

# 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)

## EUCHARISTIC 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

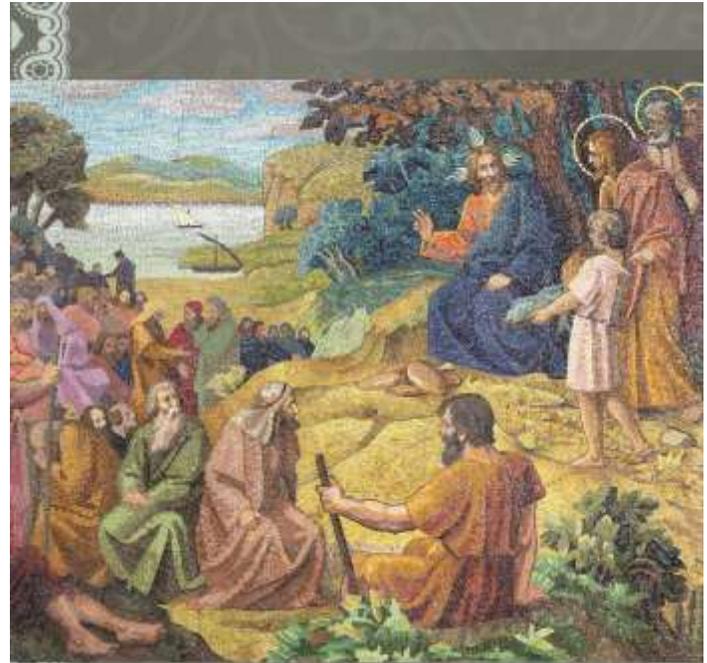
*Sunday*

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

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

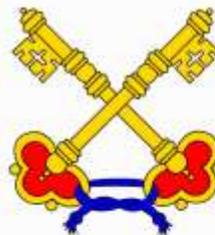
BULLETIN: [editor@stpolycarp.org](mailto:editor@stpolycarp.org)



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

"When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him." Mt 5:1



## POPE'S INTENTION - FEBRUARY

*For Children with Incurable Diseases*

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

## FEBRUARY 1, 2026



## Las lecturas de la semana del 1 de febrero

- Domingo:** Sof 2, 3; 3, 12-13/Sal 145, 6-7. 8-9. 9-10/  
1 Co 1, 26-31/Mt 5, 1-12
- Lunes:** Mal 3, 1-4/Sal 23, 7. 8. 9. 10/Heb 2, 14-18/  
Lc 2, 22-40 o 2, 22-32
- Martes:** 2 Sm 18, 9-10. 14. 24-25. 30-19, 3/Sal 85, 1-2.  
3-4. 5-6/Mc 5, 21-43
- Miércoles:** 2 Sm 24, 2. 9-17/Sal 31, 1-2. 5. 6. 7/Mc 6, 1-6
- Jueves:** 1 Re 2, 1-4. 10-12/1 Cr 29, 10. 11. 11-12. 12/  
Mc 6, 7-13
- Viernes:** Eclo 47, 2-11/Sal 17, 31. 47 y 50. 51/Mc 6, 14-29
- Sábado:** 1 Re 3, 4-13/Sal 118, 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14/  
Mc 6, 30-34
- Domingo:** Is 58, 7-10/Sal 111, 4-5. 6-7. 8-9/1 Co 2, 1-5/  
Mt 5, 13-16

## Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 1 de febrero

- Domingo:** 4º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario
- Lunes:** La Presentación de Jesús,  
Día Mundial de la Vida Consagrada
- Martes:** San Blas, obispo y mártir; San Óscar, obispo
- Jueves:** Santa Águeda, virgen y mártir
- Viernes:** San Pablo Miki y compañeros, mártires
- Domingo:** 5º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario;  
Día Mundial del Matrimonio

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini reflexión:** Qué similares somos todos en pecado. Qué similares somos todos en potencial. Qué diferentes nos vemos para el mundo. Y, sin embargo, qué maravilloso es que a todos se nos ofrezca la misma esperanza: "Alégrese y salten de contento, porque su premio será grande en los cielos".

### Lo que Permanece Igual

En algún lugar, hay un monje cuya vida es muy tranquila y que dedica largas horas a la oración. Y en algún lugar hay una monja, enclaustrada en una vida de contemplación, que habla muy poco excepto a Dios.

