



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)

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

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

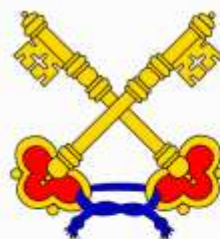
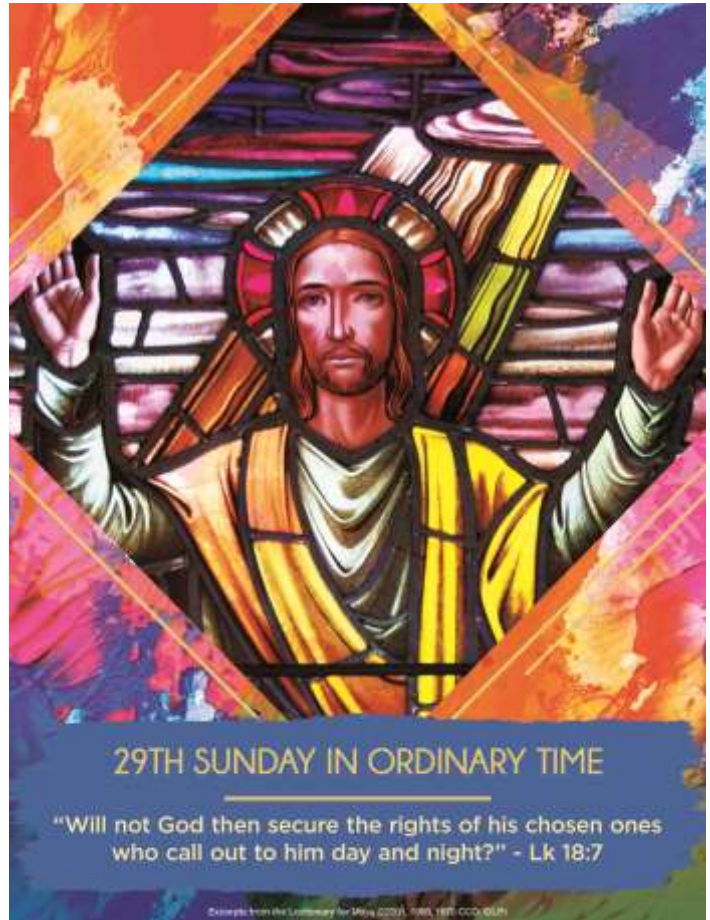
Sunday

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

info@stpolycarp.org

BULLETIN: editor@stpolycarp.org



Pope's Intention - October

*For Collaboration between different religious
traditions*

Let us pray that believers in different
religious traditions might work together to
defend and promote peace, justice, and
human fraternity.

OCTOBER 19, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS/INTENCIONES DE MISA/**XIN Ý LỄ CẦU NGUYỆN****Saturday, October 18, 2025**

5:00 PM John Norton†; Maria Fleischmann†
 7:00 PM Dominic Tom Vu Nguyen†; Giuse† & Anna†

Sunday, October 19, 2025

7:30 AM Quang Hien Nguyen† & All Ancestors†
 9:00 AM Froylan† & Reyna Sandoval†
 11:00 AM Ren Thi Hoang†; All Souls†
 1:00 PM Victoria Gonzalez†, Angel Serratost†, & Chuy Serratost†
 4:00 PM Peter† & Teresa†
 6:00 PM Mario Angel Escalante†; Kenya Cruz (birthday)

Monday, October 20, 2025

6:30 AM Jose Agustin Acosta Lara† & Maria Dang Thi Thai†
 8:30 AM Johan Kim†; Jessica Cabrera (birthday)
 6:30 PM Emilia Almaraz† & Julio Barboza†; Angelina Salazar (health)

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

6:30 AM Gustavo Montoya Soto†; Jose Manuel Nares Lemust†
 8:30 AM Pray for the Parishioners

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

6:30 AM Jose Manuel Nares Lemust† & Miguel Naves Ortiz†
 8:30 AM Alexander William Martinez; Katla Martinez (health)

