



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



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

"And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Mt 2:6



POPE'S INTENTION - JANUARY

For Prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

JANUARY 4, 2026

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

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

Saturday, January 3, 2026

5:00 PM Joseph Ho✠ & Kim Son✠;
All Souls in Purgatory✠

7:00 PM Maria✠

Sunday, January 4, 2026

7:30 AM Peter Trap Mai✠ & All Ancestors✠;
Flores Ramires Family &
Elizabeth Alvarez (birthday)
9:00 AM Arturo Valtierra, Jr.✠; Vicente✠,
Jose Lopez✠ & Elidora Moreno✠
11:00 AM Edwin Campos Gonzalez✠ &
Lourdes Campos Gonzalez✠;
Souls of all Deceased Loved Ones✠
1:00 PM Maria Luisa Tadeo✠, Pedro Tadeo✠ &
Delia Marquez✠
4:00 PM Families affected by earthquake in Japan
6:00 PM Marietta Dietz Matos✠ &
Jhonny Dietz Matos✠

Monday, January 5, 2026

6:30 AM Jose Carlos Arzaga✠, Armando Ortiz✠ &
Carlos Ortiz✠
8:30 AM Alex Guevara (birthday);
Anna Maria Tu Nguyen✠,
Anthony Thu Nguyen✠, Nam Thi Le✠ &
All Souls✠
6:30 PM Maria Reyes✠ & Natalia Salazar✠;
Guadalupe Quiroz✠

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

6:30 AM All Ancestors✠; Christopher A.
8:30 AM Augustino Than Nguyen✠ &
Anna Ngan Pham✠

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

6:30 AM Bernabe Alvarado Jimenez✠ &
Francisco Arteaga✠; Monica Do Nguyen✠ &
Joseph Hung Nguyen✠
8:30 AM Sara Rivera (health), Thomas G. Ramas✠ &
Usher Ramas✠

Thursday, January 8, 2026

6:30 AM Fermin Rivera✠
8:30 AM Francisco Munos, Jr.✠ & Martin Torrez✠

Friday, January 9, 2026

6:30 AM Joseph Ho✠ & Kim Trien✠
8:30 AM Rev. Lawrence Frizzell✠;
Catarina Hong Pham✠
6:30 PM Maria Le✠ & Thi Tuat✠

Saturday, January 10, 2026

8:30 AM Rodrigo de Jesus Montenegro✠ &
Johnny Dietz Matos✠

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/
Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/
Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a
and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/
Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



Dec 27/28 Masses	\$ 22,824.00
Dec 27/28 Online Giving	\$ 2,022.28
Total collection:	\$ 24,846.28

Christmas Masses—\$23,566.00

*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

Dear Parishioners of Saint Polycarp,

Happy New Year! This weekend of the Epiphany ushers us into the year 2026. Joining my brother priests, deacons, religious sisters, and parish staff, I wish you a joyful and blessed year.

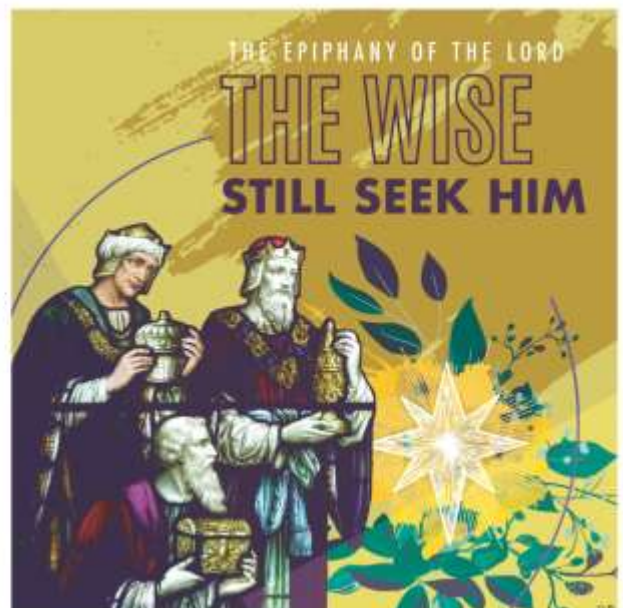
The celebration of the Feast of Epiphany focuses on the revelation of Jesus Christ to the three magi, who have also been known in certain countries as the three kings. As scriptures indicated, the magi were people coming from the East; they followed the pattern of a special star which scriptures called the Star of Bethlehem. After having reached Jerusalem and been inquired of the place of the birth of the newborn King, they arrived at Bethlehem and found the Baby Jesus, along with His parents Mary and Joseph. To them, Jesus is the Star of Bethlehem or the newborn King. Many religious hymns and secular songs have been dedicated to Jesus as the Star of Bethlehem or the newborn King.