En algún lugar, hay un padre cuyos días están llenos de ruido, que no ha terminado un Rosario en años porque se queda dormido. En algún lugar hay una madre cuya voz esta débil de dar dirección y ofrecer consejos.

En algún lugar, hay una adolescente con mucho que decir, pero pocas personas para escuchar, muchas menos de lo que le gustaría.

En algún lugar hay una mujer que tiene una prueba de embarazo positiva en una mano y un teléfono en la otra, y en algún lugar hay un hombre al otro lado de ese teléfono que espera a que ella hable.

En las Bienaventuranzas, Jesús utiliza un recurso literario llamado *anáfora*. Tanto como lectora como escritora, me encanta la anáfora. Es una forma limpia y sencilla de comunicar un punto. Al repetir la misma palabra o frase al comienzo de las cláusulas sucesivas, básicamente estás diciendo lo mismo una y otra vez, solo que un poco diferente cada vez. Esas pequeñas diferencias provocan el cerebro de tu audiencia, resaltando suavemente las consistencias.

El discipulado se parece mucho a la anáfora. Son las diferencias, esas pequeñas aberraciones de persona a persona, de vida a vida, las que ilustran tan bellamente lo que permanece igual en el amplio espectro de lo que significa vivir las Bienaventuranzas.

Yo. Tú. El monje. La monja. El padre. La madre. La chica solitaria. El hombre y la mujer que decidieron su propio futuro sin darse cuenta. Cuán similares somos todos en pecado. Qué similares somos todos en potencial. Qué diferente nos vemos para el mundo.

Y, sin embargo, qué maravilloso es que a todos se nos ofrezca la misma esperanza: "Alégrese y salten de contento, porque su premio será grande en los cielos".

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

Las lecturas de este domingo son tan fuertes en cuanto a la pobreza y la humildad, que parecen no concordar con la sociedad actual. Existen ciertas realidades en el mundo donde los pobres, los humildes y los inmigrantes no tienen cabida en los planes de los ricos y poderosos. Sin embargo, para consuelo ante esta situación, esto ya ocurría en tiempos del profeta Sofonías. Fijémonos en sus palabras: "*Busquen al Señor ustedes, todos los humildes de la tierra, los que cumplen sus preceptos; practiquen la justicia y busquen la humildad; tal vez esto los proteja el día de la ira del Señor*" (Sofonías 2:3). Son los pobres y los sencillos quienes siempre están buscando y confiando en Dios. Optar por la pobreza es un verdadero don del Espíritu Santo, que implica servir y trabajar por el Reino de Dios. La pobreza de espíritu debe penetrar el mundo con la ternura y la misericordia de Dios. Cada bautizado debe asumir la responsabilidad de hacer que esto suceda.

Las bienaventuranzas proclamadas por Jesús en el Evangelio de hoy son una enseñanza clave para la vida diaria. Al escuchar su Palabra, nos sentimos bienaventurados y también comprometidos a decir "sí", como María, a la voluntad del Padre. "*Debemos buscar juntos cómo ser una Iglesia misionera, una Iglesia que construya puentes de diálogo, siempre abierta a recibir con los brazos abiertos a todos, a todos aquellos que necesitan nuestra caridad, nuestra presencia, el diálogo y el amor*" (Papa León XIV). Esto nos hará felices como comunidad y como sociedad. ¡Felices al estilo de Jesús!

# CHƯƠNG TRÌNH LÀM BÁNH CHUNG - BÁNH TẾT

Từ 26/01/2026 đến 15/02/2026, Cộng Đoàn sẽ thực hiện chương trình làm Bánh Chung, Bánh Tết để bán trong dịp Tết, đây là dịp sinh hoạt cho cả cộng đoàn và là chương trình gây quỹ chính của cộng đoàn, công việc cần rất nhiều thiện nguyện viên.

Chúng con kính mời quý vị nếu có giờ rảnh xin đến hội trường giúp một tay. Cộng Đoàn sẽ lo phần ăn trưa và ăn tối cho quý thiện nguyện viên.

Công việc sẽ bắt đầu từ 9:00am - 3:00pm và 6:00pm - 9:00pm mỗi ngày.