Thursday, October 23, 2025

6:30 AM Isabel Banuelos†; Ruben Agajan† & All Souls in Purgatory†
 8:30 AM Antonio Gabing Agajan, Sr.† & Esperanza Atok Agajan†

Friday, October 24, 2025

6:30 AM Ranulfo Agajan† & Ruben Agajan†
 8:30 AM Catarina Hong Pham†; Thanksgiving
 6:30 PM All Souls†; Special Family Intentions

Saturday, October 25, 2025

8:30 AM Theresa Dao† & Jeronimo Nguyen†; Tina Crawford†; Megan Imperial

Wedding Banns*October 25*

Jesus & Briana Valdivia

Funerals*October 20*

Scarlett Paola Lopez

October 31

Leonel Bautista

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Ex 17:8-13/Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (see 2)/
 2 Tm 3:14-4:2/Lk 18:1-8
Monday: Rom 4:20-25/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/
 Lk 12:13-21
Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Ps 40:7-8a,
 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/
 Lk 12:39-48
Thursday: Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 12:49-53
Friday: Rom 7:18-25a/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94/
 Lk 12:54-59
Saturday: Rom 8:1-11/Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 13:1-9
Sunday: Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19,
 23 (7a)/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



Oct 11/12 Masses	\$ 23,520.50
Oct 11/12 Online Giving	\$ 2,151.48
Total collection:	\$ 25,671.98

*Thank you for your support! ¡Gracias por su apoyo!
 Cảm ơn tấm lòng quảng đại của mọi người.*

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/Wednesday	1 PM—5:30 PM
Friday	1 PM—5 PM
Sunday	8 AM—3 PM

Vietnamese Religious Education**(714) 620-7895**

Monday/Wednesday/Friday	2 PM—5:30 PM
Saturday	10 AM—1 PM

Las lecturas de la semana del 19 de octubre

Domingo: Ex 17, 8-13/Sal 120, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8 (ver 2)/
2 Tim 3, 14-4, 2/Lc 18, 1-8
Lunes: Rom 4, 20-25/Lc 1, 69-70. 71-72. 73-75/
Lc 12, 13-21
Martes: Rom 5, 12. 15. 17-19. 20-21/Sal 39, 7-8. 8-9.
10. 17/Lc 12, 35-38
Miércoles: Rom 6, 12-18/Sal 123, 1-3. 4-6. 7-8/Lc 12, 39-48
Jueves: Rom 6, 19-23/Sal 1, 1-2. 3. 4 y 6/Lc 12, 49-53
Viernes: Rom 7, 18-25/Sal 118, 66. 68. 76. 77. 93. 94/
Lc 12, 54-59
Sábado: Rom 8, 1-11/Sal 23, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/Lc 13, 1-9
Domingo: Eclo 35, 12-14, 16-18/Sal 33, 2-3. 17-18. 19.
23 (7)/2 Tim 4, 6-8. 16-18/Lc 18, 9-14

Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 19 de octubre

Domingo: 29º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario;
Domingo de la misión mundial
Lunes: San Pablo de la Cruz, sacerdote
Miércoles: San Juan Pablo II, papa
Jueves: San Juan de Capistrano, sacerdote
Viernes: San Antonio María Claret, obispo
Domingo: 30º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflexión: De la misma manera que un juez no puede ir buscando conflictos para mediar, Dios no se meterá a la fuerza en nuestros problemas. ¿Cuál sería el punto? ¿Para qué sirve nuestra vida en la tierra, si no es para enseñarnos a volvernos voluntariamente a Dios?

Las Oraciones que no Decimos

Siempre me ha confundido: ¿por qué un juez?

Jesús podría haber comparado la oración con el sujeto que pide un regalo a su rey. Podría haberlo comparado con el niño que pide un favor a sus padres. Pero en la parábola de la viuda y el juez, Jesús compara la oración, específicamente la oración constante e incansable, con la persona marginada que persigue obstinadamente su reclamo a través de un sistema legal implacable.

