



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

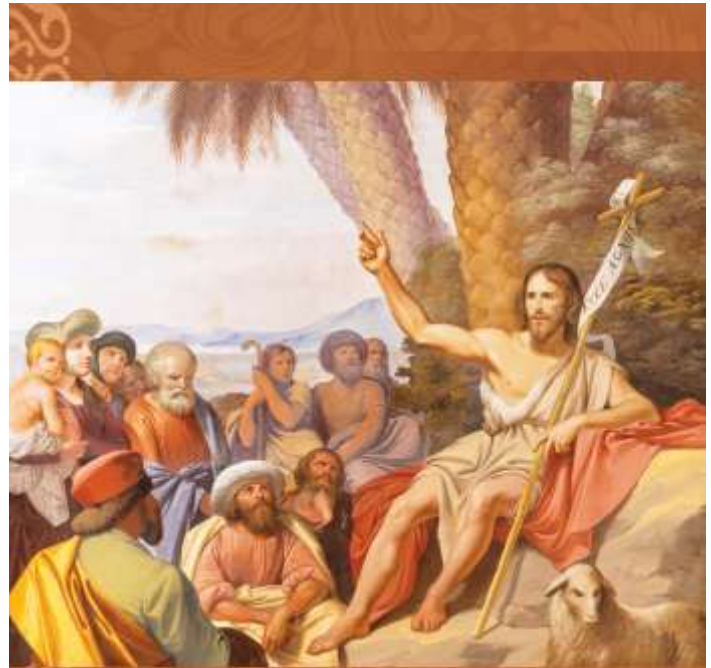
Sunday

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

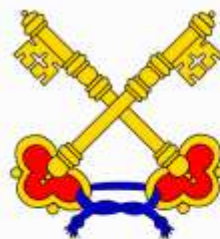
info@stpolycarp.org

BULLETIN: editor@stpolycarp.org



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." - Mt 11:11



Pope's Intention - December

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

DECEMBER 14, 2025

**MASS INTENTIONS/INTENCIONES DE MISA/
XIN Ý LỄ CẦU NGUYỆN**

Saturday, December 13, 2025

5:00 PM Maria Nguyen Thi Man✠ &
Paul Nguyen Van Minh✠; John Patrick Casey✠;
All Ancestors✠
7:00 PM Dominic✠ & Lucy✠

Sunday, December 14, 2025

7:30 AM Quang Hien Nguyen✠ & All Ancestors✠
9:00 AM Luis Chacon✠ & Dolores Garcia✠
11:00 AM Lentz Sy Go✠; All Souls✠
1:00 PM Mario Pena✠ & Mauro Juarez✠
4:00 PM Dinh Long✠; Dominic Vu✠
6:00 PM Ruben Hernandez Tapia✠; Bulmaro Alvarez✠

Monday, December 15, 2025

6:30 AM Anna Maria✠; Thanksgiving
8:30 AM John C. Norton✠; Maria Pham✠ & Thi Hong
6:30 PM Luiz Escobar✠ & Jose Aguilar✠;
Jaime Zalazar (health), Humberto Estrada, &
All souls in purgatory✠

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

6:30 AM Edward Michael Martinez (wellbeing) &
Alexander William Martinez (wellbeing)
8:30 AM Phuc Vu✠; Thien Vu✠

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

6:30 AM Simon✠ & Maria✠
8:30 AM Anna Ngan Pham✠ & Augustino Than Nguyen

Thursday, December 18, 2025

6:30 AM Ha Viet Long; Joseph✠ & Anna✠
8:30 AM Anna Maria✠;
Thiel Family (strength & guidance)

Friday, December 19, 2025

6:00 AM Joseph✠ & Francis Xavier✠
8:30 AM Catarina Hong Pham✠; All Souls✠
6:30 PM All Souls✠; Ancestors✠; Peace for the family

