

# SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH

8100 Chapman Avenue, Stanton CA 90680 | (714) 893-2766 | [www.stpolycarp.org](http://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

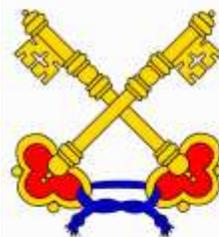
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

[info@stpolycarp.org](mailto:info@stpolycarp.org)  
BULLETIN: [editor@stpolycarp.org](mailto:editor@stpolycarp.org)



## 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!'" - Mt 3:1



## 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 7, 2025

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

**Saturday, December 6, 2025**

5:00 PM All Souls✠  
7:00 PM Thomas Lai Pham✠; Joseph✠ & Maria✠

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**

7:30 AM An Nguyen (birthday); Peter Mai✠ & All Ancestors✠  
9:00 AM Jose Sanchez✠ & Jorge Sanchez✠  
11:00 AM Vuong Thi Hoang✠; Giacobe Thien & Maria Thong  
1:00 PM Efren Diaz✠ & Teresa Corona✠; Jose Abel Aguero Pascual✠  
4:00 PM Joseph✠; World Peace  
6:00 PM Maria de Jesus Hernandez✠; Jose Abel Aguero Pascual✠

**Monday, December 8, 2025**

6:30 AM Anthony Pham (birthday)  
8:30 AM Robert Macias✠; Anna Maria Tu Nguyen✠, Anthony Thu Nguyen✠, Nam Thi Le✠ & All Souls✠  
4:00 PM Pray for our parishioners  
5:30 PM Pray for our Priests  
6:00 PM Vicente Diaz✠  
8:00 PM Guadalupe Garcia Sanchez (birthday)

**Tuesday, December 9, 2025**

6:30 AM Francis Xavier✠; All Ancestors✠  
8:30 AM Joseph Do✠ & Anh Tuan

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025**

6:30 AM Thanksgiving & Peace for a Family; Shayla Posadas✠  
8:30 AM Paul Hung Thuc Nguyen✠; Imelda Mavares (birthday)

**Thursday, December 11, 2025**

6:30 AM John the Baptist✠; All Souls✠  
8:30 AM Geronimo Nguyen✠ & Theresa Dao; Souls of our Benefactors✠  
6:30 PM Pray for our parishioners

**Friday, December 12, 2025**

6:00 AM Xochitl✠ & Elvira Ibarra  
8:30 AM Catarina Hong Pham✠; Imelda Mavares✠  
5:00 PM Pray for our Priests  
6:30 PM All Souls✠; All Ancestors✠  
8:00 PM Pray for our parishioners

**Saturday, December 13, 2025**

8:30 AM Quang Hien Nguyen✠ & All Ancestors✠

**Prayer for Advent - Peace**

Come, Lord Jesus!

Bring your peace to our world.

Inspire reconciliation, heal divisions, bind wounds, rewrite scripts.

You are the Prince of Peace, bring that light into every space.

Amen.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday:** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/ Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12  
**Monday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/ Mt 18:12-14  
**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/ Mt 11:28-30  
**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/ Mt 11:11-15  
**Friday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47  
**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
**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



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



Nov 29/30 Masses	\$ 21,760.50
Nov 29/30 Online Giving	\$ 1,707.33
<b>Total collection:</b>	<b>\$ 23,467.83</b>

**Thanksgiving Mass (OC Food Bank) - \$5,460.00**

*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 7 de diciembre

- Domingo:** Is 11, 1-10/Sal 71, 1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17 (ver 7)/  
Rom 15, 4-9/Mt 3, 1-12
- Lunes:** Gn 3, 9-15. 20/Sal 97, 1. 2-3. 3-4/Ef 1, 3-6. 11-12/  
Lc 1, 26-38
- Martes:** Is 40, 1-11/Sal 95, 1-2. 3 y 10. 11-12. 13/  
Mt 18, 12-14
- Miércoles:** Is 40, 25-31/Sal 102, 1-2. 3-4. 8 y 10/  
Mt 11, 28-30
- Jueves:** Is 41, 13-20/Sal 144, 1 y 9. 10-11. 12-13/  
Mt 11, 11-15
- Viernes:** Eclo 24, 23-31/Gal 4, 4-7/Lc 1, 39-48
- Sábado:** Eclo 48, 1-4. 9-11/Sal 79, 2 y 3. 15-16. 18-19/  
Mt 17, 10-13
- 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

## Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 7 de diciembre

- Domingo:** 2º Domingo de Adviento
- Lunes:** La Inmaculada Concepción de la  
Santísima Virgen María
- Martes:** San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
- Miércoles:** Nuestra Señora de Loreto
- Jueves:** San Dámaso I, papa
- Viernes:** Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
- Sábado:** Santa Lucía, virgen y mártir
- Domingo:** 3º Domingo de Adviento

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini Reflexión:** Es tan, tan hermoso ser culturalmente católico. Pero las acciones, los rituales, las tradiciones, los sentimientos, la nostalgia, nada de eso importa a menos que dé el fruto de un corazón transformado.