Giáo xứ Thánh Polycarp xin thành kính phân ưu cùng tang quyến trước sự ra đi của

**Chị MARIA PHẠM THỊ NGỌC HẠNH**

Hiển thê của anh Nguyễn Hoàng Nghị,  
Ái nữ của ông Phạm Văn Hàm và bà Phạm Thị Nhung,  
đã được Chúa gọi về ngày 17 tháng 1 năm 2026

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

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

“Chúng ta biết rằng: nếu ngôi nhà trần thế này bị phá hủy, chúng ta có một nơi ở vĩnh cửu trên trời.” (2 Cr 5,1)

## THÁNH LỄ AN TÁNG

Cộng đoàn được tin **Cụ Ông GIUSE ĐẶNG VĂN THỊNH**

đã được Chúa gọi về ngày 21/01/2026 tại Bệnh viện UCI - California - **Hưởng thọ 85 tuổi.**

Cụ là một thành viên kỳ cựu và là hội viên của Đoàn Liên Minh Thánh Tâm cùng nhiều hội đoàn khác, đã nhiệt thành đóng góp cho Cộng đoàn ngay từ những ngày đầu thành lập,

Chương trình **Tang Lễ** sẽ được cử hành tại **Thánh đường Giáo xứ Thánh Polycarp:**

**Thứ Năm**

**ngày 05/02/2026**

**9:30 sáng:** Nghi thức Phát tang & Làm phép xác  
**10:00 - 11:30 sáng:** Thăm viếng & Cầu nguyện  
**12:00 trưa:** Thánh lễ An Táng

Sau Thánh lễ thi hài của Cụ được an táng tại Nghĩa trang Chúa Chiên Lành

Xin Cộng Đoàn bớt chút thời gian cùng đến hiệp dâng Thánh Lễ và hiệp ý cầu nguyện để cùng tiễn đưa

**Cụ Ông Giuse Đặng Văn Thịnh** đến nơi an nghỉ cuối cùng.



CỘNG ĐOÀN ĐỨC MARIA MẸ THIÊN CHÚA  
GIÁO XỨ THÁNH POLYCARP

# Chúc Mừng Năm Mới

## CÁC MẶT HÀNG BÁN TẾT BÌNH NGỌ 2026

Bánh Chung	\$ 28.00/cái
Bánh Tét	\$ 28.00/cái
Dưa Món	\$ 10.00/hủ
Chà Bông (hộp nhỏ)	\$ 13.00/hộp
Chà Bông (hộp lớn)	\$ 26.00/hộp
Giò Thủ (cây nhỏ)	\$ 18.00/cây
Giò Thủ (cây lớn)	\$ 25.00/cây
Giò Lụa	\$ 18.00/cây
Nem Chua Bò	\$ 16.00/cây
Khô Gà Sate Lá Chanh	\$ 15.00/hộp
Đậu Phộng Sate Tỏi	\$ 12.00/hộp
Cơm Cháy	\$ 13.00/hộp
Bánh Quế	\$ 12.00/hộp
Bánh Hạnh Nhân	\$ 15.00/hộp
Kẹo Đậu Phộng Gương	\$ 15.00/hộp

### Dành cho các Cộng Đoàn / Hội Đoàn

Số lượng đặt hàng trên 100 Bánh Chung/  
Bánh Tét và thanh toán một lần sẽ có giá  
đặc biệt \$ 25.00/bánh.

## Gian Hàng Tết

ĐỂ ĐẶT MUA HÀNG XIN LIÊN LẠC  
CÁC THÀNH VIÊN CỦA BAN THƯỜNG VỤ

Anh Nguyễn Phước Thắng	(714) 553 6065
Chị Phùng Thụy Ái Đơn	(714) 260 4798
Chị Đỗ Thanh Hòa	(714) 702 3171
Chị Trần Thảo Katie	(714) 452 4684

Gian hàng Tết của Cộng Đoàn mở cửa phục vụ

Thứ Hai đến Thứ Sáu: 9:00AM - 4:00PM và 6:00PM - 9:00PM.

Thứ Bảy: 9:00AM - 8:30PM 🌸 Chúa Nhật: 9:00AM - 5:30PM

Ban Tổ Chức Tết Bình Ngọ trân trọng kính mời

### Funerals

- 01/31—Carmen Rios (10 AM)
- 02/02—Albina Flores Valzamar (10AM)
- 02/05—Giuse Dang Van Thinh (12PM)
- 02/06—Joseph Valadez (1PM)
- 02/07—Anna Nu Thi Nguyen (9:30AM)

### Wedding Banns

- 02/14—Joel Gomez & Nayeli Pablo

## NATIONAL NEEDS COLLECTION

### 2ND COLLECTION



## 2/7/2026 & 2/8/2026

Through this combined collection, we join together in supporting the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the Catholic Communication Campaign, Catholic Home Missions, and the Catholic University of America.

