

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

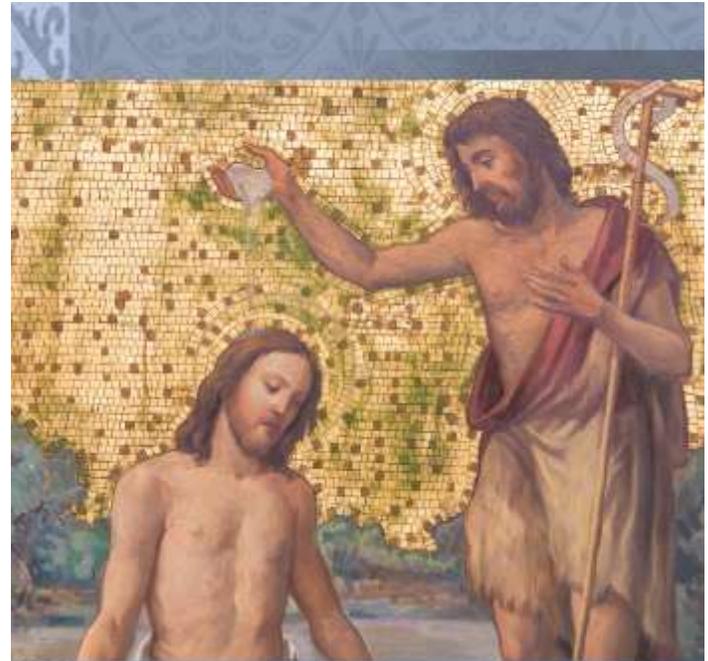
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Sunday

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

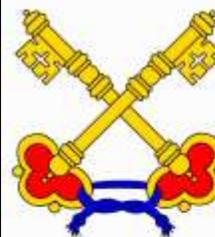
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

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



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"Behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him." Mt 3:16



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 11, 2026

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

Saturday, January 10, 2026

5:00 PM Raquel Matos✠ & Marietta Dietz Matos✠
7:00 PM Family Souls✠; All Ancestors✠

Sunday, January 11, 2026

7:30 AM Frank Hripko✠; Paul Lucia Quang Hien✠ & All Ancestors✠
9:00 AM Consuelo✠, Elias✠, & Jesus Patino✠; Reynaldo (birthday); Christopher Nicolas (presentation)
11:00 AM Bang Van Ly✠
1:00 PM Ma Luisa Portillo✠; Maria Hernandez Veloz✠; All Souls in Purgatory✠; Veronica Hernandez (recovery)
4:00 PM Ha Ai Chau & Minh Thu✠
6:00 PM Martha Canseco✠, Angel Escalante✠, Maria Angel Escalante✠ & Chela Canseco

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:30 AM Gerardo Munoz✠ & Alberto Munoz✠
8:30 AM H. Mai (birthday); Camila Damacio (presentation)
6:30 PM Carmen Vazquez✠; Enrique Salazar✠ & Angelina Salazar; Gustavo Montoya✠

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

6:30 AM Pham Thi My Linh✠; Nelia Padua✠
8:30 AM All Priests; Maria✠

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

6:30 AM John the Baptist✠ & Maria✠
8:30 AM Ricardo & Maria Dolore Becerra (48th anniversary)

Thursday, January 15, 2026

6:30 AM Socorro Herrera Gonzalez✠
8:30 AM Jocelyn Torres Gaspar✠; John C. Norton✠

Friday, January 16, 2026

6:30 AM Mario Angel Escalante✠; Martha Canseco✠ & Angel Escalante✠
8:30 AM Francisco✠ & Ramona Munoz✠; Catarina Hong Pham✠
6:30 PM Rufina Castaneda Hernandez✠; All Priests✠

Saturday, January 17, 2026

8:30 AM Julio Barboza✠ & Emilia Almaraz✠; Lourdes Carrera

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/
Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17
Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/
Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a,
8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/
Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/
Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Mk 2:13-17
Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/
1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



Jan 3/4 Masses	\$ 22,376.00
Jan 3/4 Online Giving	\$ 4,472.01
Total collection:	\$ 26,848.01

New Year's Masses— \$5,389.00

*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,

This weekend, Holy Mother Church celebrates the solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. According to the Church's liturgy, this solemnity marks the end of the Christmas Season and begins the liturgical Season of Ordinary Time.

