be a beacon of light for the lost, the lonely, the marginalized, and all those seeking the truth as we walk in the footsteps of those first disciples of Jesus and our patron St. Polycarp.

CLERGY

PASTOR

Rev. Viet Peter Ho

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Nicolaus Duy Thai

Rev. Luis Segura

DEACONS

Dcn. Ramiro Lopez

Dcn. Larry Leone

Dcn. Davis Tri Do

Dcn. Juan Ochoa

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday

5:00 PM English

7:00 PM Vietnamese

Sunday

7:30 AM English

9:00 AM Spanish

11:00 AM English

1:00 PM Spanish

4:00 PM Vietnamese

6:00 PM Spanish

WEEKDAY MASSES

6:30 AM English (Mon-Fri)

8:30 AM English (Mon-Sat)

6:30 PM Spanish (Mon)

6:30 PM Vietnamese (Fri)

EUCCHARISTIC

ADORATION

9:00 AM - 10 AM (Fri)

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (Sat)

SACRAMENT OF

RECONCILIATION

7:15 PM (Monday)

9:00 AM (Friday)

3:30 PM (Saturday)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Sunday

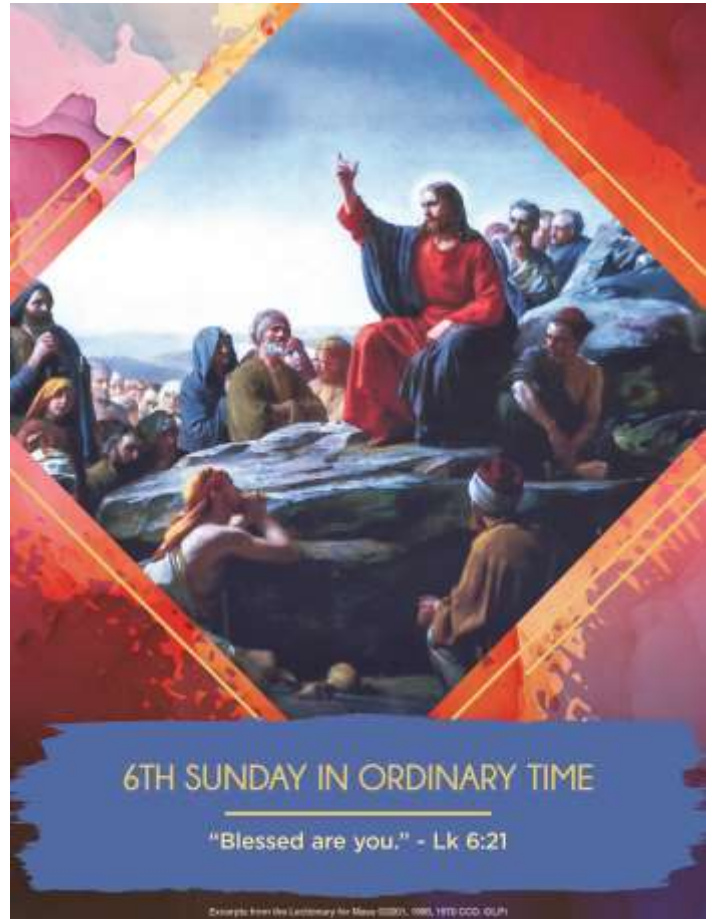
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

info@stpolycarp.org

BULLETIN: editor@stpolycarp.org

FEBRUARY 16, 2025



FAITH FORMATION OFFICE HOURS

English/Spanish Religious Education

(714) 892-3158

Monday & Thursday 2 PM—6 PM

Saturday 9 AM—1 PM

Confirmation Programs

(714) 890-5200

Tuesday & Friday 9:30 AM—5:30 PM

Sunday 9 AM—2 PM

Vietnamese Religious Education

(714) 620-7895

Tuesday & Wednesday 1 PM—4 PM

Friday 1 PM—5 PM

SUPPORT STAFF

BUSINESS MANAGER

Tom H. Ma

FAITH FORMATION (ENGLISH/SPANISH)

Sister Jessica Corral

FAITH FORMATION (VIETNAMESE)