The revelation of Jesus to the magi speaks of a wider revelation by God to the whole universe. Jesus was born as a Jew, but He is given as gift and Savior to the universe. The magi represent us, who are given the grace of revelation to know and to accept Jesus as our Savior.

As indicated in my pastoral letter on the Third Week of Advent (December 14, 2025), our parish of Saint Polycarp is welcoming a new guest who will be staying with us until the end of May: His name is Deacon Francis Ang. Deacon Francis is a transitional deacon who, by the will of God, will be ordained to the priesthood on the first weekend of June. Please join me to welcome him. A brief biography of him is posted on the parish website. He will introduce himself to us at all Masses in the coming week.

Lastly, as we enter into a new year, I look back at past year and thank God for all of you; I thank God for your faith, fidelity to His Church, and love to this local church of Saint Polycarp. I look forward to this new year with joy and confidence that God is always with us and that He will continue to bestow His blessings on us all. May Mary, Joseph, and the patron Saint Polycarp guard you and your family in God's love.

Father Viet Peter Ho
Pastor



Las lecturas de la semana del 4 de enero de 2026

Domingo: Is 60, 1-6/Sal 71, 1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13/
Ef 3, 2-3. 5-6/Mt 2, 1-12
Lunes: 1 Jn 3, 22-4, 6/Sal 2, 7-8. 10-12/
Mt 4, 12-17. 23-25
Martes: 1 Jn 4, 7-10/Sal 71, 1-2. 3-4. 7-8/Mc 6, 34-44
Miércoles: 1 Jn 4, 11-18/Sal 71, 1-2. 10. 12-13/Mc 6, 45-52
Jueves: 1 Jn 4, 19-5, 4/Sal 71, 1-2. 14 y 15. 17/
Lc 4, 14-22
Viernes: 1 Jn 5, 5-13/Sal 147, 12-13. 14-15. 19-20/
Lc 5, 12-16
Sábado: 1 Jn 5, 14-21/Sal 149, 1-2. 3-4. 5 y 6 y 9/
Jn 3, 22-30
Domingo: Is 42, 1-4. 6-7/Sal 28, 1-2. 3-4. 3. 9-10/
Hch 10, 34-38/Mt 3, 13-17

Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 4 de enero de 2026

Domingo: Día de la Epifanía del Señor
Lunes: San Juan Neumann, obispo
Martes: San André Bessette, religioso
Miércoles: San Raimundo de Peñafort, sacerdote
Domingo: El Bautismo del Señor

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflexión: De todas las estrellas que podrías seguir, ¿cuál te dice la voz, esa que estás en lo profundo de ti, que persigas? Señálala. Y adelante.

Las Estrellas que Seguimos

Todo el mundo sigue una estrella.

Es parte de la naturaleza humana buscar. Si somos ricos, queremos ser más ricos. Si somos inteligentes, queremos ser más inteligentes. Si somos poderosos, queremos ser más poderosos.