No es un panorama grato ni tranquilizador. Entonces, ¿qué está tratando de decirnos?

A diferencia de un rey o de un padre, un juez ha trazado estrictamente líneas que no puede, bajo ninguna circunstancia, cruzar. Solo puede ayudar a las personas que llevan su caso a los tribunales. Incluso los jueces buenos y serios no pueden impartir justicia si no se presentan cargos.

Dios es todopoderoso. Pero eso no lo convierte en un

entrometido. Él no se meterá a la fuerza en nuestros problemas. ¿Cuál sería el punto? ¿Para qué sirve nuestra vida en la tierra, si no es para enseñarnos a dirigirnos voluntariamente a Dios, en todos los casos de adoración, gratitud, necesidad?

Hoy, me senté e hice una lista de problemas por los que no oro. Cuando terminé, miré la lista y me pregunté: ¿por qué no? ¿Por qué no oro por estas cosas? Algunos son asuntos enormes sobre los que no tengo absolutamente ningún control, y la oración me parece inútil. Algunos son pequeños agravios que ni siquiera consideré mencionarle a Dios.

Si orara por todos ellos, mi vida sería totalmente consumida por la oración. Oración constante e incansable. El tipo de oración a la que Jesús me llama en la parábola de la viuda y el juez: la entrega continua de mí mismo al poder misterioso e ilimitado de Dios.

Orar de esa manera podría cansarme. La viuda también estaba cansada, pero seguía trayendo sus cargos. Consiguió justicia. Y su juez ni siquiera era un buen tipo.

Así que di la oración. Presenta los cargos. Nuestro juez es uno que quiere ayudar, pero no sobrepasará Sus límites.

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

La forma de actuar de Dios es muy diferente a la nuestra. A veces, con nuestras súplicas, queremos moldear a nuestro modo el actuar de Dios. Es por eso que muchas veces se pierde la esperanza: porque deseamos que las cosas sucedan cuando queremos y como queremos. Sin embargo, la Palabra de Dios nos invita a ser perseverantes en la oración: "*Predica la Palabra, insiste a tiempo y a destiempo, corrige, reprende y exhorta con toda paciencia y doctrina*" (2 Timoteo 4:2).

En lo que respecta a la injusticia, se necesita una tenacidad descomunal; es decir, no desmayar ante las adversidades, como lo demuestran los personajes de la parábola de hoy. San Efrén (306–373), en su Comentario al Diatesarón, escribe: "*De hecho, la perseverancia de la viuda humilló la iniquidad del juez rebelde a Dios y la insolencia arrogante contra los hombres. La voluntad de la viuda las sometió, y de esta manera pudo encontrar justicia ante su adversario. La oración inoportuna transformó las dos ramas amargas para que dieran frutos dulces, ajenos a su naturaleza... El fruto de la justicia es la correcta atribución de los oprimidos, y el fruto de la bondad es el consuelo de los afligidos*". Oremos hoy por todas las personas que buscan justicia, luchando día a día hasta encontrarla. Tengamos la seguridad de que Dios, en su infinita bondad, escucha sus ruegos, porque Él es justo y su misericordia no tiene límites.

©LPi

Chuỗi Mân Côi Liên Kết

Kính mong quý ông bà anh chị em cùng tham gia chuỗi Mân Côi liên kết, mỗi ngày mỗi ngắm, mười kinh Kính Mừng - đơn sơ nhưng đầy sức mạnh thiêng liêng.

Thực hiện từ tháng 10 (tháng Mân Côi) đến hết tháng 11 (tháng các linh hồn).

Nguyên xin Mẹ Maria chuyển cầu từng lời kinh của chúng ta trở thành những đóa hoa thiêng liêng dâng lên Thiên Chúa, mang lại ơn lành cho chính mình, cho thế giới và cho các linh hồn.