Saturday, December 20, 2025

8:30 AM Presentacion Lasam✠; All Ancestors✠

Funerals

12/18—Raul Ramirez Flores @ 11AM
12/20—Doris Duenas @ 2PM

Weddings

12/20—Ezequiel & Ashley Granados

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9,
9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc,
8-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and
23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/
Mt 1:1-17
Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/
Lk 1:5-25
Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



Dec 7/8 Masses \$ 23,712.00
Dec 7/8 Online Giving \$ 5,624.52
Total collection: \$ 29,336.52

*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

Dear Parishioners of Saint Polycarp,

The third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete" Sunday, which means "rejoice" in Latin. Notably, you will see the third Advent Candle is "rose," and the presider's vestment may be either in "violet" or "rose" color. It is called "Gaudete" Sunday because the time to wait and to prepare for the Lord is near.

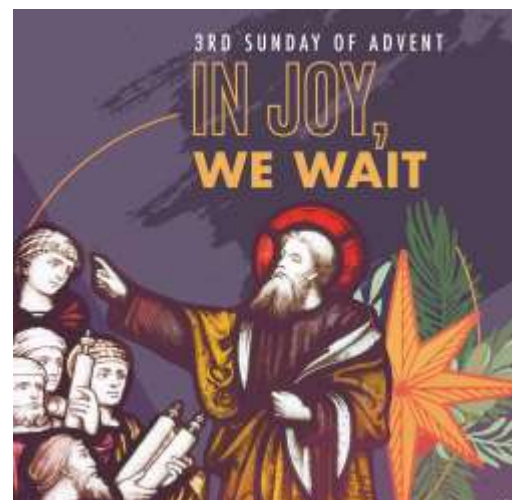
To reflect this joyful spirit, the First Reading from Isaiah gives us these words of hope and joy: "The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful songs ... Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, He comes with vindication; with divine recompense He comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing" (Is. 35: 1-6a, 10).

On this "Gaudete" Sunday, I would like to announce to you a joy: the newly ordained deacon Francis Ang, who was ordained last Saturday, December 6 at Christ Cathedral, will join our Saint Polycarp family. He will begin his diaconate ministry from January to the end of May 2026. His time with us is different from Fr. Cole Buzon, who came to us as a seminarian-intern. Deacon Francis' time with us is called "vocational synthesis," in which he serves as a deacon and has more roles in the parish life. When Deacon Francis arrives, he will present himself to us at all of our weekend Masses. Thus, rejoice with Mother Church that hopefully he will be ordained to the priesthood in early June to serve our diocese. In the meantime, just as we had supported Fr. Cole Buzon and other discerners, I ask for your support and love to help Deacon Francis to be a faithful and zealous minister of the Church during his time with us.

I thank my brother priests, Fathers Luis Segura and Nicolaus Thai, for their generosity in welcoming a new deacon to stay with us at the rectory. I also hope that they will be a good role model for him.

Lastly, I seek the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, Saint Joseph, and the parish patronal Saint Polycarp to be with you during the last remaining weeks of Advent. In addition, I hope you like the small gift that you receive from your spiritual family this weekend.

Blessings always in Jesus,
Fr. Viet Peter Ho
Pastor



Las lecturas de la semana del 14 de diciembre

Domingo: Is 35, 1-6. 10/Sal 145, 6-7. 8-9. 9-10 (ver Is 35, 4)/
Sant 5, 7-10/Mt 11, 2-11
Lunes: Nm 24, 2-7. 15-17/Sal 24, 4-5. 6 y 7. 8-9/
Mt 21, 23-27
Martes: Sof 3, 1-2. 9-13/Sal 33, 2-3. 6-7. 17-18. 19 y 23/
Mt 21, 28-32
Miércoles: Gn 49, 2. 8-10/Sal 71, 1-2. 3-4. 7-8. 17/Mt 1, 1-17
Jueves: Jr 23, 5-8/Sal 71, 1-2. 12-13. 18-19/Mt 1, 18-24
Viernes: Jue 13, 2-7. 24-25/Sal 72, 3-4. 5-6. 16-17/
Lc 1, 5-25
Sábado: Is 7, 10-14/Sal 23, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/Lc 1, 26-38
Domingo: Is 7, 10-14/Sal 23, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6 (7. 10)/Rom 1, 1-7/
Mt 1, 18-24

Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 14 de diciembre

Domingo: 3^{er} Domingo de Adviento
Martes: Las Posadas comienzan
Domingo: 4^o Domingo de Adviento

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflexión: Vamos a Misa. Vamos a la confesión. Oramos. Leemos las Escrituras. Al hacer todas estas cosas, una y otra vez, salimos al desierto. ¿Por qué? ¿Qué esperamos ver?

Lo que Vemos en el Desierto

Siempre he querido ver un desierto de verdad.

Lo sé todo sobre los inviernos gélidos y nevados y los veranos cálidos y húmedos. Crecí en un suelo rico que produce una vegetación exuberante y cosechas abundantes. Pero nunca he experimentado un desierto, ni en mi propio país ni en el extranjero, y tengo curiosidad.

Sé que debe haber algo mágico en el desierto para que aparezca tan fuertemente en las Escrituras, para que proporcione un telón de fondo a tantos momentos cruciales de la historia de la salvación. Los israelitas siguiendo la nube, la tentación de Cristo, la voz que gritaba: "Preparad el camino al Señor".

¿Por qué estos momentos tienen que suceder en un desierto? ¿Por qué tienen mucho menos sentido en una selva tropical o en un bosque verde?

Creo que es porque el desierto no tiene nada que ofrecernos, a primera vista. Nadie anhela la sensación física

de un calor seco y un sol abrasador. Pero el vasto vacío y la dureza casi mística, incluso si no lo deseamos ni nos deleitamos en él, este es un escenario que entendemos, de alguna manera, intrínsecamente. Lo sabemos en lo profundo de nuestra alma. Dios está ahí.

Vamos a misa. Vamos a la confesión. Oramos. Leemos las Escrituras. Al hacer todas estas cosas, una y otra vez, salimos al desierto.

¿Por qué? ¿Qué esperamos ver?

Si esperamos ser entretenidos, nos decepcionaremos. Si esperamos tranquilidad, nos decepcionaremos. Si esperamos sentirnos agradables, seguros y protegidos, nos decepcionaremos.

El desierto está ahí para desafiarnos. El desierto está ahí para mostrarnos quiénes somos y quiénes podemos ser.

Así que ve.

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

¿Dónde está nuestra esperanza en este tercer domingo de Adviento? ¿En qué se basa nuestra alegría? Este domingo es llamado el domingo de la alegría, porque ya estamos acercándonos a la Navidad. En latín se conoce como *Gaudete*, que significa "alegría" o "regocíjense". El verdadero gozo consiste en el nacimiento del Salvador, siendo este nacimiento la causa profunda de nuestra alegría. A veces perdemos mucho tiempo en las tiendas, comprando regalos, sin siquiera darnos cuenta de que el tiempo pasa y se va sin provecho alguno para nuestra alma. Miremos al cielo, de donde nos llega la esperanza y la gracia. Ahí es donde está Dios.

El Evangelio nos narra que Juan estaba en la cárcel y quería saber si era verdad lo que había escuchado sobre Jesús. La respuesta para Juan fue la siguiente: "*Vayan y cuéntenle a Juan lo que ustedes están viendo y oyendo: los ciegos ven, los cojos andan, los leprosos quedan limpios, los sordos oyen, los muertos resucitan, y una Buena Nueva llega a los pobres*" (Mateo 11:5). Con esta respuesta, Juan quedó lleno de esperanza, seguro de que el Reino de Dios ya estaba presente.

Juan predicaba la conversión, un cambio de mentalidad radical, válido tanto entonces como ahora. Para nosotros, la venida del Salvador es un hecho seguro y esperanzador. Sin embargo, solo los pobres de espíritu logran visualizarlo en el horizonte de la Navidad. Aguardemos con paciencia los regalos de la gracia de Dios: la paz y el amor entre nosotros, que tanto necesitamos.