Sister Mary Anne
Thiên Hương Nguyễn

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Sister Anna Anh Trâm Trần

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Kara Ford

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Joseph Do

Las lecturas de la semana del 16 de febrero de 2025

- Domingo:** Jr 17, 5-8/Sal 1, 1-2. 3. 4. 6. (40, 5)/1 Co 15, 12. 16-20/Lc 6, 17. 20-26
- Lunes:** Gn 4, 1-15. 25/Sal 49, 1 y 8. 16-17. 20-21/Mc 8, 11-13
- Martes:** Gn 6, 5-8; 7, 1-5. 10/Sal 28, 1 y 2. 3-4. 3 y 9-10/Mc 8, 14-21
- Miércoles:** Gn 8, 6-13. 20-22/Sal 115, 12-13. 14-15. 18-19/Mc 8, 22-26
- Jueves:** Gn 9, 1-13/Sal 101, 16-18. 19-21. 29 y 22-23/Mc 8, 27-33
- Viernes:** Gn 11, 1-9/Sal 32, 10-11. 12-13. 14-15/Mc 8, 34—9, 1
- Sábado:** 1 Pe 5, 1-4/Sal 22, 1-3. 4. 5. 6/Mt 16, 13-19
- Domingo:** 1 Sm 26, 2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23/1 Co 15, 45-49/Lc 6, 27-38

Las conmemoraciones del 16 de febrero de 2025

- Domingo:** 6º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario
- Lunes:** Los siete santos fundadores de la orden de los servitas; Día de los presidentes (EEUU)
- Viernes:** San Pedro Damián, obispo y doctor de la Iglesia
- Sábado:** La cátedra de San Pedro apóstol
- Domingo:** 7º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

(PRACTICANDO) CATÓLICA: RECONOCE A DIOS EN TUS MOMENTOS ORDINARIOS

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflexión: Jesús fue radical en su enseñanza de que las "cosas" en vida no eran importantes. Era radical para decir que los signos mundanos del éxito no equivalían a mucho en el gran esquema de las cosas y que el sufrimiento podía santificarnos. ¿Estamos dispuestos a ser radicales también?

Al Final, ¿Importa?

Cuando era adolescente, el sacerdote al que acudía para confesarme solía decirme, una y otra vez: "Al final, todos tendremos el mismo agujero sucio en el suelo."

Lo que quería decir era que no importa cuán ricos, inteligentes o queridos seamos. Todos vamos al mismo lugar. Esta vida llega a su fin para todo hombre. Todo el dinero que gane, todas las cosas, toda la estima mundana, en algún momento ya no le servirán. Todos tendremos el mismo agujero sucio en el suelo.

Fue un mensaje importante para mí, porque en ese momento, todo parecía muy *importante*: mi trabajo después de la escuela y mi solicitud de FAFSA y mis calificaciones. La admiración de mis amigos y maestros. Estaba tan obsesionada con *lo* que iba a llegar a ser que no

pasaba mucho tiempo pensando en *quién* me iba a convertir. Pero el *quién* es lo único que dura hasta la próxima vida.

Y para ser honesta, todo sigue siendo demasiado importante para mí. Evitar la tristeza y la decepción. Ahorrar dinero y ser querida. Centrándome en "el plan de cinco años" en lo que respecta a la carrera, los planes de la casa y un montón de otras cosas que no puedo llevar a mi sucio agujero en el suelo.

Jesús fue radical en su enseñanza de que las "cosas" de la vida no eran tan importantes. Era radical para él decir que los signos mundanos del éxito —riqueza, popularidad, placer— no significaban mucho en el gran esquema de las cosas y que el sufrimiento podía santificarnos. Era radical en el mundo antiguo, y es radical hoy.

¿Estamos dispuestos a ser radicales también?