### Culturalmente Católico

La cultura católica es tan espesa que se podría untar en un bollo. O un baguette. O una rebanada de pan chapata. O naan (Espera, ¿le pones mantequilla al naan? Yo lo haría, porque soy del Medio Oeste, pero siento que esto es, tal vez, incorrecto).

Está bien, tal vez mi comparación sea imperfecta, pero lo que estoy diciendo es esto: la cultura católica es deliciosa, es versátil y es nutritiva. Es lo mismo en todas partes, aunque también se ve y se siente totalmente única en cada lugar. El Día de los Muertos en México, el Simbang Gabi en Filipinas, el Día de San Patricio en Irlanda, el Meskel en Etiopía, las procesiones de Semana Santa en España: todas estas son piedras de toque de la cultura católica.

Es tan, tan hermoso ser culturalmente católico. Pero hoy, cuando escucho las palabras de Juan el Bautista a los fariseos

y a los saduceos, recuerdo que el catolicismo es mucho más que una simple expresión cultural.

Los fariseos y saduceos eran hijos leales de Abraham y observantes escrupulosos de la ley de Moisés. Su cultura, se podría decir, era fuerte. Pero Juan el Bautista les está diciendo, y nos está diciendo a nosotros, que la cultura no es suficiente.

Las acciones, los rituales, las tradiciones, los sentimientos, la nostalgia, nada de eso importa a menos que dé el fruto de un corazón transformado.

Es algo que hay que recordar, especialmente a medida que nos acercamos a la Navidad, una época en la que la cultura y los rituales culturales se vuelven tan (hermosamente) prominentes. En la práctica cultural de la Navidad, somos como los Reyes Magos que se acercan al pesebre, llevando nuestros regalos. Pero ¿qué terrible habría sido si los magos se hubieran marchado a toda prisa, con su cultura expresada, su ritual completo, y hubieran regresado al mundo sin ser cambiados por la mirada del Niño?

Así que sé culturalmente católico. Lleva estos regalos al Niño Jesús, pero quédate allí. Refleja. Y luego, cuando regreses al mundo, llevaras contigo la cultura católica.

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

Durante el Adviento, Dios nos brinda la oportunidad de trabajar y movernos, de no quedarnos en un solo sitio. Como ejemplo, tenemos a Juan Bautista, personaje importante de este tiempo. Él trabajó incansablemente anunciando cómo preparar el camino del Señor, cómo sería su venida. El profeta Isaías se refería a Juan de esta forma: *"Una voz grita en el desierto: preparen un camino al Señor, hagan sus senderos rectos"* (Juan 3:3). Hacer los senderos rectos, es decir, implica una conversión desde el fondo del corazón; un cambio radical a través de un proceso suave pero firme para llegar a Dios.

*"La Iglesia de este tiempo es igual a un campo sembrado que tiene grano y paja mezclados, es decir, juntos buenos y malos. Después del juicio, en cambio, tendrá solamente buenos, sin malo alguno... De ahí vendrá el juzgar a vivos y muertos, y como dice el Evangelio: Él tiene el biello en su mano para separar el trigo de la paja. Guardará el trigo en su granero y quemará la paja en un fuego que no se extingue"* (San Agustín, 354–430. Sermón 223). Preparados o no, este Adviento es el tiempo de aprender que los tiempos de Dios son momentos de gracia. Paja y trigo crecen en nosotros, y es tiempo de ponerse a trabajar en la conversión para ir al encuentro del Señor. No olvidemos que Dios espera de nosotros lo mejor y nos da la libertad de seguirlo o dejarlo. ¿Qué escoges? El tiempo de Adviento es para revisar nuestra conciencia: cómo pensamos, creemos y actuamos. ©LPI