¡Ven, Señor Jesús!

©LPi

HÀNH HƯƠNG KẾT THÚC NĂM THÁNH 2025



Trong tâm tình tạ ơn Thiên Chúa và Mẹ Maria, Giáo Xứ chúng ta sẽ có buổi hành hương tại **Nhà thờ Chánh Tòa** để cùng nhau kết thúc Năm Thánh vào **Thứ Hai 22/12/2025** với **Thánh Lễ 3 ngôn ngữ**.

6:00pm : Lăn hạt Mân Côi, dâng lên Mẹ lời cầu nguyện cho Giáo Hội, cho thế giới và cho từng gia đình tại **Linh Đài Mẹ La Vang**.

7:00pm : Cử hành **Thánh Lễ trọng thể** trong Thánh Đường.

Để niềm vui Năm Thánh được trọn vẹn trong lời cầu nguyện, trong sự hiệp nhất và trong ân sủng của Thiên Chúa xin mọi người cùng tham dự.



Thứ Sáu

ngày 19/12/2025,

Lúc 5:30 chiều, trước Thánh Lễ, xin mời quý cộng đoàn cùng tham dự buổi **Ca nguyện Giáng Sinh** do **Ca đoàn Thánh Tâm** đảm nhiệm.

Trong bầu khí hân

hoan mừng Con Chúa giáng

trần, cộng đoàn chúng ta sẽ cùng quy

tụ vào ngày **24/12/2025** lúc **5:30 pm**

để thưởng thức **Hoạt Cảnh Giáng Sinh**

do **Thiếu Nhi Thánh Thể** đảm nhiệm.

Xin kính mời toàn thể cộng đoàn tham

dự để niềm vui Giáng Sinh thêm

trọn vẹn trong sự hiệp thông

và tình thân ái.

Thứ Tư

24/12/2025

6:00 pm

Thánh Lễ Vọng Giáng Sinh

Thứ Năm

25/12/2025

4:00 pm

Thánh Lễ Mừng Chúa Giáng Sinh



TĨNH TÂM MÙA VỌNG 2025

*Ai chờ Ai? Ai mong tin Ai?
Giáng Sinh này đi viếng Ai đây?*



Xin kính mời quý cộng đoàn tham dự 2 buổi Tĩnh Tâm với phần thuyết giảng của **Linh Mục Micae Phạm Quang Hồng**.

*Thứ Năm
Thứ Sáu*

**18 & 19
Tháng 12**

6:00pm Thánh Lễ
6:45pm Giải lao/ Có thức ăn nhẹ
7:00pm Tĩnh Tâm

Đôi dòng về Linh mục Micae Phạm Quang Hồng



Cha Micae Phạm Quang Hồng sinh ngày 17/01/1949 tại Tân Định, Sài Gòn. Từ nhỏ, ngài theo học tại các trường Thiên Phước và La San Đức Minh, rồi gia nhập Dòng La San năm 1963. Sau thời gian tu học và giảng dạy, ngài tuyên khấn trọn đời năm 1975.

Những năm sau đó, Cha Hồng trải qua nhiều gian khổ trong lao tù, nhưng vẫn kiên trung trong ơn gọi.

Năm 1999, ngài sang Úc, tiếp tục đời sống tu trì và sau đó theo học tại Đại Chủng Viện Saint Charles - Tây Úc. Ngày 12/05/2006, ngài được thụ phong linh mục và từ năm 2009 tận tâm phục vụ Cộng Đoàn Công Giáo Việt Nam. Tháng Giêng năm 2024, Cha Hồng chính thức nghỉ hưu.



PSA 2025 REPORT

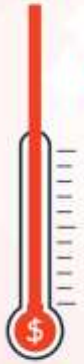
AS OF 12/02/2025

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 491

AMOUNT PLEDGED: \$219,957.00

TOTAL PAID: \$216,176.00

OUR 2025 PSA GOAL: \$98,000.00



Thank You!