MEDITACIÓN EVANGÉLICO - ALENTAR ENTENDIMIENTO MÁS PROFUNDO DE LA ESCRITURA

Luchar por el bien común es la respuesta que debemos dar al evangelio de este domingo. No hay otra manera, y el mensaje es muy claro, no existe manera de suavizarlo. Lucas mira un solo punto, y es la justicia. La escena del evangelio nos narra que Jesús desciende del cerro y se detiene en un llano. Hay mucha gente de diferentes partes, muchos esperan ser curados por Jesús. Entonces, Jesús, dirige su mirada a sus discípulos y comienza su discurso. Les habla de la importancia de ser felices. Sí, Jesús llama felices a los pobres y a los enfermos. ¿Cómo podemos entender y asimilar ese llamado a la felicidad? ¿Que acaso no es contradictorio?

El mensaje está en que, al ver la pobreza, el hambre, la enfermedad, la guerra, la oportunidad, la educación, por mencionar algunas injusticias en el mundo del tiempo de Jesús y el tiempo nuestro, estemos dispuestos a dar la vida por la justicia y la paz. Entonces, es que el Reino de Dios florecerá para todos. Y esa es la verdadera felicidad que la Palabra de Dios hoy nos menciona. Pidamos al Señor que nos incomode la injusticia, que nos mueva a tener empatía para entender los problemas y sentimientos de los demás. Porque, de esa manera seremos felices e incansables luchadores del bien común. La recompensa es grande, es el cielo, es la promesa de Jesús. El sacrificio bien llevado y con intención recta, desde el fondo del corazón, es la felicidad. ¿Lo has experimentado? ©LPi

Thông Báo

1. Quỹ Mục Vụ PSA: Đức Cha Vann mời gọi mọi tín hữu chúng ta cùng với ngài thực thi hai giới răn “mến Chúa và yêu người. Chủ đề của Quỹ Mục Vụ năm nay là **“Phúc cho người đang đói khát vì người sẽ được no đủ.”**

Cuối tuần 15 và 16 tháng 2 năm 2025, Cha Chánh Xứ Peter Việt Hồ sẽ trực tiếp trình bày trong các Thánh Lễ và đây là Tuần Lễ cam kết, và khởi sự việc đóng góp cho PSA. Xin Cộng Đoàn tích cực hưởng ứng cho công việc rất ý nghĩa này.

2. Giáo Xứ khai mạc Năm Thánh: Những Người Hành Hương của Hy Vọng và Mừng Bốn Mạng Thánh Poycarp vào Chúa Nhật ngày 23 tháng 2. Để chuẩn bị cho ngày trọng đại này, Giáo Xứ có chiều Thánh Thể liên tiếp 24 giờ, bắt đầu từ sau Thánh Lễ 8:30AM thứ Sáu ngày 21 tháng 2 năm 2025 và kết thúc trước Thánh Lễ 8:30AM Thứ Bảy ngày 22 tháng 2 năm 2025.

Chúa Nhật ngày 23 tháng 2 năm 2025, tất cả quý Cha, các thầy Phó Tế đều đồng tế cho 3 Thánh Lễ 9AM, 11AM, và 4PM. Riêng Thánh Lễ 4PM, có Đức Cha Nguyễn Thái Thành về chủ tế. Mời gọi Giáo Dân tham dự thật nhiều, ăn mặc đẹp, mang áo dài truyền thống, sau mỗi Thánh Lễ đều có âm thực, và Đức Cha Giáo Phận ban ơn Toàn Xá cho những người tham dự trong ngày mừng kính này.

✝ Ý Cầu Nguyện

Ý CẦU NGUYỆN THÁNG 2 NĂM 2025

CỦA ĐỨC GIÁO HOÀNG PHANXICÔ.

CẦU NGUYỆN CHO ON GỌI LINH MỤC VÀ TU SĨ.

Chúng ta hãy cầu nguyện để các cộng đoàn giáo hội biết đón nhận những nguyện vọng và cả những do dự của những người trẻ cảm thấy tiếng gọi phục vụ sứ mạng của Chúa Kitô trong đời sống linh mục và tu sĩ.



✝ Phân Ưu



“Xin Thiên Chúa là Cha Nhân Từ tha thứ những thiếu sót và lỗi lầm của người quá cố lúc còn sống nơi trần thế, để họ được về bên Thiên Chúa, hưởng vinh phúc trên Thiên Quốc.”