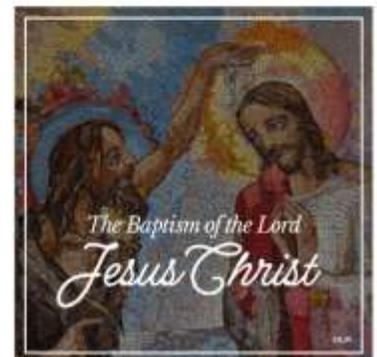
The Gospel of Matthew for this solemnity recounts the encounter and the conversation of Jesus and John the Baptist at the river of the Jordan in these words: "Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?' Jesus said to him in reply, 'Allow it now, for this it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.'" It is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness: what does this mean?

When Jesus allowed John the Baptist to baptize Him, He is revealing God's justice. In other words, by allowing John to baptize Him, Jesus fulfills the beginning of His mission—that is, to reveal and to bring to fulfillment the works of God the Father. Through His baptism at the Jordan, Jesus reveals to us His Father's justice. The late Pope Francis elaborated the meaning of justice as follow: "Very often have a limited idea of justice, and think that it means: those who do wrong pay, and in this way compensate for the wrong they have done. But God's justice, as the Scripture teaches, is much greater. It does not have the condemnation of the guilty as its end, but their salvation, rebirth and their being made righteous: from unjust to just. It is a justice that comes from love, from the depths of compassion and mercy that are the very heart of God, the Father who is moved when we are oppressed by evil and fall under the weight of sins and fragility" (Homily, 08 January 2023). Another beautiful way of seeing God's justice through mercy is well captured by the thought of Pope Benedict XVI, "God desired to save us by going to the bottom of this abyss himself so that every person, even those who have fallen so low that they can no longer perceive Heaven, may find God's hand to cling to and rise from the darkness to see once again the light for which he or she was made" (Homily, 12 January 2008).

As we begin the First Sunday of Ordinary Time with the solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, I invite you not to be afraid of God's mercy, even when you are in the depth of sins. God wants us in His Son, Jesus, to be just, to be cleansed, and to be loved. Therefore, do not be afraid to rise above the water of your own baptism, so that you can hear the voice of Jesus' Father saying to you: "You are my beloved son/daughter."

Joining my brother priests, and our new deacon Francis Ang, I bestow God's blessings upon you and your family. May Our Blessed Mother, Saint Joseph, and Saint Polycarp intercede for you before the throne of God.

Father Viet Peter Ho
Pastor



Las lecturas de la semana del 11 de enero de 2026

Domingo: Is 42, 1-4. 6-7/Sal 28, 1-2. 3-4. 3. 9-10/
Hch 10, 34-38/Mt 3, 13-17

Lunes: 1 Sm 1, 1-8/Sal 115, 12-13. 14-17. 18-19/
Mc 1, 14-20

Martes: 1 Sm 1, 9-20/1 Sam 2, 1. 4-5. 6-7. 8/Mc 1, 21-28

Miércoles: 1 Sm 3, 1-10. 19-20/Sal 39, 2 y 5. 7-8. 8-9. 10/
Mc 1, 29-39

Jueves: 1 Sm 4, 1-11/Sal 43, 10-11. 14-15. 24-25/
Mc 1, 40-45

Viernes: 1 Sm 8, 4-7. 10-22/Sal 88, 16-17. 18-19/
Mc 2, 1-12

Sábado: 1 Sm 9, 1-4. 17-19; 10, 1/Sal 20, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7/
Mc 2, 13-17

Domingo: Is 49, 3. 5-6/Sal 39, 2 y 4. 7-8. 8-9. 10/1 Co 1, 1-3/
Jn 1, 29-34

Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 11 de enero de 2026

Domingo: El Bautismo del Señor

Martes: San Hilario, obispo y doctor de la Iglesia

Sábado: San Antonio, abad

Domingo: 2º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflexión: Cuando la voz de Dios declara: "Este es mi Hijo amado, en quien me complace", se refiere, por supuesto, a Jesús. Pero creo que diría lo mismo de Juan el Bautista, y de todos aquellos que dan la bienvenida a Jesús en las aguas, listos para hacer lo que él les ordene.