Sổ Hàng Sống

Theo truyền thống hàng năm, Giáo Xứ sẽ **ghi danh các linh hồn vào Sổ Cầu Nguyện** trong tháng Các Đẳng Linh Hồn, như một cách thiêng liêng để tưởng nhớ và cầu nguyện liên li cho các linh hồn thân nhân đã qua đời, sớm được hưởng hạnh phúc Thiên Đàng.

Quý vị có thể ghi danh trong các Thánh Lễ **ngày 19, 20, 26 và 27 tháng 10 năm 2025** tại cuối Thánh Đường.

Hãy để những trang Sổ Hàng Sống trở thành chứng tích của lòng yêu thương, sự gắn kết gia đình và niềm tin vào sự sống đời đời.

Xin Quý Vị Ghi Nhớ Những Ngày Sau Đây

1/11	Thứ Bảy	10:00AM - Lễ Các Thánh Nam Nữ 7:00PM - Lễ Cầu Cho Các Tín Hữu Đã Qua Đời
2/11	Chúa Nhật 4:00PM	Lễ Cầu Cho Các Tín Hữu Đã Qua Đời
8/11	Thứ Bảy 8:30AM	Lễ Tưởng Nhớ Các Linh Hồn Đã Qua Đời Trong Năm Qua của Giáo Xứ - Lễ 3 Ngôn Ngữ
9/11	Chúa Nhật 4:00PM	Lễ Cầu Nguyện Cho Các Vị Cao Niên
15/11 16/11	Thứ Bảy Chúa Nhật	Bán Phở Gây Quỹ giá \$12/phần ăn Vé đang được bán sau Thánh Lễ ở cuối nhà thờ.
24/11	Thứ Hai 5:00PM	Lễ Các Thánh Tử Đạo Nước Việt Nam

Giới thiệu

BAN THỪA TÁC VIÊN LỜI CHÚA CỘNG ĐOÀN ĐỨC MARIA MẸ THIÊN CHÚA

Trong phụng vụ Thánh lễ - đỉnh cao của đời sống Kitô hữu - Giáo Hội cử hành hai phần chính: **Phụng vụ Lời Chúa** và **Phụng vụ Thánh Thể**. Nếu như Phụng vụ Thánh Thể là cao điểm của sự kết hiệp giữa Thiên Chúa và con người qua Mình và Máu Thánh Chúa Kitô, thì **Phụng vụ Lời Chúa** là lúc chính Thiên Chúa ngỏ lời với dân Người qua Kinh Thánh, để dẫn dắt, dạy dỗ và nuôi dưỡng đức tin.



Với lòng yêu mến Lời Chúa và tinh thần phục vụ, **Ban Thừa Tác Viên Lời Chúa** Cộng Đoàn Đức Maria Mẹ Thiên Chúa được trao phó sứ vụ **công bố Lời Chúa** trong các Thánh lễ, qua việc đọc các bài Thánh Thư và **dẫn Lời nguyện giáo dân**. Đây là một tác vụ thánh thiêng, đòi hỏi sự chuẩn bị kỹ lưỡng, lòng đạo đức sâu xa và thái độ cung kính khi loan báo Lời Hằng Sống cho cộng đoàn.

Ban Thừa Tác Viên Lời Chúa không chỉ là những người đọc, mà còn là những chứng nhân của Tin Mừng, góp phần giúp cộng đoàn lắng nghe, suy niệm và sống Lời Chúa cách sốt sắng và hiệu quả hơn trong đời sống đức tin hằng ngày.

Kính xin cộng đoàn dân Chúa hiệp ý cầu nguyện cho Ban Thừa Tác Viên Lời Chúa luôn được Chúa Thánh Thần soi sáng, hướng dẫn và ban ơn trợ lực, để mỗi thành viên chu toàn sứ vụ với lòng khiêm nhường, sốt sắng, hầu làm sáng danh Chúa và giúp mọi người tham dự Thánh lễ được sốt mến và sinh ơn ích thiêng liêng.