✝ Cộng Đoàn vừa nhận được tin **Anh STÉPHANÔ NGUYỄN CHÂU** vừa được Chúa gọi về ngày 31 tháng 1 năm 2025 tại thành phố Anaheim - California, hưởng dương 58 tuổi. Xin được chia sẻ niềm buồn ngủi, thương nhớ, trước giờ chia tay của gia đình **Anh STÉPHANÔ NGUYỄN CHÂU.**

Nguyện xin Thiên Chúa là Cha Nhân Từ đón nhận linh hồn **STÉPHANÔ** về hưởng Nhan Thánh Chúa trên quê Trời.

Cộng Đoàn thành kính phân ưu cùng Đại Gia Đình Tang Quyển.

✝ Cộng Đoàn vừa nhận được tin nhạc phụ của Anh Vũ Quốc Thông (Trúc) thuộc Ban Hướng Dẫn của Cộng Đoàn là: **Cụ Ông DAMINH PHẠM SƠN** đã được Chúa gọi về ngày 3 tháng 2 năm 2025 tại thành phố Anaheim, California, hưởng thọ 87 tuổi. Xin được chia sẻ niềm buồn ngủi, thương nhớ, trước giờ chia tay của gia đình Anh Trúc với **Cụ Ông DAMINH PHẠM SƠN.** Nguyện xin Thiên Chúa là Cha Nhân Từ đón nhận linh hồn **DAMINH** về hưởng Nhan Thánh Chúa trên quê Trời. Cộng Đoàn thành kính phân ưu đến Đại Gia Đình Anh Trúc.