Cuando Jesús se Mete

Por lo general, cuando Dios viene a nosotros, no estamos listos.

Creemos que lo estamos. Como Juan el Bautista, estamos en nuestras aguas del bautismo, seguros de nuestra misión. Sabemos cómo va a ir. Sabemos lo que se nos va a pedir. Estamos seguros de ello.

Cristo se mete en las aguas. Y arruina todos nuestros planes.

Para ser claros, no creo que Juan el Bautista carezca de fe cuando se resiste a la idea de bautizar a Jesús. Creo que es, de hecho, un testimonio de su humildad. Pero sea lo que sea que motivó las acciones de Juan, él está, aunque sea por un breve momento, dudando en hacer la voluntad de Dios. Solo unos pocos capítulos después de esto en el Evangelio de Mateo, Jesús reconocerá que Juan es la persona más grande "nacida de mujeres", con la advertencia de que incluso él no es lo suficientemente perfecto para el Reino de los Cielos.

Todavía no.

Jesús no le dio una explicación a Juan mientras los dos estaban parados en el río Jordán. Simplemente dijo: "Déjalo ser por ahora". Juan podría haberse resistido más, exigiendo entender por qué. Podría haber sospechado de la simplicidad de la respuesta de Jesús, de la extrañeza de esta petición. Podría haberse aferrado desesperadamente a su versión de cómo se supone que deben ser las cosas y, al hacerlo, fomentado la duda en su corazón. Incluso podría haberse ido furioso, confundido y enojado.

No hizo ninguna de estas cosas, porque Juan es, como dice Jesús, el más grande nacido de las mujeres.

Cuando el Espíritu Santo desciende y la voz de Dios declara: "Este es mi Hijo amado, en quien me complace", se está refiriendo, por supuesto, a Jesús. Pero creo que diría lo mismo de Juan el Bautista, y de todos aquellos que dan la bienvenida a Jesús en las aguas, listos para hacer lo que él les ordene.

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

Las lecturas de hoy nos presentan al prometido por Dios desde el Antiguo Testamento. Al ser bautizado por Juan, Jesús asume su misión pública, nada fácil, por cierto. Sin embargo, no está solo. El Espíritu Santo lo acompañará a lo largo de su vida y misión. *"En ese momento se abrieron los cielos y vio al Espíritu de Dios que bajaba como una paloma y se posaba sobre él. Al mismo tiempo, se oyó una voz del cielo que decía: 'Este es mi Hijo, el Amado; en él me complace'".* (Mateo 3:16-17). La liturgia de este domingo nos invita a descubrir la magnitud de nuestro bautismo. Desde ese día, el Espíritu Santo nos acompaña y guía en cada momento de nuestra vida. Solo basta con dejarlo actuar, y hará maravillas en nosotros. ¿Sabes la fecha y el día de tu bautismo? ¿Conoces el nombre del sacerdote que te dio el sacramento?

"Los bautizados se han revestido de Cristo" (Gálatas 3:27).
"Por el Espíritu Santo, el bautismo es un baño que purifica, santifica y justifica" (Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, #1227).
Gracias, Señor, por amarnos tanto, porque por nuestro bautismo nos acogiste y abrazaste en tus brazos, y nos manifestaste ante la comunidad para formar parte de la familia cristiana. Todos somos hijos e hijas de Dios por el bautismo. Desde su bautismo, Jesús pasó haciendo el bien durante su vida terrena. Por lo tanto, nuestro compromiso como bautizados debe ser el mismo: ¡hacer el bien!

©LPi

HÌNH ẢNH THÁNH LỄ BỔN MẠNG CỘNG ĐOÀN



THÔNG BÁO HỌP HỘI ĐỒNG MỤC VỤ

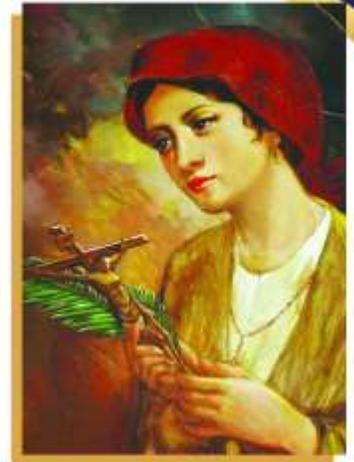
Hội đồng Mục vụ sẽ họp định kỳ

Chúa nhật ngày 18 / 1 / 2026 Lúc 1:00 trưa tại Phòng St. Polycarp

Kính mời quý thành viên và các hội đoàn tham dự đông đủ và đúng giờ.

