



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

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

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



Pope's Intention - September

For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis,
we might experience our interdependence
with all creatures who are loved by God
and worthy of love and respect.

info@stpolycarp.org
BULLETIN: editor@stpolycarp.org

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Las lecturas de la semana del 28 de septiembre de 2025

Domingo: Am 6, 1. 4-7/Sal 145, 7. 8-9. 9-10 (1)/
1 Tim 6, 11-16/Lc 16, 19-31

Lunes: Dn 7, 9-10. 13-14 o Ap 12, 7-12/Sal 137, 1-2.
2-3. 4-5/Jn 1, 47-51

Martes: Zac 8, 20-23/Sal 86, 1-3. 4-5. 6-7/Lc 9, 51-56

Miércoles: Neh 2, 1-8/Sal 136, 1-2. 3. 4-5. 6/Lc 9, 57-62

Jueves: Neh 8, 1-4. 5-6. 8-12 (458)/Sal 18, 8. 9. 10. 11/
Mt 18, 1-5. 10

Viernes: Bar 1, 15-22/Sal 78, 1-2. 3-5. 8. 9/Lc 10, 13-16

Sábado: Bar 4, 5-12. 27-29/Sal 68, 33-35. 36-37/
Lc 10, 17-24

Domingo: Hab 1, 2-3; 2, 2-4/Sal 94, 1-2. 6-7. 8-9 (8)/
2 Tim 1, 6-8. 13-14/Lc 17, 5-10

Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 28 de septiembre de 2025

Domingo: 26º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario;
Domingo del sacerdocio

Lunes: San Gabriel, San Miguel y San Rafael, arcángeles

Martes: San Jerónimo, sacerdote y doctor de la Iglesia

Miércoles: Santa Teresa del Niño Jesús, virgen y
doctora de la Iglesia

Jueves: Los santos ángeles custodios

Sábado: San Francisco de Asís

Domingo: 27º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario;
Domingo de respeto a la vida

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflexión: La parábola del rico y Lázaro pone de relieve una realidad que muchas veces queremos ignorar: en algún momento nos quedaremos sin oportunidades, y no es porque Dios se canse de darnoslas.

Días de Nieve y Segundas Oportunidades

Ayer por la mañana, mis hijos estaban jugando afuera en la nieve y decidí aprovechar la tranquilidad de la casa para hacer algunas llamadas telefónicas importantes.

Tonta. Olvidé la Ley de Murphy de la Crianza de los Hijos, que dicta que tan pronto como marques un número de teléfono, una bomba de irritación y necesidad explotara dentro del corazón de tu hijo más ruidoso. Efectivamente, tan pronto como la persona al otro lado de la línea contestó, mi hijo estaba en la puerta trasera, gimiendo fuertemente. Horror de horrores, tenía nieve en la bota.

Hice un gesto hacia el teléfono. Gimió más fuerte. Murmuraba y emitía amenazas. Me tiró la bota. Le dirigí La Mirada. Empezó a gritar.

Bueno, no hace falta decir que la llamada telefónica no salió bien y el día de nieve de mi hijo se interrumpió. Me rogó que le diera una segunda oportunidad, pero le expliqué que la vida

no siempre te da segundas oportunidades. La llamada telefónica había terminado. Arruinada. No pude recuperarla.

Pero fue entonces cuando recordé que las mamás tienen un superpoder: crear segundas oportunidades donde antes no existían. Así que le dije que si podía quedarse callado mientras yo hacía el resto de mis llamadas, podía volver a salir.

Mi hijo es pequeño en este momento. Le doy muchas segundas oportunidades porque las segundas oportunidades le ayudan a aprender. Las segundas oportunidades son las ruedas de entrenamiento de la vida.

Temo el día en que se desprendan las ruedas de entrenamiento y no pueda salvarlo de sus malas decisiones. Creo que todos los padres lo hacen.

La parábola del rico y Lázaro pone de relieve una realidad que a menudo queremos ignorar: en algún momento nos quedaremos sin oportunidades, y no es porque Dios se canse de darnoslas. Es porque un suministro verdaderamente interminable de oportunidades nos despojaría de nuestro libre albedrío. Nos negaría el derecho de ser tomados en nuestra palabra, y Dios nos respeta demasiado como para hacer eso.