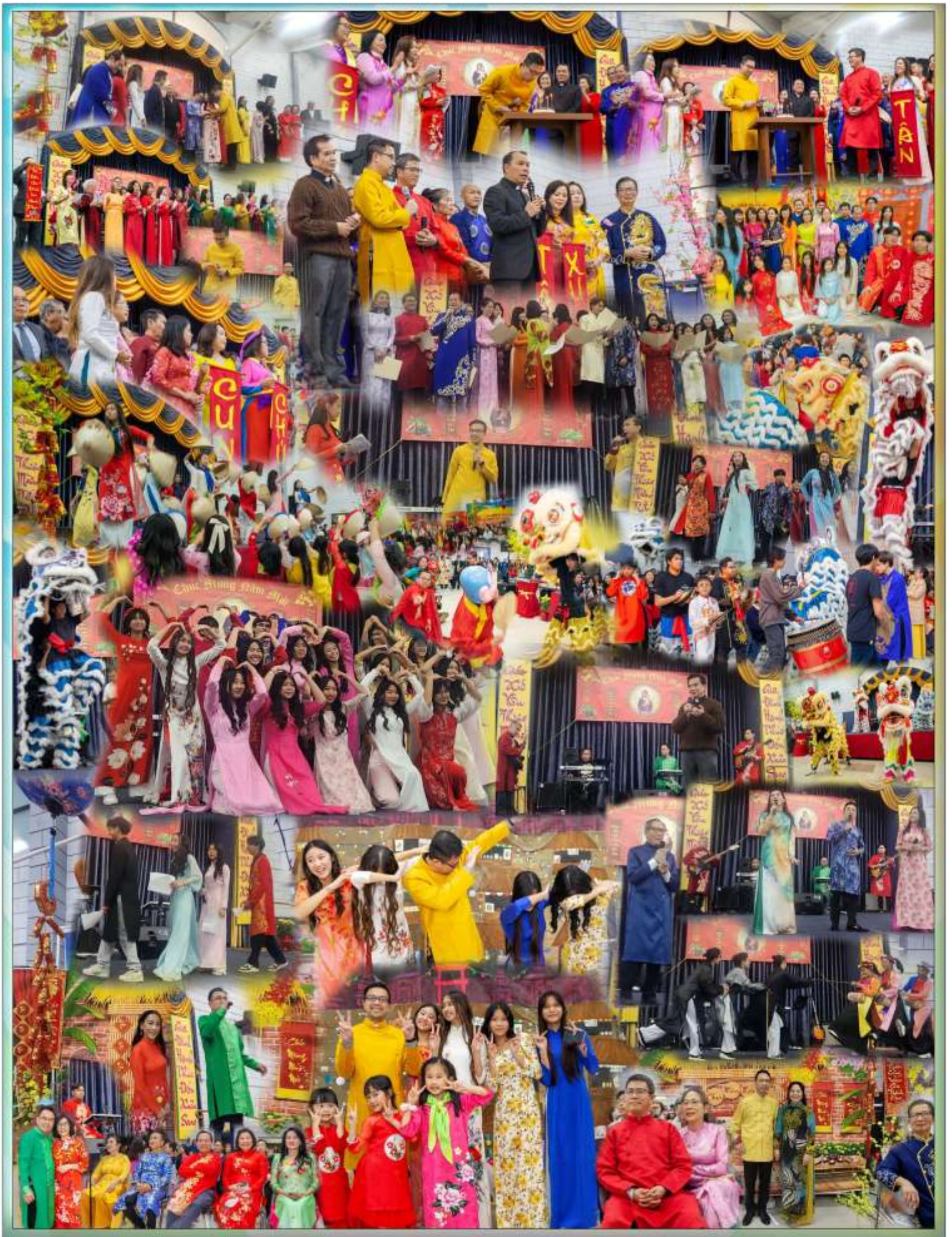


✝ Cộng Đoàn vừa nhận được tin mẹ của chị Trâm (Hội Trường Hội Đền Tạ Trái Tim Đức Mẹ) là: **Cụ Bà MARIA LÊ THỊ THOM** đã được Chúa gọi về ngày 10 tháng 2 năm 2025 tại bệnh viện UCI, California, hưởng thọ 93 tuổi. Xin được chia sẻ niềm buồn ngủi, thương nhớ, trước giờ chia tay của gia đình Chị Trâm với **Cụ Bà MARIA LÊ THỊ THOM.** Nguyện xin Thiên Chúa là Cha Nhân Từ đón nhận linh hồn **MARIA** về hưởng Nhan Thánh Chúa trên quê Trời. Cộng Đoàn thành kính phân ưu đến Đại Gia Đình Chị Trâm.

✝ Cộng Đoàn vừa nhận được tin bố của Chị Yến và Anh Định (Ca Đoàn Dũng Lạc Nhóm Chúa Nhật) là: **Cụ Ông GIUSE HOÀNG VĂN SƠN** đã được Chúa gọi về ngày 9 tháng 2 năm 2025 tại thành phố Westminster, California, hưởng thọ 93 tuổi. Xin được chia sẻ niềm buồn ngủi, thương nhớ, trước giờ chia tay của gia đình Chị Yến và Anh Định với **Cụ Ông GIUSE HOÀNG VĂN SƠN.**

Nguyện xin Thiên Chúa là Cha Nhân Từ đón nhận linh hồn **GIUSE** về hưởng Nhan Thánh Chúa trên quê Trời.

Cộng Đoàn thành kính phân ưu đến Đại Gia Đình.



OUR OFFICE IS CLOSED

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025

8:30 A.M. ENGLISH MASS/ NO CONFESSION HOUR

SPANISH MASS @ 6:30 P.M.

INFO@STPOLYCARP.ORG

(714) 893-2766

WWW.STPOLYCARP.ORG



FEAST DAY OF ST. POLYCARP & KICK-OFF OF THE JUBILEE YEAR

Let us then continually persevere in our hope and the security of our righteousness, which is Jesus Christ who bore our sins in his own body on the tree. He committed no sin, and no deceit found in his mouth, but who endured all things for us so that we might live in Him. Let us then be imitators of His patience. If we suffer for His name's sake, let us glorify Him. For He has set us this example in Himself, and we have believed this.

- Excerpt from Letter of St. Polycarp to the Philippians

Please be sure to join us the weekend of 02/21-02/23 as we celebrate the feast day of our patron saint and begin the first of our celebrations of this Jubilee Year of Pilgrims of Hope.

24-hour adoration begins following the 8:30AM Mass on Friday, February 21, concluding just prior to the 8:30AM Mass on Saturday, February 22.