Trong buổi họp lần này, có nhiều thông tin quan trọng cần được cập nhật, liên quan đến: Chương trình gây quỹ Tết, phụng vụ Tết và các sinh hoạt mục vụ đầu năm.

HỘI CÁC BÀ MẸ CÔNG GIÁO GIÁO XỨ THÁNH POLYCARP



Hội Các Bà Mẹ Công Giáo được hình thành với sứ mạng là **bồi dưỡng đời sống thiêng liêng và gia tăng ân sủng Chúa** trong tâm hồn mỗi người mẹ. Trong tinh thần hiệp nhất, các hội viên được mời gọi **kết hợp trái tim mình với Trái Tim Vẹn Sạch Đức Maria**, dâng lên Chúa những thao thức, hy sinh và lời cầu nguyện chân thành, để xin Người tuôn đổ muôn phúc lành trên gia đình, con cháu và toàn thể cộng đoàn.

Với thao thức gìn giữ và phát huy **căn tính Công Giáo Việt Nam** tại hải ngoại, Hội tha thiết mời gọi quý chị em cùng gia nhập, để cùng nhau bước đi trên hành trình **thánh hóa bản thân, nuôi dưỡng đời sống nội tâm**, và trở nên những người mẹ đạo đức, hiền hòa, gương mẫu - là nguồn bình an và đức tin sống động trong gia đình cũng như giữa xã hội.

Hội trân trọng kính mời quý chị em đến tham dự buổi sinh hoạt định kỳ vào **Chúa Nhật đầu mỗi tháng, từ 2:00 đến 3:00 chiều**, tại **phòng St. Polycarp bên cạnh Đài Đức Mẹ**. Mọi thắc mắc hoặc nhu cầu tìm hiểu thêm, xin quý chị liên lạc với Chị Hội Trưởng **Nhung Đặng** qua số **714-251-7191**.

Trong tinh thần noi gương **Thánh Anê Lê Thị Thành, bổn mạng của Hội**, chúng ta cùng nhau chuyên chăm cầu nguyện, tôn vinh Thiên Chúa và Mẹ Maria, để đời sống gia đình luôn được bao phủ bởi tình yêu, sự gìn giữ và ân sủng của Chúa.



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.



SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH
PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL

PSA 2026
KICK-OFF WEEKEND

WITNESS SPEAKERS WILL OFFER TESTIMONIALS ON HOW THE PSA PROGRAM HAS SUPPORTED THEIR SPIRITUAL LIVES. PARISHIONERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SPEND TIME IN PRAYERFUL DISCERNMENT WITH THEIR FAMILIES REGARDING SUPPORT OF THIS YEAR'S PSA.

FR. PETER WILL ADDRESS THE PARISH AT ALL MASSES ON PLEDGE WEEKEND, JANUARY 24-25, 2026, WHEN PLEDGES MAY BE SUBMITTED.

1/17/2026 & 1/18/2026

Diocese of Orange

I Thirst
Increasing Love For The Eucharist

Presented by the Office of Evangelization and Faith Formation

St. Cecilia Catholic Church
1301 Sycamore Avenue,
Tustin



Barbara Heil



Deacon
Larry Oney



Andi Oney

January 16th Healing Service
6:30PM-9PM in The Church
January 17th Conference
Following 8:30AM Mass - 1:30
Parish Hall- Refreshments Only/No Lunch

Wedding Banns

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

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted..."

PARISH BEREAVEMENT & GRIEF SUPPORT TEAMS

Featuring:



Fr. Peter



Fr. Peter



Fr. Peter



Fr. Peter



Fr. Peter

Workshop

Saturday, January 24
at the Pastoral Center
15200 Chapton Ave
Garden Grove CA 92840
from 8:30am-1:00pm

Training covers:

- Funeral Guidelines & Teachings
- Pastoral Care & Bereavement Support
- Mortuary & Cemetery Arrangements



\$20 per person
Register by January 15th
No walk ins accepted

CONTACT: WORSHIP@RCBO.ORG
(714)282-3040

SOLIDARITY WALK & PRAYER VIGIL
February 3 in the Church
6:55 - 8:30 p.m.