Mi hijo salvó su día de nieve. Es un buen recordatorio: aprovecha la segunda (y tercera y cuarta) oportunidad. No esperes a la próxima.

MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO – ALENTAR UN ENTENDIMIENTO MÁS PROFUNDO DE LA ESCRITURA

Un abismo enorme sigue existiendo entre la línea del pobre y del rico, entre los Lázaros y los ricos de nuestro tiempo. ¿Quiénes son? ¿Dónde están? Están mezclados, porque existen ricos tan pobres que no los conocemos; ellos, de su riqueza, comparten sus bienes calladamente con quienes los necesitan. Y podemos encontrar pobres tan ricos por su modo de vivir egoístamente y por almacenar rencor en su corazón. *"Además, entre ustedes y nosotros hay un abismo tremendo, de tal manera que los que quieran cruzar desde aquí hasta ustedes no pueden hacerlo, y tampoco lo pueden hacer del lado de ustedes al nuestro"* (Lucas 16:26). Aquí se trata de interiorizar la Palabra de Dios y darnos cuenta de que estamos representados en los dos personajes. Y lo importante es ayudar a la gente en sus diferentes necesidades, no hacernos sordos, como si no ocurriera nada.

San Agustín, en su Sermón 33 sobre el Antiguo Testamento, dice lo siguiente: *"Escucha el evangelio, mira y examina los pensamientos de los dos hombres de la parábola: Había un hombre rico que se vestía de púrpura y lino y banqueteara espléndidamente cada día... En cambio, un mendigo llamado Lázaro yacía a la entrada de su casa. No mencionó el nombre del rico, pero sí dijo el nombre del pobre. Dios calló el nombre del que andaba en boca de todos, mientras que mencionó el nombre del que todos callaban"*. ¿Crees que Dios menciona tu nombre? ¿O crees que lo calla?

©LPI



Lời Tri Ân

Ba ngày Fiesta của Giáo Xứ đã kết thúc, chúng con xin dâng lời tạ ơn Thiên Chúa và chân thành gửi đến quý ân nhân, quý hội đoàn, và quý vị tình nguyện viên lời cảm ơn sâu sắc.

Quý vị không chỉ giúp thực hiện Fiesta thành công mà còn góp phần làm sáng lên hình ảnh của một Cộng Đoàn sống động trong đức tin và yêu thương, là minh chứng sống động cho tinh thần “cho đi là còn mãi” mà Chúa Giêsu đã dạy.

Chúng con xin tri ân và kính chúc quý vị luôn là những người gieo hạt giống yêu thương trong vườn hoa Giáo Hội!

Ban Tổ Chức Fiesta



Chúa Nhật - Ngày 28/9/2025
sau Thánh lễ 4 giờ chiều.

Đoàn TNTT sẽ tổ chức văn nghệ Trung Thu cho các em trong Hội Trường giáo xứ. Có múa lân, bán thức ăn, phát lồng đèn miễn phí, thi đua làm lồng đèn có thưởng.

Kính mời Cộng Đoàn đưa con em đến tham dự.

THÁNG MÂN CÔI - THÁNG 10

Thứ Sáu - Ngày 03 tháng 10 năm 2025

Rước Kiệu Cung Nghinh Mẹ Mân Côi

6:00pm: Bắt đầu Lăn Chuỗi và Rước Kiệu

Mẹ Fatima - Mẹ Guadalupe - Mẹ La Vang và Mẹ Lộ Đức vòng quanh nhà thờ.
Các Hội Đoàn mặc đồng phục, đem theo cờ,
xin có mặt lúc 5:30 pm để chuẩn bị.

Sau khi rước kiệu:

Thánh Lễ Trọng Thể - Ba ngôn ngữ

Sau Thánh Lễ:

Kiệu Thánh Thể được rước xuống Hội Trường và
bắt đầu **Chầu Thánh Thể** trong suốt 48 giờ.