A relic of St. Polycarp will be displayed and available for veneration following the 9AM, 11AM, and 4PM Masses on Sunday, February 23. Receptions for the community will also be held following each of these Masses. Bishop Vann has granted a Plenary Indulgence for all who take part in this celebration.

 SAINT POLYCARP
CATHOLIC CHURCH
8000 Chapman Avenue • Hatfield, CA 95880 | (714) 893-2766 | www.stpolycarp.org



rcbo.org/revival

“

“If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion.”

- St Maximilian Kolbe

ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN



presents

I Have Called You by Name

This February come and delve deeper into the mystery of God's personal love for you.

Join us on

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

for our Retreat presented by the Sisters devoted to the Sacred Heart and featuring Fr. Al Baca presiding over Mass. Don't miss out on this sacred time with the Orange Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Time: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Donation: \$50.00

Includes continental breakfast and catered lunch



Heart of Jesus Retreat Center
2927 S. Greenville St.
Santa Ana, CA 92704

The Retreat Center is on the corner of Segerstrom and Greenville. Enter the parking lot through Gate 3 on Segerstrom Ave. Gate will open at 8:30am.

Preregistration required.

Register at www.odccw.org or contact Susan at 949-345-9130 or by email at snavarrete150@gmail.com.

PLAY & PRAY
date

The Office of Youth & Young Adults invites young families with children 5 y/o and younger to "Play & Pray Date", an initiative that brings families together for community.



Play & Pray Date begins with 10AM Mass at Christ Cathedral.



After Mass, families are invited to the Cultural Center for an afternoon of faith-centered sensory play, crafts, circle time, and other activities.



Local craft vendors will be selling food, drinks, and other items!



Play & Pray Date is free to attend but RSVP is required through the QR code!

CHRIST CATHEDRAL CAMPUS | FEB. 23, 2025



Roman Catholic
Diocese of Orange

Part-time Office Clerk is now open!

Able to communicate well both verbally and in writing.
Spanish/English speaking.

Duties include: greeting parishioners, answering phones, updating records, making appointments, offering advice and program information, maintaining the premises clean and organized, and solving various problems.
Other duties as assigned.

\$16.00/hour (may work on weekends as required)

Submit your resume to tma@st.polycarp.org

St. Polycarp Catholic Church
Stanton, CA 90680
www.stpolycarp.org




St. Polycarp Annual Men's Retreat

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center
Sierra Madre

March 21-23, 2025

Men from our parish are invited to make their annual retreat at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center in Sierra Madre. The Center provides a private room and bath, delicious meals, beautifully landscaped grounds and the guidance of the Passionist Retreat Team. The atmosphere of this silent, preached retreat will help you to relax, reflect and rejuvenate spiritually.

This year's theme-
"Living the Paschal Mystery: Our Holy Hope"

Reservations can be made by contacting our parish retreat representative:
Ralph Gonzalez at 714-761-3089 or 714-815-1753.

A \$50 deposit is required.





“*Si los ángeles pudieran tener celos de los hombres, lo serían por una razón: la Sagrada Comunión.*”

- San Maximiliano Kolbe

rcbo.org/revival

FORO INFORMATIVO SOBRE INMIGRACION

CAMINANDO CON DIOS EN ESPERANZA

LUNES 10 FEBRERO	LA PURISIMA CHURCH 11712 Hewes St. Orange SALON PARROQUIAL 6:30 PM a 9:00 PM
JUEVES 13 FEBRERO	ST. BARBARA CHURCH 730 S. Euclid St. Santa Ana SALON PARROQUIAL 7:00 PM a 9:00 PM
JUEVES 27 FEBRERO	ST. JOACHIM CHURCH 1964 Orange Ave Costa Mesa SALON PARROQUIAL 7:00 PM a 9:00 PM
SABADO 01 MARZO	ST. JOSEPH CHURCH 727 N. Minter St. Santa Ana SALON PARROQUIAL 10:00 AM a 12:30 PM