## NOVENARIO DE GUADALUPE

## NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

**Miércoles, Dic. 3**

*\*Rosario y Misa: 6:30pm en el Templo*

**Jueves, Dic. 4**

*\*Rosario: 6:30pm en el Templo.*

*\*Hora Santa Mariana: 7:00pm en el Templo*

**Viernes, Dic. 5**

*\*Fiesta Guadalupana en la Catedral de Cristo de 4:00pm a 9:30pm. Nos reuniremos en el estacionamiento de la Iglesia a las 3:00pm para salir en procesión a las 3:30pm en punto*

**Sábado, Dic. 6**

*\*Rosario y Misa: 9:30am en el Templo*

**Domingo, Dic. 7**

*\*Rosario y Misa: 5:30pm en la Iglesia*

**Lunes, Dic. 8**

*Inmaculada Concepción. Día de obligación.*

*\*Rosario: 6:00pm en el jardín de la escuela.*

*\*Misa Español: 8:00pm en el Templo*

*\*No habrá confesiones este día.*

**Martes, Dic. 9**

*\*Rosario: 6:30pm en el Templo*

*\*Reflexión de Adviento: 7:00pm en el Templo  
Expositor: P. Gastón Mendiola*

**Miércoles, Dic. 10**

*\*Rosario: 6:30pm en el jardín de la escuela*

*\*Servicio Penitencial en el Templo de 7:00pm a 9:00pm*

**Jueves, Dic. 11**

*\*Rosario y Misa: 6:30pm en el Templo*

**Viernes, Diciembre 12**

*Solemnidad de Ntra. Sra. de Guadalupe.*

*\*Mañanitas: 5:00am en el Templo*

*\*Misa de aurora: 6:00am en el Templo*

*\*Danza Matachines: 7:00am en el Templo*

*\*Misa en Inglés: 8:30am en el Templo*

*\*Danza Matachines: 7:30pm en el Templo*

*\*Misa: 8:00pm en el Templo*

**Wednesday, Dec. 3**

*\*Rosary and Mass: 6:30 pm in the Church*

**Thursday, Dec. 4**

*\*Rosary: 6:30 pm in the Church*

*\*Marian Holy Hour: 7:00 pm in the Church*

**Friday, Dec. 5**

*\*Guadalupe Feast at Christ Cathedral from 4:00 pm to 9:30 pm. We will meet in the church parking lot at 3:00 pm to begin the procession at 3:30 pm sharp.*

**Saturday, Dec. 6**

*\*Rosary and Mass: 9:30 am in the Church*

**Sunday, Dec. 7**

*\*Rosary and Mass: 5:30 pm at the Church*

**Monday, Dec. 8**

*Immaculate Conception. Day of Obligation.*

*\*Rosary: 6:00 pm in the school garden.*

*\*Mass (Spanish): 8:00 pm in the Church*

*\*There will be no confessions this day.*

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**

*\*Rosary: 6:30 pm in the Church*

*\*Advent Reflection: 7:00 pm in the Church  
Speaker: Fr. Gastón Mendiola*

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**

*\*Rosary: 6:30 pm in the school garden*

*\*Penitential Service in the Church from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm*

**Thursday, Dec. 11**

*\*Rosary and Mass: 6:30 pm in the Church*

**Friday, Dec. 12**

*Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe.*

*\*Morning Prayer: 5:00 am in the Church.*

*\*Mass in Spanish: 6:00 am in the Church.*

*\*Matachines Dance: 7:00 am in the Church.*

*\*Mass in English: 8:30 am in the Church.*

*\*Matachines Dance: 7:30 pm in the Church*

*\*Mass in Spanish: 8:00 pm in the Church*

Mừng Lễ

## ĐỨC MẸ VÔ NHIỄM NGUYÊN TỘI

Ngày 8/12/2025 - Thứ Hai

Có 2 Thánh Lễ tiếng Việt

4:00 pm và 6:00 pm

Đây là ngày lễ trọng và buộc kính mời cộng đoàn sắp xếp tham dự để cùng tôn vinh Mẹ Maria và cầu nguyện cho gia đình, giáo xứ.



## Lời Tri Ân

Giáo xứ chân thành tri ân quý ân nhân đã quảng đại nâng đỡ và chia sẻ tình thương. Đặc biệt, **K&T Pharmacy** đã gửi tặng quà cho các cụ cao niên, và **Tân Hoàng Hương Sandwiches & Coffee** đã hỗ trợ bánh mì cho Thánh lễ Tạ ơn. Những nghĩa cử cao đẹp này là dấu chứng tình bác ái Kitô hữu, đem lại niềm vui và gắn kết cộng đoàn trong lòng biết ơn.