Your generous financial support is appreciated.

St. Polycarp Catholic Church [www.stpolycarp.org](http://www.stpolycarp.org)

## February 18, 2026

- MASSSES - in the church
- 6:30 am (English)
  - 8:30 am (English)
  - 4:00 pm (Vietnamese)
  - 6:00 pm (Vietnamese)
  - 8:00 pm (Spanish)

  
**Ash**  
Wednesday

- Ash Services only - in the hall
- 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
  - 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm (English/Spanish)

 SAINT POLYCARP  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

SAINT POLYCARP WARMLY INVITES THE ENTIRE PARISH COMMUNITY TO JOURNEY TOGETHER IN PRAYER AND REFLECTION ON THE PASSION OF CHRIST THROUGH THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS. ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE AS WE WALK TOGETHER IN FAITH DURING THIS LENTEN SEASON.

### SCHEDULE

EVERY FRIDAY BEGINNING FEBRUARY 20, 2026, THROUGH MARCH 27, 2026

- 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM | ENGLISH
- 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM | VIETNAMESE
- 7:30 PM - 8:00 PM | SPANISH



  
SAINT POLYCARP  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## Pro Sanctity Movement Lenten Prayer Group

Join us weekly on Thursday mornings for coffee and refreshments as we pray with the Sunday Gospel.

Where: St. Polycarp Room  
When: Thursday Mornings  
(Feb. 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19, 26)  
after 8:30 AM Mass until 10:30 AM

No registration is needed.  
Please contact Cathy McDonnell for any questions at 714-496-9597

Pro Sanctity is an International Catholic lay movement founded by the Servant of God, Guglielmo Giaguinta, in 1947. Its mission is to lead our brothers and sisters on the path of holiness and to elicit in everyone a total response of love to God's infinite love. Pro Sanctity offers people specific spiritual opportunities to help them respond to this universal call in three ways: personal holiness, communal holiness, and societal holiness. The Apostolic Oblates are consecrated women who support and spread the message of Pro Sanctity, assisting in bringing about a "world of saints, a world of brothers and sisters."



## PSA 2026 REPORT

AS OF 01/27/2026

# PLEDGES RECEIVED: 69

AMOUNT PLEDGED: \$22,690.00

TOTAL PAID: \$16,899.00

OUR 2026 PSA GOAL: \$109,760.00



Thank You!

SAINT POLYCARP  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
[www.stpolycarp.org](http://www.stpolycarp.org)



  
NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

## Diocesan Wedding Anniversaries Mass

**Saturday, February 7 at 11AM  
Arboretum at Christ Cathedral**

Join us for the annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversaries Mass with the blessing of couples and renewal of consent. This event is extra special in 2026 since it coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of Orange. Bishop Thanh Thai Nguyen will be presiding at Mass at 11 a.m., with reception in the Cultural Center Lobby to follow!

 RSVP by scanning the QR code or visiting [rcbo.org/marriage-week](http://rcbo.org/marriage-week)

 **THE DIOCESE of ORANGE**  
JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY



*St. Michael's Abbey presents:*



## CATECHISM-THEOLOGY CLASS for ADULTS

*This course covers the Church's major Creeds and such important theological topics as the Trinity, the Incarnation & Redemption, Sin & Grace, and the Nature of the Church. Expertise not required—just an eagerness to learn more about our beautiful Catholic Faith!*

- > Class Meets Every Tuesday, 6 - 8 PM.
- > Opportunity to follow the class via ZOOM (though in-person attendance is strongly encouraged).

Hosted by Fr. Alan Benander, O.Praem.



## WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

**"The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing the pain of the other".**

**ROSARY: 9:15 AM**  
**MASS: 10:00 AM**

 **Christ Cathedral:**  
13280 Chapman Avenue  
Garden Grove CA 92840

Presided by  
**Most Reverend Timothy E. Freyer, D.D.**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Orange

### Saturday, February 14, 2026

INCLUDING THE SACRAMENTAL RITE OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

**HOW SICK DOES ONE NEED TO BE TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT?**

Anointing of the sick is a Sacrament of the Church and is offered to one who is dangerous ill due to sickness, injury or old age. The Sacrament is for serious mental or emotional illness as well. While we should not be excessively concerned about the degree of seriousness of the condition, the casual participation in the sacrament must be avoided in good conscience.