No podemos quedarnos en un solo lugar, por así decirlo, para decir: "Soy lo que soy, tengo lo que tengo y es suficiente". Incluso el acto mismo de mantener un estatus quo, ya sea salud, riqueza o bondad espiritual, requiere acción. Requiere esfuerzo. Requiere movimiento. Esta es la naturaleza humana. No hay nada de malo en ello. Cuando dejamos de buscar, morimos.

Pero ¿qué buscamos? ¿Adónde vamos?

A menudo me pregunto si los Reyes Magos sabían lo que estaban buscando, si realmente lo sabían. Buscaban al "rey recién nacido de los judíos", sí, pero ¿entendían quién era? ¿Qué era? No veo cómo podrían haberlo hecho. Eran

hombres sabios, pero no eran profetas. Simplemente sabían que este era un esfuerzo que tenían que emprender. Lo sabían en sus almas.

Realmente hay muy poco que sepamos con certeza sobre los Reyes Magos. No sabemos cuántos de ellos había. No conocemos su religión. No sabemos de dónde vinieron. Todo lo que sabemos con certeza es que oyeron una voz que escucharon en lo profundo de sí mismos. Y, prestando atención a esa voz, se fueron.

¿Y qué encontraron? Encontraron lo que todos buscamos, incluso si, tontamente, lo buscamos en riquezas o poder.

Encontraron el rostro del Niño.

Así que dime esto. De todas las estrellas que podrías seguir, ¿cuál te dice la voz, esa que estás en lo profundo de ti, que persigas?

Señálala. Y adelante.

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

Hoy celebramos la Solemnidad de la Epifanía, y el evangelio narra la presencia de tres reyes magos que buscaban a Jesús para adorarlo y llevarle regalos. *"Al entrar en la casa, vieron al niño con María, su madre; se arrodillaron y lo adoraron. Abrieron sus cofres y le ofrecieron regalos de oro, incienso y mirra"* (Mateo 2:11). Los magos representan a todos los pueblos y razas. La misericordia de Dios queda manifestada en su Hijo. *"Señor Dios, que en este día manifestaste a tu Unigénito a las naciones guiándolas por la estrella, concede a los que ya te conocemos por la fe que lleguemos a contemplar la hermosura de tu excelsa gloria..."* (Oración colecta).

El evangelio nos dice también que los magos, al ver la estrella de nuevo, se llenaron de alegría. ¿Qué estrella seguimos nosotros? ¿Quién nos orienta? Cabe reflexionar un poco sobre la misión de la Iglesia, que es llevar la luz del Evangelio a todos y a todas las culturas. Entonces, ¿cuál es mi misión específicamente? Será favorecer la Epifanía, es decir, manifestar a Dios desde nuestro entorno y vocación con sencillez y humildad. Vivimos en un mundo de retos y de mucha violencia, donde los derechos y la dignidad humana son pisoteados por los Herodes de nuestro tiempo. Nuestra tarea es seguir luchando para que tu Luz brille en las tinieblas y la esperanza siga viva en cada hijo e hija tuya que te busca con fe para adorarte. Porque Tú eres para todos.

©LPi

HÌNH ẢNH THÁNH LỄ MỪNG CHÚA GIĂNG SINH 2025



Chương trình làm Bánh Chung - Bánh Tét gây quỹ Tết Bính Ngọ

Năm hết Tết đến cùng nhau đón chào mùa Xuân mới Bính Ngọ. Cộng đoàn chúng ta sẽ tổ chức chương trình làm bánh chung – bánh tét bán Tết nhằm gây quỹ cho các sinh hoạt mục vụ.

Kính mời quý ông bà, anh chị em quảng đại **tham gia tình nguyện** trong các công việc như: Lau lá - Làm nhân - Gói bánh - Nấu bánh - Và các phần việc hỗ trợ khác.

Đây là **chương trình gây quỹ chính của Cộng đoàn trong năm**. Chúng con tha thiết mong nhận được sự chung tay của mọi người. **Sự hiện diện, hy sinh và đóng góp của quý vị là món quà quý giá Chúa ban cho Cộng đoàn**, giúp chúng ta tiếp tục sứ vụ phục vụ và xây dựng đời sống đức tin chung.