PARA MAS DETALLES
aramiro@saint-boniface.org
714.956.3110 ext. 112





FORMA DE INSCRIPCION

FORO INFORMATIVO SOBRE INMIGRACION

CAMINANDO CON DIOS EN ESPERANZA

VIERNES 07 MARZO	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY 1100 S. Center St. Santa Ana SALON PARROQUIAL 6:30 PM a 9:00 PM
SABADO 08 MARZO	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE DELHI 541 E Central Ave. Santa Ana SALON PARROQUIAL 12:30 PM a 2:30 PM
SABADO 15 MARZO	OUR LADY OF THE PILLAR 1622 W 6th St. Santa Ana SALON PARROQUIAL 2:30 PM a 5:00 PM
LUNES 17 MARZO	ST. NORBERT CHURCH 300 E. Taft Avenue SALON PARROQUIAL 6:30 PM a 9:00 PM

PARA MAS DETALLES
aramiro@saint-boniface.org
714.956.3110 ext. 112





FORMA DE INSCRIPCION



ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY
RETREATS

PRAYING THROUGH SACRED ART

Join us as together we encounter the power of sacred art alluring us to profound prayer, an ever-growing love of God, and a fulfilling life of authentic holiness.

Discover how sacred images can help us overcome the tension we experience in our lives, find the consolation we're searching for, and more deeply enter into the mysteries of God.

REGISTER ONLINE
COST: \$50
LUNCH NOT INCLUDED

MARCH 1, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY
CONFERENCE CENTER



Fr. Peregrine Fletcher, O.Praem.

27977 SILVERADO CANYON RD
SILVERADO, CA 92676 • (657) 314-9071
stmichaelsabbey.com/retreats



2024-2025 CONCERT SEASON

Bach-a-Thon! 19 Hours of Bach



Monday, March 3, 2025 • Starting at 6:00AM

In collaboration with the Southern California Chapters of the American Guild of Organists, Christ Cathedral presents the complete organ works of J.S. Bach! Experience your favorite organists from all over SoCal beginning at 6AM and continuously playing through all of Bach's organ works. Enjoy commentary throughout the day by Michael Barone, host of the nationally syndicated radio show "Pipedreams," alongside Roger Sherman from Gothic Records, host of "The Organ Loft."

In the evening hours, don't miss **the best of Bach with David Ball and the Christ Cathedral choirs at 7:30PM!** The event will feature favorites Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, the thrilling Singet dem Herrn for double choir, our Diocesan Children's Choir singing Christus estebon from the B minor Mass, a Brandenburg Concerto arranged for organ duet, and Bach's whirlwind "Wedge" Prelude and Fugue in E minor.



This concert is a **FREE** event!
For more information, scan the QR
code or visit ChristCathedralMusic.org



Roman Catholic
Diocese of Orange



Mary's Sanctuary

Are you alone, ashamed and afraid, struggling financially, having a pregnancy crisis, or wondering what's the right choice to make? Take a deep breath. Sisters from Lovers of the Holy Cross are here to help and guide you. For more information about Respect Life Services, please scan the QR code. You are blessed and beloved, and not forgotten.



“
Nếu các thiên thần có thể ghen tị với con người, các vị sẽ ghen tị vì một lý do duy nhất: Bí tích Thánh Thể.”

- Thánh Maximilian Kolbe

Prayer for Jubilee 2025

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and
the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose hope is the LORD. (Jer 17:7)

Psalm:

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord. (Ps 1)

Second Reading:

If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised,
and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain.
(1 Cor 15:16-17)

Gospel:

"Blessed are you who are poor,
for the kingdom of God is yours." (Lk 6:20)