Sẽ không có Thánh Lễ Việt Nam lúc 6:30 pm

Cộng Đoàn phát hành **Chuỗi Kinh Mân Côi Liên Kết** cho Tháng 10 và Tháng 11, mong mọi người cùng nhau lần hạt Mân Côi dâng lên Mẹ.

Múa Dâng Hoa kính Mẹ trước Thánh Lễ ngày 4 và 5/10/2025

Chúa Nhật - Ngày 05 tháng 10 năm 2025

Sau Thánh Lễ 4 giờ chiều,

Cha chủ tế sẽ rước kiệu Thánh Thể từ Hội Trường vào Nhà Thờ.
Kết thúc Chầu Thánh Thể.



THÁNH LỄ ĐẶC BIỆT CHO CÁC VỊ CAO NIÊN
(trên 80 tuổi)

Chúa Nhật 9/11/2025 lúc 4:00pm

Xin ghi danh cho BTV tại cuối Thánh Đường
vào các ngày 4, 5, 11, và 12 tháng 10/2025
sau các Thánh Lễ.



GIÁO XỨ THÁNH POLYCARP

LEGIO
MARIAE

GIỚI THIỆU VỀ HỘI ĐOÀN LEGIO MARIAE ĐẠO BINH ĐỨC MẸ

Legio Mariae, còn được gọi là **Đạo Binh Đức Mẹ** - hội tụ những tâm hồn yêu mến Đức Maria và khao khát trở thành chiến sĩ dưới sự dẫn dắt của Mẹ để góp sức phục vụ Giáo Hội qua công tác tông đồ, loan truyền Phúc Âm, và cùng Giáo Hội trong cuộc chiến chống lại cám dỗ của Sa-tan.

Legio Mariae là một hội đoàn Công Giáo Tiến Hành đã được Giáo Hội chính thức chuẩn nhận. Hội được thành lập vào năm 1921 tại Ái Nhĩ Lan, và chỉ trong thời gian ngắn đã lan rộng khắp thế giới. Tại Việt Nam, Legio Mariae hiện diện từ thập niên 1940, góp phần làm phong phú đời sống đức tin của nhiều giáo xứ.

Mục tiêu chính của Legio Mariae là thánh hóa hội viên bằng đời sống cầu nguyện và thực thi công tác tông đồ giáo dân dưới sự hướng dẫn của giáo quyền. Legio Mariae mang đến cho hội viên một nếp sống đạo đức trong khuôn khổ tổ chức kỷ luật, giúp họ phục vụ Thiên Chúa và tha nhân cách hiệu quả luôn gắn bó mật thiết với Đức Mẹ. Mỗi hội viên dâng lên Đức Mẹ hai giờ công tác tông đồ mỗi tuần và tham dự buổi họp hàng tuần để cùng nhau cầu nguyện, học hỏi, báo cáo và nhận công tác mới.

Nếu bạn yêu mến Đức Mẹ và mong muốn cộng tác với Mẹ trong hành trình phục vụ, xin mời đến với Legio Mariae. Chúng tôi hân hoan chào đón bạn gia nhập hàng ngũ Đạo Binh Đức Mẹ!



Thời gian sinh hoạt: 5:00 chiều Thứ Bảy hàng tuần
tại Phòng Saint Polycarp của giáo xứ.

Liên lạc: Chị Huỳnh Thị Mỹ Hạnh : 714.883.6527 - Hội Trưởng
Chị Ngô Mẫn Nhi : 714.234.0272 - Hội Phó

2025 ST. POLYCARP FIESTA
THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

Forest Lawn
Westminster Memorial Park & Mortuary
Ric Weissinger State Farm Insurance
C R & R Booth
S-365 Nhân Sâm Hoang Dã
Funeraria Del Angel- Anaheim
Southland Integrated Services, Inc.
Xuan My Vu's Florist Shop

FIESTA COMMITTEE 2025

THANK YOU
 THANK YOU
 THANK YOU

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 Garden Grove, CA 92844
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Congratulations

RAFFLE WINNERS - FIESTA 2025

GRAND PRIZE \$2,500.00
TINO CARRASCO, #05532

2ND PRIZE \$1,000.00
JOCYLYN C. LAT, #08789

FIVE \$100 CASH WINNERS
JASON & PAULA PALOMAR, #00655 RAMON MAGANA, #09236
VIET SACRED HEART CHOIR, #19975
DONATION TO CHURCH, #07461 HORACIO, #14863

SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH
 www.stpolycarp.org

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.