Trưởng ban: Trần Lê 714 383 2924



Dear Parishioners of Saint Polycarp,

Parish administration encompasses many aspects of parish life, ranging from sacramental to pastoral/spiritual care to finance. Such administrative responsibilities involve many people who help the parish priest or the pastor. As such, I am grateful for the support of Fathers Luis and Nicolaus, the deacons (Ramiro, Larry, Tri, and Juan), religious sisters (Anh Tram, Jessica, and MaryAnne), the Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance Council, Ministry Heads, the Parish Staff and most of all YOU, the people of God.

Among the many administrative responsibilities, finance is important because your generous contributions and donations support the daily operations of the church. Therefore, enclosed in this Sunday's bulletin you find the 2024-2025 financial report of our parish, which shows that we are in the positive area of finance.

I thank especially Marcia Vojtech, Chair of the Finance Council, and the members of the Council; and Tom Ma, Business Manager, for assisting me to be a faithful steward of God's gifts. Their counsels and hard work are valuable to my ministry in this area of administration.

During this month of October, I invite you to join the Universal Church to pray for life—a precious and special gift of God's love, as stated in the story of the creation of man in the Book of Genesis:

"Then God said, Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth" (Gn 1:26-28) ... "Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being" (Gn 2:7).

When talking about "life" I am not referring only to the fact of being able to breathe, walk, and talk. I am referring to the sanctity of life with which each one of us is given according to the will and love of God—that is, to consider your life as a sacred gift; to make your life fruitful and meaningful; and to never be afraid to show God's presence in you to others.

Together with my brother priests, Fathers Luis and Nicolaus, I invoke the divine blessings from Our Almighty God, through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother Mary, Saint Joseph, and Saint Polycarp upon you and your family.

Father Viet Peter Ho
Pastor

ST. POLYCARP CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

INCOME & EXPENSES July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

INCOME	
Sunday & Holy Days	\$ 1,289,738.34
Second Collections	\$ 127,576.18
Baptism, Marriages, Funerals	\$ 38,298.20
Mass Offerings, Novenas & Candles	\$ 135,272.92
Quinceneras/Misc. Income	\$ 11,379.57
Ground Lease	\$ 78,470.86
Religious Education	\$ 144,416.21
Interest Income	\$ 48,222.82
Other Ministries	\$ 59,479.26
Pastoral Services Appeal Rebates	\$ 96,952.37
Fundraising	\$ 199,985.72
Other Income (building maintenance fund)	\$ 91,464.21
Loan Forgiveness	\$ -
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,321,256.66

EXPENSES	
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 753,494.89
Church & Rectory Supplies	\$ 45,557.32
Administrative Expenses	\$ 77,073.88
Religious Education	\$ 121,305.01
Utilities Expenses	\$ 83,491.80
Plant Expenses	\$ 100,302.52
Insurance (Property & Liability)	\$ 84,306.12
Other Ministries	\$ 61,619.64
Diocese Assessment	\$ 136,848.00
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 7,856.42
Second Collections	\$ 127,576.18
Fundraising	\$ 117,741.13
Other Expenses	\$ 173,749.31
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,890,922.22

INCOME - EXPENSES \$ 430,330.44

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION June 30, 2024

CASH	
Checking	\$ 1,200,662.42
Restricted Fund Accounts	\$ 28,187.38
General Saving Account	\$ 962,039.62
Savings for Solar Panel Project	\$ 465,351.75
Savings for Bathroom Project	\$ 378,879.03
	\$ -
CURRENT ASSETS	
Pledge Receivables	\$ -
Receivables	\$ -
FIXED ASSETS	
Land, Building & Fixtures	\$ 1,851,057.88
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 4,886,178.08
LIABILITIES	
Payroll Liabilities	\$ 5,338.41
Deferred Income	\$ 99,695.21
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 105,033.62
NET ASSETS	
Total Net Assets	\$ 4,781,144.46
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 4,886,178.08