Stand against human trafficking by uniting in solidarity for all affected by this heinous crime and as a symbol of our dedication to honoring the victims and survivors.

The evening begins with prayer followed by a candlelit procession in the church as we raise awareness of how human trafficking affects every community.

Cypress Mayor Medrano and Cypress Police Chief Lauderback will be attending to offer a few brief remarks.

St. Irenaeus Church - Health Ministry
5201 Evergreen Ave, Cypress CA
sticypress.org

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. Asisté 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:

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations. (Is 42:6)

Psalm:

The Lord will bless his people with peace. (Ps 29)

Second Reading:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him
and acts uprightly
is acceptable to him." (Acts 10:34-35)

Gospel:

And a voice came from the heavens, saying,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am
well pleased." (Mt 3:17)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

John could not believe that Jesus would seek baptism from him, a lowly mortal man. But our God is a humble God. He does not fear our weakness. He extends his hand, saying, "It is fitting." So take his hand. Begin the work he has set out for you.

Observances for the week of January 11, 2026

- Sunday:** The Baptism of the Lord
Tuesday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. Anthony, Abbot
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

Joy is the experience of achieving what we most desire — and what we most desire is love. God made us in love and for love, and so, in the same way that a flower seeks the sunlight, our souls seek the warmth of true, selfless love.

Blessing for Baptismal Grace

Dear God,
Through Baptism, You called and claimed us as Your own, chosen and loved.
Pour Your blessing upon us as we remember our Baptism.
Plant Your identity in our hearts.
Help us to live as Your beloved.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: When the voice of God declares, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.

When Jesus Wades In

Usually, when God comes to us, we aren’t ready.

We think we are. Like John the Baptist, we stand in our waters of baptism, certain of our mission. We know how it’s going to go. We know what’s going to be asked of us. We’re sure of it.

Christ wades into the waters. And he screws up all our plans.

To be clear, I don’t think John the Baptist lacks faith when he balks at the idea of baptizing Jesus. I think it is, in fact, a testament to his humility. But whatever motivated John’s actions, he is — if even for a brief moment — hesitating to do the will of God. Just a few chapters after this in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus will acknowledge that John is the greatest person “born of women” — with the caveat that even he is not perfect enough for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Not yet.

Jesus didn’t give John an explanation as the two stood in the River Jordan. He merely said, “Allow it for now.” John could have resisted further, demanding to understand why. He could have grown suspicious at the simplicity of Jesus’ answer, at the strangeness of this request. He could have clung desperately to his version of How Things Are Supposed To Be, and in doing so, fostered doubt in his heart. He could have even stormed off, confused and angry.

He did none of these things, because John is, as Jesus says, the greatest born of women.

When the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God declares, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

At times, temptation seems so powerful that it is almost impossible to resist. How can I be stronger in my resolve to avoid sin and temptation?

Answer:

The saints have written that every human person desires the good. In a sense, we don’t desire sin itself. Temptation is powerful because there is at least some bit of good in it. Even in the blackest of sin, there is something good that becomes twisted. We can look for good in sin when we feel it is lacking in our own life. When we lack true relational intimacy, it can be easy to turn to lust. When we lack confidence in God in our own lives, it can be easy to judge others or to grasp for control over situations. When we lack peace in the present moment, it can be easy to compete with others or to treat others poorly in our quest for success.

Overcoming temptation isn’t just about repressing our sinful desires. If that’s all we do, they’ll just burst out someplace else! If there is a recurring temptation in your life, prayerfully consider why this is so appealing to you. Submit this to God and bring it to a wise person. And in the meantime, continue to resist temptation to sin. If we fail to choose God in small choices, we’re several steps down the road towards failing in larger ones. Pray for the grace to persevere!



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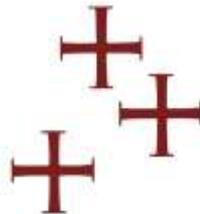


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