SAINT POLYCARP
CATHOLIC CHURCH
www.stpolycarp.org



LOOKING FOR CHILDREN TO SING!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD TO SING AT
THE CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS AT
4PM, REHEARSALS WILL BE ON MONDAY,
DECEMBER 8 AND MONDAY, DECEMBER 15
FROM 6-7PM IN THE ST LAWRENCE ROOM BY
THE HALL. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE
EMAIL KARAFORD@STPOLYCARP.ORG.



Pro Sanctity Movement PRAYING WITH THE SUNDAY ADVENT GOSPELS

Join us weekly on Thursday mornings
during Advent to be still, pray with the
Sacred Scripture and share.

DECEMBER 4, 11, 18
AFTER 8:30 AM MASS

ST. POLYCARP ROOM
ST. POLYCARP CHURCH
8100 CHAPMAN AVE STANTON, CA 90680

Please contact Cathy at 714-496-9597 for any questions

Christmas

Drive-Through Grocery, Diaper and Toy Distribution

Saturday, December 20

10 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Stanton Park

7800 Katella Ave., Stanton 90680

Children must be present to receive toy. One toy per child.

You must wait in line in your vehicle. Absolutely no walk ups will be allowed.

Please be courteous of others while you wait.

Anyone found attempting to cut in line will be asked to leave.

Supplies are limited. All items are on a first come, first served basis until supplies last.



POINSETTIA SALE!

If you want to decorate your home, or
donate a poinsettia back to decorate the
church for the Christmas Masses, our
Knights of Columbus will be selling
poinsettias after the Masses on
12/20-12/21 for \$15 each or 2/\$25.



Prayer for Advent - New Growth

Dear God,

Bring new life! Your love creates and cultivates.
Bring Your power into the places I think of as "deserts"
and your grace to the prayers I fear may be "deserted."
You can redeem and restore, bring a new song to my heart.

Amen.

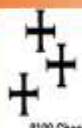
December 22, 2025

Closing Mass for the Jubilee Year



The Closing Mass for the Jubilee Year will be celebrated on Monday, December 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Cathedral.

All are encouraged to invite family and friends and to join together for this special Mass of thanksgiving and conclusion of the Jubilee Year.



SAINT POLYCARP

CATHOLIC CHURCH

8100 Chaparral Avenue, Stanton CA 95680 | (714) 893-2766 | www.stpolycarp.org



when Christ captures your heart...



Lovers of the Holy Cross

invite you to...
Encounter God. Spend time in personal prayer. Experience community living

DEC 19-21, 2025

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

DEC 27-30, 2025

COME & SEE RETREAT

APRIL 2-5, 2026

HOLY TRIDUUM RETREAT



Retreats for women age 17-35 open to discerning God's will

WWW.LHCLA.ORG / (213)944-3095 OR (213)851-1039

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

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

12/24

12/25

CHILDREN'S ENGLISH MASS
VIETNAMESE MASS
SPANISH MASS
ENGLISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS
ENGLISH MASS

4 PM
6 PM
8 PM
10:30 PM
11 PM

ENGLISH MASS
SPANISH MASS
ENGLISH MASS
SPANISH MASS
VIETNAMESE MASS

7:30 AM
9 AM
11 AM
1 PM
4 PM

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
they will meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee. (Isa 35:10)

Psalm:

Lord, come and save us. (Ps 146)
OR
Alleluia.

Second Reading:

Be patient, brothers and sisters,
until the coming of the Lord. (Jas 5:7)

Gospel:

Jesus said to them in reply,
"Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk,
lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear,
the dead are raised,
and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."
(Mt 11:4-5)

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.