STATISTICAL NUMBERS July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

Baptisms	87
Confirmations	241
First Communions	237
Marriages	27
Funerals	49
Faith Formation Programs	706
Other Children & Youth Ministries	225

CAPITAL EXPENSES & IMPROVEMENTS

July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

Office: Seven new computers/ including new Scanning station

Office: ScanSnap ix1600 Scanner

Faith Formation Program: new shredder

School: 15 new windows and blinds for classrooms

School: new asphalt Overlay for pavilion area

Front East Parking lot: Seal & Stripe project

Office: New Fireproof Filing Cabinet for Sacrament books

Parish Hall: New Kitchen Exhaust Fan

Rectory: new washer/new boiler

Funded by the PSA Rebate & contributions by generous donors



 PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL

PSA 2025 REPORT

AS OF 10/01/2025

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 466
AMOUNT PLEDGED: \$203,122.00
TOTAL PAID: \$197,145.00
OUR 2025 PSA GOAL: \$98,000.00

Thank You!

+ SAINT POLYCARP
 CATHOLIC CHURCH
 www.stpolycarp.org

ANNOUNCEMENT

ALL SAINTS MASSES

Friday, 10/31/2025 - 8 pm Spanish
 Saturday 11/1/2025 - 8:30 am English
 10 am Vietnamese;
 12 pm Spanish

ALL SOULS MASSES - normal weekend Mass schedule

WWW.STPOLYCARP.ORG
 ST. POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH
 714 893-2766


 ALL SAINTS DAY
November 1
ALL SOULS DAY
November 2


 ALL SAINTS DAY
November 1
ALL SOULS DAY
November 2

LABYRINTH WALK

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

in the Parish Hall

We invite you to join us at the next **Labyrinth Walk**.

Enter the labyrinth with an open mind and heart so that you are able to receive whatever awaits you on this prayerful journey.

The candlelit, meditative Labyrinth environment will calm your thoughts and offer a quiet respite from stress and burdens.

Looking forward to seeing you!



Health Ministry
 ST IRENAEUS CATHOLIC CHURCH
 5201 Evergreen Ave., Cypress CA
 stcypress.org

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Each October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is observed as Respect Life Sunday. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect deeply on the dignity and gift of every human life.

For this week, we pray for these intentions:

- May every person's life be protected and cared for from conception to natural death
- May every child in his or her mother's womb be protected in law and welcomed in love.
- May all who suffer after participation in abortion find healing in Christ's unending mercy.



Mother - Daughter Retreat

Saturday, November 1st, 2025
 8:15am-3:00pm
 Registration open now




Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

As long as Moses kept his hands raised up,
Israel had the better of the fight,
but when he let his hands rest,
Amalek had the better of the fight. (Ex 17:11)

Psalm:

Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. (Ps 121)

Second Reading:

Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed,
because you know from whom you learned it,
and that from infancy you have known
the sacred Scriptures,
which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation
through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Tm 3:14)

Gospel:

"Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones
who call out to him day and night?
Will he be slow to answer them?
I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done
for them speedily." (Lk 18:7)

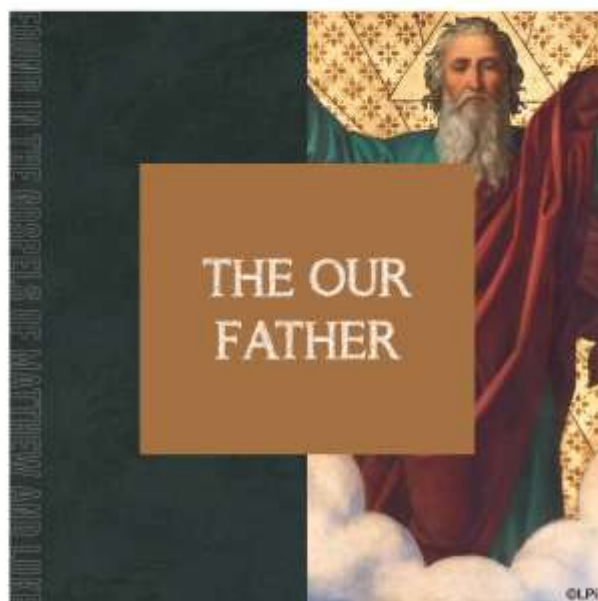
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We are all the widow in Luke's Gospel. We are vulnerable. We feel small in the estimation of the world. We feel ignored. But Jesus is telling us to be bold in prayer, to bring our needs before the judge who will always hear our case.