 **THE DIOCESE of ORANGE**  
JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY

 **SPONSORED BY  
THE ORDER OF MALTA**



### LENTEN MORNING OF REFLECTION

Very Reverend Christopher H. Smith, Rector Emeritus, Christ Cathedral  
**LENT 2026: A TIME OF POSSIBILITY, VISION  
AND THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE**

Saturday, February 28, 2026  
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
St. Cecilia Church/Msgr. Sammon Hall  
1301 Sycamore Ave., Tustin, CA 92780  
8:00 - 8:20 AM - Registration  
8:30 AM - Mass  
9:15 AM - Continental Breakfast  
9:45 AM - Lenten Presentation by Fr. Christopher

Previewing the Gospel stories from three Sundays  
of Lent this year, we will journey with Jesus as He meets the Samaritan woman at the well of possibility, extends His healing touch of vision to the man born blind, and raises Lazarus from the dead, giving us the promise of eternal life which changes everything.

Suggested Donation \$20.00  
Presented by Serra Club, City of Orange  
Reservations - Deadline Feb. 23, 2026

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send form & check made to: Serra Club, City of Orange  
to: Beverly Truzzolino  
Call /text 714-642-6455 for address, questions or Zelle



ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY  
RETREATS

# You Are the Fairest Honor of Our Race: THE BEAUTY OF OUR LADY

*Come and learn about  
the beauty of Our Lady  
through the eyes of Ven.  
Mary of Agreda, the great  
17th century mystic, and  
grow in devotion to our  
Mother and Queen!*

REGISTER ONLINE.  
COST: \$50  
LUNCH NOT INCLUDED

**FEBRUARY 21, 2026**  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY  
CONFERENCE CENTER



Fr. Jacob Hsieh, O.Praem.

27977 SILVERADO CANYON RD  
SILVERADO, CA 92676 • (657) 314-9071  
stmichaelsabbey.com/retreats



*Beginning Experience*  
listen accompany heal

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

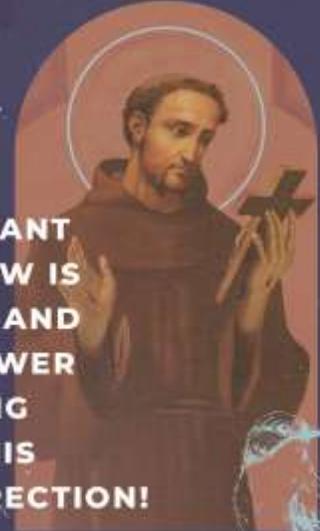
**March 13 - 15, 2026: Weekend**

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



Beginning-experience-of-orange-county-ny-cosmo-atts-or-BEGC2015@gmail.com

“  
**ALL I WANT  
TO KNOW IS  
CHRIST AND  
THE POWER  
FLOWING  
FROM HIS  
RESURRECTION!**  
”



- ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

WISDOM AND FORTITUDE



# February: month of the **HOLY FAMILY**



ELPI



**JUNE 14 TO JULY 9**



**2026**

# SUMMER FUN

## UNPLUG. EXPLORE. BELONG

FOR BOYS ENTERING 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



### ADMISSIONS NOW OPEN!

EARLY BIRD PRICING EXPIRES SOON!

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

But I will leave as a remnant in your midst  
a people humble and lowly. (Zep 3:12)

### Psalm:

Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!  
(Ps 146)  
Or Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise,  
and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong.  
(1 Cor 1:27)