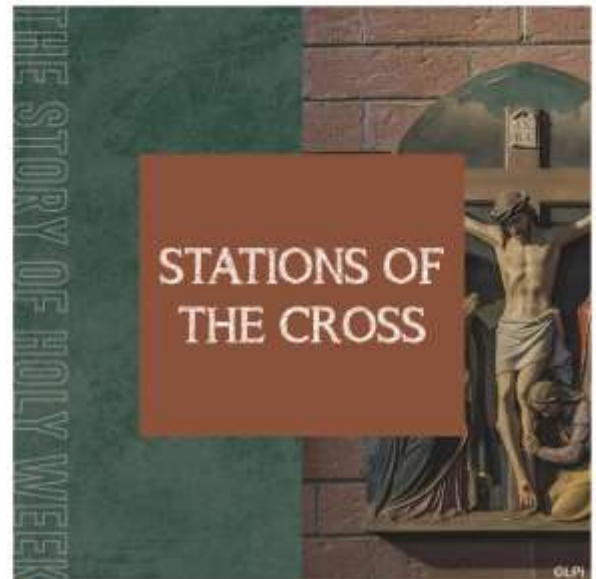
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Too many of us make the mistake of expecting prosperity here on Earth as a reward for following Christ. But Jesus is very clear: sorrow and hardship are a part of life. But when we offer these sufferings to Christ, they become transformed. They become blessed. And so do we.

Observances for the week of February 16, 2025

- Sunday:** 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order; Presidents' Day
- Friday:** St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday:** The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
- Next Sunday:** 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, *Explained!*

Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians have meditated upon Christ's passion and death. Over the centuries, the Stations of the Cross was popularized as a devotional means to experience the places and moments central to the story of Holy Week.

Prayer of God's Blessing

Bless me, Lord, mold my heart
in imitation of Yours.
Bless me, Lord, help me to see
people as You do, and to hear
their needs.
Bless me, Lord, replace my
understanding with Yours.

Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Jesus was radical in his teaching that the “stuff” in life wasn’t all that important. It was radical for him to say that the worldly signs of success did not amount to a whole lot in the grand scheme of things and that suffering could sanctify us. Are we ready to be radical, too?

In the End, Does it Matter?

I love today’s Gospel passage, and not just because I love a When I was a teenager, the priest I would go to for confession used to tell me, over and over: “In the end, we all get the same dirty hole in the ground.”

What he meant was, it doesn’t matter how rich or smart or well-liked we are. We’re all heading to the same place. This life comes to an end for every man. All the money he earns, all the stuff, all the worldly esteem, will at some point be of no further use. We all get the same dirty hole in the ground.

It was an important message for me to hear, because at the time, it all seemed so important: my after-school job and my FAFSA application and my grades. The admiration of my friends and teachers. I was so consumed with what I was going to become that I wasn’t spending a lot of time thinking about who I was going to become. But the who is the only thing that lasts until the next life.

And to be honest, it’s all still too important to me. Avoiding sadness and disappointment. Saving money and being liked. Focusing on “the five-year plan” when it comes to career, house plans, and a whole bunch of other things I can’t take to my dirty hole in the ground.

Jesus was radical in his teaching that the “stuff” in life wasn’t all that important. It was radical for him to say that the worldly signs of success — wealth, popularity, pleasure — did not amount to a whole lot in the grand scheme of things and that suffering could sanctify us. It was radical in the ancient world, and it’s radical today.

Are we ready to be radical, too?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Carnivale and Mardi Gras celebrations are linked to Ash Wednesday, Lent, fast and abstinence. Can you tell us more about the connections between these events?

Answer:

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the forty days known as Lent. Every year, Christians highlight this penitential season as a time of self-examination, reformation of one’s life, and continued development of a deeper spiritual life. The recommended practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving become the focus of Lenten activity and ritual. Each of these spiritual practices is aimed at personal discipline as well as continued concern for the other, especially the poor or alienated.

Forty days is a symbolic biblical period of time, during which personal transformation occurs and out of which people surface as more spiritual, ready to carry out God’s mission. Relying on God’s providence and care, no matter how difficult life becomes, is crucial to Lenten spirituality. Fasting was initially stricter, permitting only one simple meal a day without meat, fish, or other delicacies. Such things were not even allowed in the house.

In order to prepare for this in an age of no refrigeration, people gathered to consume whatever was not allowed during Lent. This led to parties or celebrations originally referred to as Carnivale, literally meaning “goodbye to meat,” or Mardi Gras, literally meaning “Fat Tuesday.” The eating and celebrating ended on the Tuesday just before Ash Wednesday. Today we focus more on moderation in all things, as well as a strong concern for the poor. What are you doing for the poor this Lent?



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