Red Cross Blood Drive
Sponsored By
Knights of Columbus at
St. Polycarp Catholic Church

St. Polycarp Room
 8100 Chapman Ave
 Stanton, CA 90680

Sunday, September 28, 2025
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To schedule your lifesaving appointment, sign up online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: stpolycarp or contact Ralph Gonzalez at 714-761-3089.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Come to give blood Sept. 22-Oct. 19 for a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email: See rctblood.org/btl

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH
 www.stpolycarp.org

WE ARE HIRING

OPEN POSITIONS

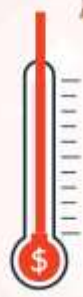
CONFIRMATION ADMIN ASSISTANT

FRONT OFFICE ASSISTANT

BOTH POSITIONS START AT \$16.50 AN HOUR AND ARE 15-20 HOURS PER WEEK. STRONG VERBAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IS A MUST. SPANISH/ENGLISH OR VIETNAMESE/ENGLISH BILINGUAL PREFERRED. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

SUBMIT YOUR RESUME and COVER LETTER TO:
 Tom H. Ma, Business Manager - tma@stpolycarp.org


PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL



PSA 2025 REPORT

AS OF 08/12/2025

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 447

AMOUNT PLEDGED: \$190,383.00

TOTAL PAID: \$183,307.00

OUR 2025 PSA GOAL: \$98,000.00

Thank You!


**SAINT POLYCARP
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
www.stpolycarp.org

Pro Sanctity Movement

Formation & Fellowship for all ages

Pro Sanctity Spirituality Center
205 S. Pine Dr.
Fullerton, CA 92833

Saturday, October 4, 2025

9:30 AM Mass
10:00 AM Program for Adults & Children
11:30 AM Group Prayer
12:00 PM Lunch



Saints
TOGETHER!

Register for lunch and/or children's program to: caprosanctity@prosanctity.org or
714-449-0511

Grab your cowboy boots and join us for a night under the stars filled with live music, dancing, great food, bar, games, and an exciting silent & live auction!

A CATHOLIC EDUCATION IS A PRECIOUS GIFT
 A Catholic education teaches more than strong academics; it teaches lessons for life. The well-rounded curriculum leads children to become both filled, productive and generous adults.



INQUIRE ABOUT OPEN SPOTS

for the 2025 - 2026 School Year!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR:

Website: oc Catholicschools.org

Email: catholicschools@rcbo.org



**OC CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS**
SCHOOL OF FAITH

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 OC Catholic Schools
 OCCatholicSchools

Drive-Through Food and Diaper Distribution
 Saturday, October 18th From 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 Stanton Park • 7800 Katella Ave., Stanton 90860






Sponsored by:

City of Stanton

Friends of Families

Community Action Partnership -
Orange County Food Bank

Life Christian Church

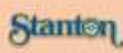
"First Come First Served" while supplies last
We reserve the right to refuse service to anyone




DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS WE
 WILL NOT SERVE THOSE WALKING
 THROUGH. THE DISTRIBUTION
 WILL BE DRIVE THROUGH ONLY!



Friends of Families



Stanton



LCC



COMMUNITY
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ST. CATHERINE'S ACADEMY
presents

BOOTS in the PARK

OCT. 4, 2025

STARTS AT 5PM

Live Country Band

Line Dancing ★ Auction ★ Games
Delicious BBQ ★ Bar ★ 21+ only

**SCAN TO
PURCHASE
TICKETS**



Or Call: 714-772-1363 ext. 103



Brothers of St. Patrick Benefit Dinner

When: Saturday, October 4th at 6 pm

Where: St. Vincent De Paul Parish Hall
8345 Talbert Ave, Huntington Beach, CA 92646

All are welcome to enjoy a Tri-Tip steak & chicken dinner, dancing & music, and an evening with the Brothers and to support their ministry in Southern California

Tickets are \$40 each

Save \$50 and purchase a table for 8 at \$270

Call (714) 897-8181 to reserve the tickets or visit:

<https://brothersofstpatrick.com/benefit-dinner/>



RSVP

Holy Family Church Women's Retreat

Abide in Me: Resting, Growing, & Bearing Fruit
Saturday, October 25th, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

566 South Glassell Street, Orange, CA

Join us as we step into a spiritual garden for a beautiful day of prayer & fellowship, & discover what it means to abide in Christ—resting in His love, growing in faith, & bearing everlasting fruit as beloved daughters of God. Our retreat will feature inspiring talks by:

- Fr. Sy Nguyen, Pastor, Holy Family Church;
- Fr. Alan Benander, O. Praem, St. Michael's Abbey;
- Florencia Piña, renowned Catholic Nutritionist; &
- uplifting music by Matt Franklin, Solano Church.

We will close with Mass & go forth rooted in Christ's life-giving garden. Registration fee is \$75.00 with a lite breakfast & full lunch included. Early bird sign-ups @ \$60.00 before September 27th! Registration closes October 20th.

For registration information scan here:



YOUNG MEN VOCAATION SERIES

PRAYER DISCERNMENT FELLOWSHIP

WHO Young adult men (Ages 18-39) who are interested in learning more about the priesthood and consecrated life.

WHEN Wednesday, October 15th
Wednesday, October 22nd
Wednesday, October 29th
Wednesday, November 5th
Wednesday, November 12th
Wednesday, November 19th

TIME 7:00PM - 9:00PM

WHERE Pastoral Center
13280 Chapman Ave,
Garden Grove, CA 92840

REGISTER NOW

APPLY WITH
VOCAATION DIRECTOR



Beginning Experience
listen accompany heal

Are you grieving the loss of your marriage through death, divorce or separation?

October 10 - 12, 2025: Weekend

Contact Carol at (714)528-1487 x221 or
Melissa (bilingual, Spanish) at (949)697-3352



ALL WOMEN IN THE DIOCESE ARE INVITED

Join us as Dr. Ida Pennella shares the history of the Holy Rosary.



St. Thomas More Church in Irvine
Tuesday, October 21, 2025

10:00 am Start (check in at 9:45)
12:00 pm Lunch
\$30 includes lunch

RSVP by October 16. Mail checks payable to ODCCW
c/o Susan Navarrete, 14245 Utrillo Dr., Irvine, CA 92606
or contact Susan at 949-345-9130
or by email at snavarrete150@gmail.com



UNIVERSAL DAY OF SANCTIFICATION CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025

8:00 A.M. MASS

REV. STEVE CORREZ, PRESIDING

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

400 W. Commonwealth Ave.
Fullerton, CA

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE PARISH HALL

COME AND GET TO KNOW THE PRO SANCTITY MOVEMENT!

The Pro Sanctity Movement is an international Catholic organization dedicated to promoting the universal call to holiness by seeking to form the mind with the knowledge of God, the heart with spirituality, and the hands with ministry in service of His people.

For more information, visit our website at: caprosanctity.org
or email us at: caprosanctity@prosanctity.org

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Therefore, now they shall be the first to go into exile,
and their wanton revelry shall be done away with. (Am 6:7)

Psalm:

Praise the Lord, my soul! (Ps 146)
Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

But you, man of God, pursue righteousness,
devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. (1 Tm 6:11)

Gospel:

Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses
and the prophets,
neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from
the dead.' (Lk 16:31)

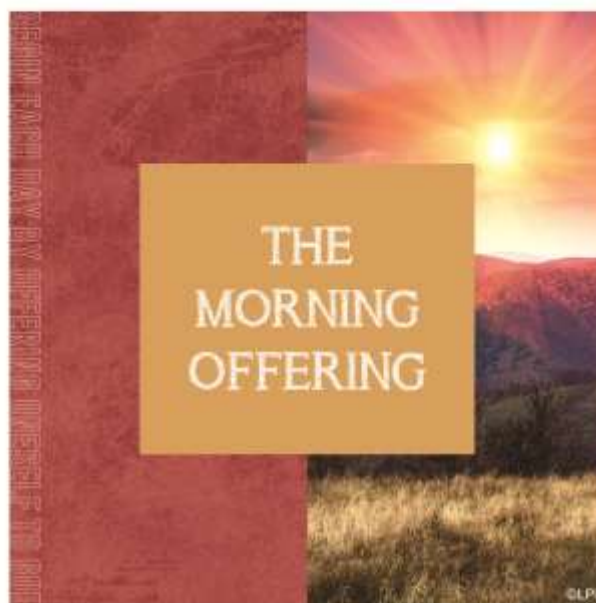
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The rich man had a chance, every day
of his life, to choose righteousness. But
righteousness wasn't convenient for him. He
discovered too late that the only time we
have to follow God is now. Here. This moment.
Will we take our chance?