### Gospel:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 5:3)

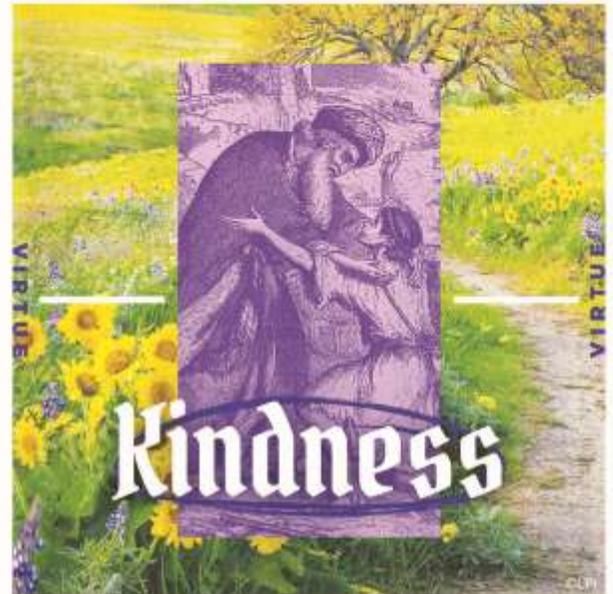
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD,  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,  
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Blessed are the poor, the meek, the  
persecuted. These are radical words in a  
world that insists the opposite: blessed  
are the wealthy. Blessed are the forceful.  
Blessed are the comfortable. Do we have  
what it takes to be radical?

## Observances for the week of February 1, 2026

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Monday:** The Presentation of the Lord,  
World Day for Consecrated Life  
**Tuesday:** St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr;  
St. Ansgar, Bishop  
**Thursday:** St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr  
**Friday:** St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs  
**Next Sunday:** 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
World Marriage Day



## Virtues, Explained!

Also known as benevolence or  
beneficence and derived from  
the theological virtue of charity,  
kindness is a way of seeing others  
through the eyes of God, who has  
adopted us as His own.

## Bless Us, Lord

Jesus,  
You are good and gracious, every  
moment of every day. You invite  
us to be meek, merciful, clean of  
heart, peacemakers. Give us the  
grace to seek these virtues, and  
to seek you. May your blessing  
accompany us on our way.  
Amen.

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** How similar we all are in sin. How similar we all are in potential. How different we look to the world. And yet, how wondrous it is that we are all offered the same hope: "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven."

### What Stays the Same

Somewhere, there is a monk whose life is very quiet and who devotes long hours to prayer. And somewhere there is a nun, cloistered in a life of contemplation, who speaks very little except to God.

Somewhere, there is a father whose days are filled with noise, who hasn't finished a Rosary in years because he keeps falling asleep. Somewhere there is a mother whose voice is weak with giving direction and offering counsel.

Somewhere, there is a teenage girl with much to say, but few people to listen — fewer, at least, than she would like.

Somewhere there is a woman who holds a positive pregnancy test in one hand and a phone in the other, and somewhere there is a man on the other end of that phone who waits for her to speak.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus utilizes a literary device called anaphora. Both as a reader and a writer, I love anaphora. It's a clean, unfussy way to communicate a point. By repeating the same word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses, you're basically saying the same thing over and over again, just a little bit differently each time. Those small differences tease at your audience's brain, gently highlighting the consistencies.

Discipleship is a lot like anaphora. It's the differences — those little aberrations from person to person, life to life — that so beautifully illustrate what remains the same across the broad spectrum of what it means to live out the Beatitudes.

Me. You. The monk. The nun. The father. The mother. The lonely girl. The man and woman who decided their own future without realizing it. How similar we all are in sin. How similar we all are in potential. How different we look to the world.

And yet, how wondrous it is that we are all offered the same hope: "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven."

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Can you explain what we mean by a vocation or calling? I have heard this term used in many different contexts and am not sure what it means. Does it apply to religious life?

### Answer:

A vocation or calling refers to a spiritual experience whereby a person senses within oneself the closeness of God and what he is asking in one's life. It is a realization of what one's part in God's plan could be. Vocation comes in all kinds of ways. Some are as dramatic as St. Paul's, being knocked off his horse, blinded, and hearing God's voice. Others are less dramatic, often occurring over time through little events and personal interests. Others happen in a hurry, accompanied by great spiritual insight or conversion. We often think that this applies to religious vocation, but in fact, every Christian has a vocation, a calling to serve others in and through the church. Whether married or single, religious or lay, we are all called to live out our baptismal commitment to preach and teach the Gospel message. Each of us has our role to play in God's plan, and we become coworkers with God in the work of redemption. With a little confidence, a willing spirit and God's grace, we can and will respond to his unique call.



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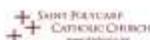
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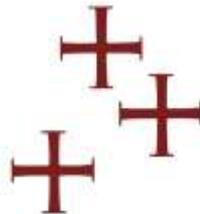
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