Observances for the week of October 19, 2025

Sunday: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
World Mission Sunday
Monday: St. Paul of the Cross, Priest
Wednesday: St. John Paul II, Pope
Thursday: St. John of Capistrano, Priest
Friday: St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop
Next Sunday: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, *Explained!*

The Our Father, also known as The Lord's Prayer, is found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Universally beloved in most traditions of Christianity, its words are those of Jesus Christ himself as he answers his disciples' queries on how best to pray.

Prayer for Life of Mission

Dear God,
You are the one who finds a way in
the darkness, and clears the path for
those You love. Help us to trust in
Your call, and to answer generously to
the unknowns we face,
knowing You will never leave us alone.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: In the same way that a judge cannot go looking for conflicts to mediate, God will not force His way into our problems. What would be the point? What is our life on earth for, if it is not to teach us how to turn willingly to God?

The Prayers We Don't Say

It has always confused me: why a judge?

Jesus could have compared prayer to the subject who requests a gift of his king. He could have compared it to the child who asks a favor of a parent. But in the parable of the widow and the judge, Jesus compares prayer — specifically constant, unwearying prayer — with the marginalized person who doggedly pursues her claim through an unforgiving legal system.

It's not a rosy or reassuring picture. So what is he trying to tell us?

Unlike a king or a parent, a judge has strictly drawn lines which he cannot, under any circumstances, cross. He can only help people who bring their case to court. Even good, earnest judges cannot render justice if charges are not brought.

God is all-powerful. But that doesn't make Him a meddler. He will not force His way into our problems. What would be the point? What is our life on earth for, if it is not to teach us how to turn willingly to God, in every instance — adoration, gratitude, need?

Today, I sat down and made a list of problems I don't pray about. When I was done, I looked at the list and asked myself: why not? Why don't I pray about these things? Some are huge issues over which I have absolutely no control, and prayer feels futile. Some are small grievances I never even considered mentioning to God.

If I prayed about them all, my life would be totally consumed by prayer. Constant, unwearying prayer. The kind of prayer Jesus calls me to in the parable of the widow and the judge: continual surrender of myself to the mysterious, limitless power of God.

Praying that way could make me tired. The widow was tired, too — but she kept bringing her charges. She got justice. And her judge wasn't even a nice guy.

So say the prayer. Bring the charges. Our judge is one who wants to help, but He won't overstep His bounds.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

I volunteer every once in a while. How can I incorporate serving the poor in my everyday life?

Answer:

In the Gospels, Jesus is very clear about emphasizing outreach to vulnerable persons on the margins of society. These may be the materially poor, the disabled, the lonely, or any others whose circumstances drive them from mainstream society. We can all respond to Christ's call to love by incorporating direct service into our regular life routine. Here are some ideas to find your niche:

Consider your life. Before you look for direct service opportunities, consider your schedule, commitment levels, and personal gifts. When can you help out and how regularly? Where have you volunteered in the past that has felt like a good fit? Do you have any particular skills or personality traits that lend you to particular work?

Do some research. There are a lot of structured ways you can get involved in your community. Your parish might have a social concerns outreach program. If not, ask friends and family. A simple online search for local nonprofits can also expose you to new opportunities.

Be open to God's invitation. The chance to serve may be closer than you think. Befriending an elderly neighbor, widowed and far from children, is an act of serving the poor. Keep your eyes and heart open!



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