Thời gian : Bắt đầu từ 9:00 sáng Thứ Bảy, **ngày 24/01/2026**, và tiếp tục cho đến **hết ngày 15/02/2026**.

Địa điểm : Tại Hội trường Giáo xứ Thánh Polycarp

Rất mong được gặp lại đông đảo quý cộng đoàn trong những ngày làm việc đầy niềm vui và tình thân ái.





LIÊN NHÓM CURSILLO

CỘNG ĐOÀN ST. POLYCARP

Cursillo là một phong trào của Giáo Hội Công Giáo, trực thuộc Hội Đồng Giáo Hoàng Đặc Trách Giáo Dân và đã được các Đức Giáo Hoàng tiến nhiệm chúc lành. Nhân Đại hội Cursillo Thế giới kỳ I tại Rôma ngày 20/5/1966, Đức Phaolô VI đã chọn **Thánh Phaolô Tông Đồ** làm bốn mạng của phong trào.

Từ Cursillo trong tiếng Tây Ban Nha có nghĩa là **"khóa học ngắn"**, được hiểu như một **cuộc tái thẩm định đức tin Công giáo ở mức độ trưởng thành**, đồng thời là **một phương thể canh tân đời sống Kitô hữu**.

Phong trào Cursillo được hình thành với sứ mạng **Phúc Âm hóa thế giới**, cũng là mục tiêu chung của Giáo Hội.

- ★ Giúp các Cursillistas sống những nền tảng căn bản của đời sống Kitô hữu: yêu mến Thiên Chúa và yêu thương tha nhân, được nuôi dưỡng qua ba cuộc gặp gỡ thiết yếu: **gặp gỡ chính mình, gặp gỡ Đức Kitô, và gặp gỡ tha nhân**.
- ★ Đặt Kitô giáo làm trụ cột trong đời sống xã hội, qua việc sống đức tin giữa đời thường và tiếp tục củng cố ba cuộc gặp gỡ nền tảng ấy.

Phong trào triển khai qua ba giai đoạn:

1. **Tiền Cursillo** - con người tìm kiếm Đức Kitô.
2. **Khóa Cursillo** - con người gặp gỡ Đức Kitô.
3. **Hậu Cursillo** - con người bước theo Đức Kitô trong sứ mạng Phúc Âm hóa môi trường, kiên trì trong **"ngày Thứ Tư"** qua **Hội nhóm** và **Ultreya**, là những phương thể giúp Cursillistas bền đỗ và trở nên men trong đời.

Sức mạnh của Cursillo phát xuất từ **Ơn Chúa** và sự **đồng hành huynh đệ**, được diễn tả qua câu tâm niệm: **"Một tay nắm Chúa, một tay nắm lấy anh chị em mình"** và **"De Colores"** mang ý nghĩa thiêng liêng: đó là niềm vui, sự tươi mới và cái nhìn đầy hy vọng khi con người cảm nhận được tình yêu Thiên Chúa trong cuộc sống.

Nhóm **sinh hoạt** vào **Chúa nhật đầu tháng lúc 5g15 chiều** tại Phòng Mục Vụ Giáo xứ St. Polycarp

Liên nhóm trưởng: **Nguyễn Hoàng Liên Châu - 714-468-7096**



PSA 2025

Thank You for your support

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2025 Pastoral Service Appeal (PSA). This year, 494 families participated, and we have already paid \$218,753.00. Our expected rebate of \$120,753.00 is being used to improve and repair our church and our school building facilities. We deeply appreciate your generosity and continued support.

St. Polycarp Catholic Church
8100 Chapman Ave.
Stanton, CA 90680
www.stpolycarp.org
(714) 893-2766

THE CHURCHES IN AFRICA, EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE, AND LATIN AMERICA

2ND COLLECTION

1/10/2026 – 1/11/2026

Your generous support for this collection helps provide lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and many other programs that share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. Please give generously.