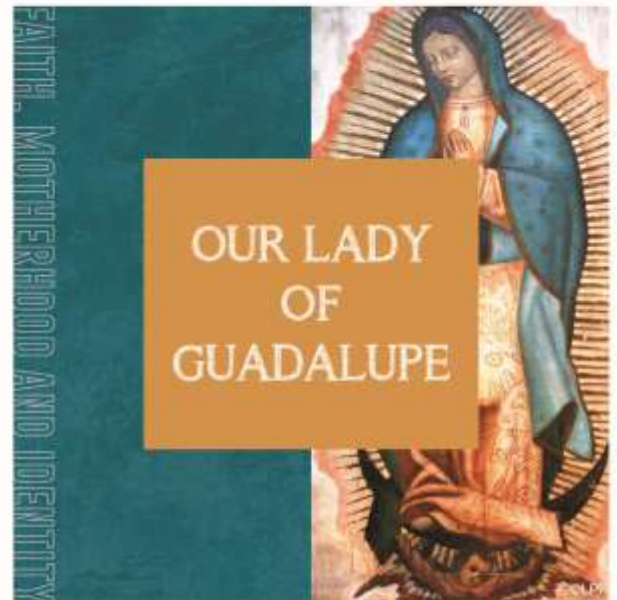
Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Go and tell what you have seen and heard,"
Jesus says. When it comes to proving who he
is, he always lets his actions do the talking. We
have heard. We have seen. We must go and
tell. Let's let our actions do the talking. Who
do we think Jesus is?

Observances for the week of December 14, 2025

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent



Devotions, *Explained!*

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego in Mexico City in 1531. The Patroness of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a beloved symbol of faith, motherhood and identity. Her feast day is Dec. 12.

Prayer for Advent - New Growth

Dear God,
Bring new life! Your love creates
and cultivates.
Bring Your power into the places I
think of as "deserts"
and your grace to the prayers I
fear may be "deserted."
You can redeem and restore,
bring a new song to my heart.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert. Why? What are we expecting to see?

What We See in the Desert

I've always wanted to see a real desert.

I know all about frigid, snowy winters and warm, wet summers. I grew up on rich soil that yields lush vegetation and bountiful harvests. But I've never experienced a desert, not in my own country or abroad, and I'm curious.

I know there must be something magical about the desert for it to feature so heavily in Scripture, for it to provide a backdrop to so many crucial moments of salvation history. The Israelites following the cloud, the temptation of Christ, the voice crying out: "Prepare the way for the Lord."

Why do these moments have to happen in a desert? Why do they make so much less sense in a tropical rainforest or a verdant forest?

I think it's because the desert doesn't have anything to offer us, at first glance. No one longs for the physical sensation of a dry heat and a beating sun. But the vast emptiness and the almost mystical harshness — even if we don't desire and delight in it, this is a setting that we understand, somehow, intrinsically. We know it deep within our soul. God is there.

We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert.

Why? What are we expecting to see?

If we expect to be entertained, we will be disappointed. If we expect reassurance, we will be disappointed. If we expect to feel pleasant and safe and sheltered, we will be disappointed.

The desert is there to challenge us. The desert is there to show us who we are, and who we can be.

So go.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Our prayer group has been reading the lives of some saints, and we were struck by how some of them thought they were such sinners. Why would someone so holy think they had such serious sin?

Answer:

As Professional athletes practice the fundamentals of their sport over and over again, reaching for better form, consistency, and performance. They focus on the basics, review past performances, and visualize greater success. Practice makes better, if not perfect!

Spiritual masters such as the saints also looked for perfection. They practiced their faith in the search for holiness, grace, and virtue. Through sacraments, prayer, study, good works, and penance, they raised their level of awareness and their sensitivity to the presence of God, the demands of the Gospel, and the workings of the Holy Spirit. They examined their consciences daily, reviewing the day for moments of failure and times that they could have been more virtuous in one way or another. They resolved to do better, be more attentive, and alert!

Therefore, anything that would distract them or interfere with their relationship with God would be like a small black spot on a bright white wall — you can't miss it! The great saints were aware of sin and the presence of evil because they were so tuned into the struggle between good and evil that was fought in their own lives, hearts, and souls.



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