Observances for the week of September 28, 2025

Sunday:	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday
Monday:	Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
Tuesday:	St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday:	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
Thursday:	The Holy Guardian Angels
Saturday:	St. Francis of Assisi
Next Sunday:	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday



Devotions, *Explained!*

There are many variations of
the Morning Offering, but all
share the same purpose: to
begin each day by offering
oneself to God, along with
all the experiences, struggles
and blessings that the day will
bring.

Prayer for the Sick

For those in pain and in sorrow,
God be their comfort.
For caretakers and medical
staff, God give them grace.
Surround those afflicted with
Your love, care, and mercy, You
who are our healing and hope.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: The parable of the rich man and Lazarus highlights a reality that we often wish to ignore: at some point, we will run out of chances, and it's not because God tires of giving them to us.

Snow Days and Second Chances

Yesterday morning, my kids were playing outside in the snow, and I decided to take advantage of the quiet house to make a few important phone calls.

Fool. I forgot Murphy's Law of Parenting, which dictates that as soon as you dial a phone number, a bomb of irritation and neediness explodes within the heart of your loudest child. Sure enough, as soon as the person on the other end of the line picked up, my son was at the back door, whimpering loudly. Horror of horrors, he had snow in his boot.

I gestured to the phone. He whimpered more loudly. I mouthed and mimed threats. He threw his boot at me. I gave him The Look. He started to scream.

Well, needless to say, the phone call didn't go well, and my son's snow day was cut short. He begged for a second chance, but I explained to him that life doesn't always give you second chances. The phone call was over. Ruined. I couldn't get it back.

But that's when I remembered that moms have a superpower: creating second chances where none had existed before. So I told him that if he could be quiet while I made the rest of my calls, he could go back outside.

My son is young right now. I give him lots of second chances because second chances help him learn. Second chances are the training wheels of life.

I dread the day when the training wheels come off, and I can't save him from his bad decisions. I think every parent does.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus highlights a reality that we often wish to ignore: at some point, we will run out of chances, and it's not because God tires of giving them to us. It's because a truly endless supply of chances would strip us of our free will. It would deny us the right of being taken at our word — and God respects us too much to do that.

My son saved his snow day. It's a good reminder: take the second (and third and fourth) chance. Don't wait for the next one.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Can a divorced Catholic receive holy Communion?

Answer:

Unfortunately, too many people today — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — mistakenly believe that divorce separates one from the Communion of the Church and that divorced persons may not receive Communion. However, as the Church has communicated in a number of places, the issue at hand is not the reality of divorce, but is more often the reality of re-marriage outside of the Church (such as in the case of a Catholic who was previously married within the Church, divorced, and remarried without receiving an annulment).

Divorced persons are called to live chastely as single people and to observe the same call to avoid sin as anyone else who desires to receive the Eucharist. Beyond this, however, Pope Francis has reminded us that the healing power of the Eucharist can be especially significant for those who have "endured separation, divorce, or abandonment ... divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find in the Eucharist the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life." (*Amoris Laetitia*, no. 242) Moreover, he continues, "The local community and pastors should accompany these people with solicitude, particularly when children are involved or when they are in serious financial difficulty." (*AL*, no 242)

As Pope Francis has also reminded us, the Eucharist is "not a prize for the perfect," but "a powerful medicine and nourishment" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 47). Because we all stand in need of healing and wholeness, the Church invites all who seek to live their faith in integrity and devotion to come and receive the grace offered in the Eucharist.



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