Your generous financial support is appreciated.

ST. POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

—2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)

May God's peace be upon you and remain with you throughout the year.

How to Share Your Faith With Anyone Workshop



Saturday, January 10, 2026, 8:30am–3:30pm

Christ Cathedral Pastoral Center
Auditorium, 4th Floor
13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA

PRESENTER
Adam Janke
President,
St. Paul Street Evangelization

You Will Learn:

- How to talk about your faith naturally
- How to share your story of what God has done in your life
- How to invite others to take one small step closer to Jesus

Cost: \$15
stpaulse.com/gardengrove

SAINT PAUL STREET EVANGELIZATION

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of ORANGE

50th Anniversary

Fr. Chris Heath

What's a nice priest like me doing in a place like Archives?

The surprising connections between my personal story and the Diocese of Orange.

Join us as Fr. Chris shares, through photographs and his quick wit, ties in diocesan history, his family story, and his vocation, as well as an explanation of the archives department. This faith filled and fun event is not to be missed!

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Irvine
Tuesday, January 20, 2026
10:00 am (check in 9:45)
12:00 pm Lunch
\$30 includes lunch

RSVP by January 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

Wedding Banns

01/10—Lan Do & Jadon Vu
01/10—Christopher Doan & Delina Nguyen
01/17—Maricruz & Luis Gallegos

Funerals

01/05—Doris Bonnici (10 AM)
01/10—Ivan Manzana (10 AM)

Greetings, St. Polycarp Catholic Church!

My name is Deacon Francis Ang, and I was recently ordained on December 6, 2025. I am a transitional deacon which is a deacon that is on his way to the priesthood! God-willing I will be ordained a priest this coming June.

Bishop Vann and the diocese have assigned me here to this beautiful parish for my diaconal assignment for the next six months. I look forward to meeting you and serving you.

A little information about me: I am an Anaheim native, born and raised. My home parish growing up is St. Boniface. I grew up attending St. Catherine's Military Academy followed by Loara High School.

Before entering the seminary, I worked as a Registered Nurse. It was through caring for the suffering and dying that I began to hear the Lord's call to serve him through the vocation of the priesthood.

Please know of my prayers for you as I begin my ministry. Please also pray for all those discerning a vocation to the priesthood and consecrated life.

In Christ,
Francis Ang

¡Saludos, Iglesia Católica de San Policarpo!

Soy Diácono Francis Ang y fui ordenado recientemente, el 6 de diciembre de 2025. Soy un diácono transitorio, lo cual significa que soy un diácono que está en camino al sacerdocio. Dios mediante, seré ordenado sacerdote este próximo mes de junio.

El Obispo Vann y la diócesis me han asignado a esta hermosa parroquia para ejercer mi ministerio diaconal durante los próximos seis meses. Espero con alegría conocerles y servirles.

Un poco sobre mí: Soy nativo de Anaheim, nacido y criado aquí. La parroquia de mi infancia es San Bonifacio. Asistí estudios en St. Catherine's Military Academy y posteriormente en Loara High School.

Antes de entrar al seminario, trabajé como enfermero por cinco años. Fue al cuidar a los enfermos y a los moribundos que comencé a escuchar el llamado del Señor a servirle en la vocación sacerdotal.

Cuenten con mis oraciones por ustedes al comenzar mi ministerio. Por favor, oren también por todos los que discernen la vocación al sacerdocio y a la vida consagrada.