## GIẢI TỘI MÙA VỌNG

Ngày 10/12/2025 - Thứ Tư lúc 7pm

Để chuẩn bị tâm hồn đón Chúa Giáng Sinh, xin cộng đoàn cùng sốt sắng lãnh nhận Bí tích Hòa Giải để được ơn tha thứ, bình an và niềm vui trong Chúa Kitô. Giáo xứ sẽ có buổi giải tội 3 ngôn ngữ bắt đầu lúc 7pm. Kính mời mọi người cùng đến tham dự.

## Làm Dưa Món

Ngày 7/12/2025 - Chúa Nhật

Kính mời quý cộng đoàn tham gia phụ giúp buổi làm dưa món từ 8 giờ sáng đến 2 giờ chiều. Mong mọi người chung sức để buổi làm việc thêm ý nghĩa.

## Dựng Hang Đá Giáng Sinh

Ngày 13/12/2025 - Thứ Bảy Bắt đầu từ 8:00 am

Đây là cơ hội để mọi người chung tay chuẩn bị cho Mùa Giáng Sinh, vừa làm việc vừa tạo bầu khí vui tươi, gắn kết trong Giáo Xứ.

*Chính Ngài là sự sống lại và là sự sống. Ai tin vào Ngài thì dù có chết cũng sẽ được sống. (Ga 11,25)*



# PHÂN ƯU



Giáo Xứ Thánh Polycarp chúng con xin thành kính phân ưu cùng tang quyến trước sự ra đi của Cụ ông

**PHÊRÔ VÕ VĂN BI**

đã được Chúa gọi về vào ngày 20 tháng 11 năm 2025.

Nguyện xin Thiên Chúa giàu lòng thương xót sớm đưa linh hồn Phêrô về hưởng ánh sáng vĩnh cửu Nước Trời.

Xin Chúa ban ơn nâng đỡ và an ủi tang quyến trong lúc đau buồn này!

# TỈNH TÂM MÙA VỌNG 2025

**M**ùa Vọng là thời khắc mong chờ trong hân hoan: chờ Đấng Cứu Thế đến để cứu rỗi và ban muôn ơn lành. Đây cũng là lúc mỗi tâm hồn được chuẩn bị để tưởng niệm việc Đức Kitô đến lần thứ nhất và chờ đợi cho lần trở lại của Đức Kitô trong ngày sau hết. Trong tâm tình ấy, xin trân trọng kính mời quý ông bà anh chị em đến tham dự 2 buổi Tỉnh Tâm với phần thuyết giảng của Linh mục Micae Phạm Quang Hồng.



*Ai chờ Ai?*

*Ai mong tin Ai?*

*Giáng Sinh này đi viếng Ai đây?*



**THỨ NĂM  
THỨ SÁU**

**18 & 19  
THÁNG 12**

*6:00 pm - Thánh lễ*

*6:45 pm - Giải lao/ Có ăn nhẹ*

*7:00 pm - Tỉnh tâm*





This past Sunday, our Knights of Columbus, Robert Ross Council, celebrated their quarterly corporate Mass and Fr. Peter joined them for breakfast afterward. If you are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, or have any questions, please contact Marty Wenzel, (714) 349-1894.

ST. POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH



ST. POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH

**The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation**

**Monday, Dec 8, 2025**

English Mass

6:30 AM, 8:30 AM, & 5:30 PM\*

\*5:30 PM in Parish Hall

Vietnamese Mass

4 PM & 6 PM

Spanish Mass

8:00 PM



**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](mailto:KARAFORD@STPOLYCARP.ORG).



**12/13-12/14/2025**

**THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS 2ND COLLECTION**

Thousands of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in ministries— such as Catholic schools, parishes, and hospitals—often for little or no pay.

Today, many religious communities do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your donation helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously.

**Your generous financial support is appreciated.**

## ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, 12/10 @ 7PM

*O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended YOU and I detest all my sins because of YOUR just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love.*

*I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin.*

*Amen.*

ST. POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH

9220 Greenway Avenue | Dallas, TX 75243 | (214) 912-4762 | [www.stpolycarp.org](http://www.stpolycarp.org)

# 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.

ST. POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH

OLLY FOUNDATION PRESENTS

# Christmas Concert

**FOOD ARTS FUN** **PHOTO WITH SANTA**

The event is free but seating is limited — please RSVP for a ticket. We are also collecting donations and unwrapped gifts for children at CHOC to help make their holiday extra special.