En Cristo,
Diacono Francis



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations
as it has now been revealed
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body.
(Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

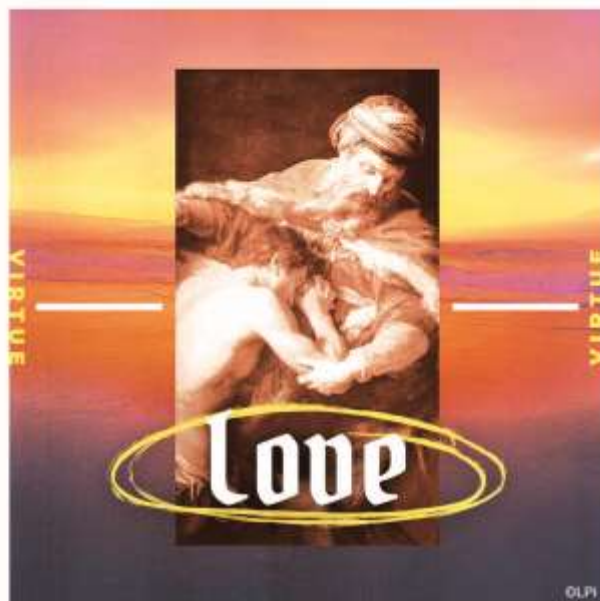
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The journey of the Magi reflects how treacherous our Christian life on earth can be. Always, evil works against us — Satan lays traps. He sows confusion. May we, like the Magi, recognize the will of God as our guiding star.

Observances for the week of January 4, 2026

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord
Monday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
Tuesday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Wednesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord



Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of love seeks the good of the other, a reflection of the love of God who created us for this very purpose. In practicing this virtue, we express the fullness of our identities as sons and daughters of God. In true Christian love, we find freedom.

Epiphany Blessing

Dear God,
It was You who inspired the Magi to follow the star to find You.
Inspire us to seek You, as well.
Bless our homes and families this season, make them places where we can encounter You through prayer and community.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice — that one deep within you — tell you to chase? Point to it. And go forth.

The Stars We Follow
Everyone follows a star.

It is human nature to seek. If we are rich, we want to be richer. If we are smart, we want to be smarter. If we are powerful, we want to be more powerful.

We cannot stay in one place, so to speak — to say, “I am what I am, I have what I have, and it is enough.” Even the very act of maintaining a status quo, be it health or wealth or spiritual goodness, requires action. It requires effort. It requires movement. This is human nature. There is nothing wrong with it. When we stop seeking, we die.

But what are we looking for? Where are we going?

I often wonder if the Magi knew what they were seeking — really, truly knew. They were seeking “the newborn king of the Jews,” yes, but did they understand who he was? *What* he was? I don’t see how they could have. They were wise men, but they were not prophets. They simply knew this was an endeavor they had to undertake. They knew it in their souls.

There really is very little that we know for certain about the Magi. We don’t know how many of them there were. We don’t know their religion. We don’t know where they came from. All we know for certain is that they listened to a voice they heard deep within themselves. And, heeding that voice, they went forth.

And what did they find? They found what we all seek, even if, foolishly, we seek it in riches or power.

They found the face of the Child.

So tell me this. Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice — that one deep within you — tell you to chase?

Point to it. And go forth.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Magi, Three Kings, Three Wise Men... who were they?

Answer:

We sing songs, give gifts, and move three mysterious men into our manger scenes. There’s a rich heritage in the Catholic Church of celebrating the magi, but their origins are steeped in mystery. The original Greek calls these men *magoi*. The word is translated elsewhere in Scripture to mean “magician,” but a similar word was used in ancient history to describe an entirely different set of people altogether. In what is now modern-day Iran, the ruling empire had a wealthy priestly caste known as the Magi. At the time of Christ, the Magi formed one of the ruling councils of the Parthian Empire. These priests interpreted dreams and read the stars to anticipate major events that could affect the fortunes of the empire.

We’re not exactly sure where the magi of the Gospels traveled from. Matthew simply says “the east.” History tells us that the ancient regions of Persia, Assyria, and Babylon all had a magi priesthood at the time of Christ. Whichever region they hailed from, they likely traveled over one thousand miles over the course of several months to arrive at the Holy Family. Unfortunately for the classic song, there is no concrete evidence these men were themselves kings, though they did bear gifts “from afar” at the prompting of their astronomical calculations.



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