**Dec. 20 2025** **Sisters of St. Joseph Auditorium**  
480 S BATAVIA ORANGE, CA 92868

**CHRISTMAS MARKET: 5:30PM - 9:30PM** **LIVE CONCERT: 7:00PM - 9:30PM**

*RSVP*

+714-262-4290 info@OLLYFoundation.org OLLYFoundation.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

**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!*

ST. POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH

# CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

## 12/24 12/25

12/24	12/25
CHILDREN'S ENGLISH MASS 4 PM	ENGLISH MASS 7:30 AM
VIETNAMESE MASS 6 PM	SPANISH MASS 9 AM
SPANISH MASS 8 PM	ENGLISH MASS 11 AM
ENGLISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS 10:30 PM	SPANISH MASS 1 PM
ENGLISH MASS 11 PM	VIETNAMESE MASS 4 PM

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:  
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
a spirit of counsel and of strength,  
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD. (Isa 11:2)

### Psalm:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.  
(Ps 72)

### Second Reading:

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

### Gospel:

"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance,  
but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I." (Mt 3:11)

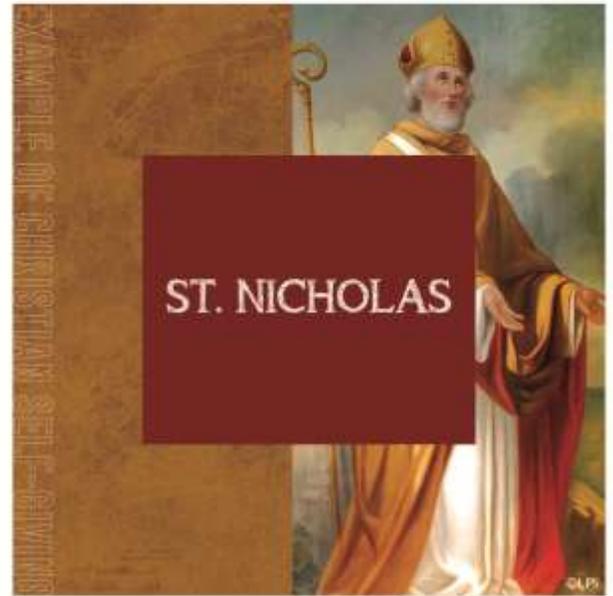
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The story of Advent is a story of repentance. John the Baptist held up a mirror to the chosen people. He urged them to look at what they saw there. This Advent, will we look in the mirror? Will we choose repentance?

## Observances for the week of December 7, 2025

<b>Sunday:</b>	2nd Sunday of Advent
<b>Monday:</b>	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Our Lady of Loreto
<b>Thursday:</b>	St. Damasus I, Pope
<b>Friday:</b>	Our Lady of Guadalupe
<b>Saturday:</b>	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	3rd Sunday of Advent



## Devotions, *Explained!*

St. Nicholas is sometimes merged with the modern figure of Santa Claus in the collective imagination. But St. Nicholas was a real-life bishop, a follower of Jesus whose example of Christian self-giving endures hundreds of years after his death.

## Prayer for Advent - Peace

Come, Lord Jesus!  
Bring your peace to our world.  
Inspire reconciliation, heal  
divisions, bind wounds,  
rewrite scripts.  
You are the Prince of Peace,  
bring that light into every space.  
Amen.

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

### **Culturally Catholic**

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he's telling us — that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### **Question:**

I've heard people call Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit being "immaculately conceived." Is that what the Immaculate Conception is?

### **Answer:**

While these two events are often confused, they are not the same thing. We celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation. While that was surely miraculous, it isn't what we refer to as the "immaculate conception." The Immaculate Conception is Mary's conception, and we typically celebrate it on December 8th. If the 8th happens to be a Sunday, the Church moves the feast to December 9th. It is a holy day of obligation. Why does the Church consider it so important to celebrate?

Mary's conception is immaculate because she was conceived without original sin. The angel Gabriel acknowledges this when he hails Mary as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Scripture scholars identify several theological ideas that confirm this. In the Old Testament, the sacred, pristine Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God. The presence of God is now held within a new "arc" — the womb of Mary. Genesis 3 also prophesies of a woman who would oppose the devil and whose child would crush the devil's head. Christ is the "New Adam." This passage sets up Mary, then, as the "New Eve." Jesus and Mary are the beginnings of a new creation, one we all can participate in through the grace of our baptism. After all, God's love is more "original" than our sin!



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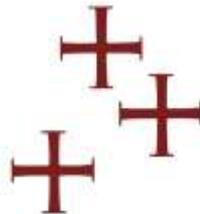
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