

# 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

### **TRANSITIONAL DEACON**

Dcn. Francis Ang

### **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)



## **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

"The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: 'Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.' And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, 'Who is this?'" Mt 21:9-10



## **POPE'S INTENTION - MARCH**

*For Disarmament and Peace*

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**MARCH 29, 2026**

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

**Saturday, March 28, 2026**

5:00 PM Cleo Rand†; Ancestors of a Family†  
7:00 PM Speedy Recovery†; Joseph† & Teresa†

**Sunday, March 29, 2026**

7:30 AM Peter Trap Mai† & All Ancestors†;  
All Souls in Purgatory† &  
Martha Vien Nguyen†  
9:00 AM Reyli Mora† & Jorge Sanchez†  
11:00 AM Kathleen Caldero†; Gil† &  
Petronila Palasigui†  
1:00 PM Alfonso Tapia†; Doroteo Flores Nava†  
4:00 PM Duong Quan & Special Family Intention  
6:00 PM J. Isabel Guevara Palacios† &  
Magdalena Santos Ramirez†;  
Ricardo Becerra (birthday) &  
All Souls in Purgatory†

**Monday, March 30, 2026**

6:30 AM Anna†, our mother  
8:30 AM Martin Torres† & Francisco Munoz Jr.

**Tuesday, March 31, 2026**

6:30 AM Special Family Intention  
8:30 AM Jose Maria Alonso†

**Wednesday, April 1, 2026**

6:30 AM Nilda Cruz (birthday) &  
Ivy Marasigan (healing)  
8:30 AM All Souls† from the Aguero family

**Thursday, April 2, 2026**

8:30 AM Thomas†  
5:00 PM Anna†, Anthony† & Vincent†  
7:00 PM Gerardo† and Carmen Munoz Vazquez;  
Alberto Munoz†

**Friday, April 3, 2026**

3:30 PM Lupita Magana Cueplecios  
5:30 PM Ms. Ha Ai Lien  
8:00 PM Rodrigo de Jesus† &  
Montenegro Leonor Dietz†

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday:** Mt 21:1-11 (37)/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20,  
23-24/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66  
or 27:11-54

**Monday:** Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11

**Tuesday:** Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab,  
15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

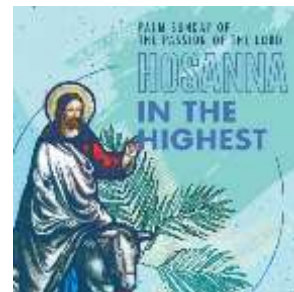
**Wednesday:** Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and  
33-34/Mt 26:14-25

**Thursday:** Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16,  
17-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

**Friday:** Is 52:13-53:12/Ps 31:2 and 6, 12-13, 15-16,  
17 and 25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/  
Jn 18:1-19:42

**Saturday:** *Easter Vigil:* Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/  
Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30)  
or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/  
Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/  
Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Ex 14:15-15:1/  
Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/Is 54:5-14/  
Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Is 55:1-11/  
Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4/  
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/Ez 36:16-17a,  
18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2)/  
Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/  
Mt 28:1-10

**Sunday:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17,  
22-23 (24)/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/  
Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 Or Lk 24:13-35



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



**Pray for the Sick**

Marcus  
Nicole  
Sherry  
Kevin  
Elowen

Mar 21/22 Masses \$ 21,022.50  
Mar 21/22 Online \$ 2,056.98  
**Total collection: \$ 23,079.48**

*Thank you for your support! ¡Gracias por su apoyo!  
Cảm ơn tấm lòng quảng đại của mọi người.*

## Las lecturas de la semana del 29 de marzo

- Domingo:** Mt 21, 1-11 (37)/Sal 21, 8-9. 17-18. 19-20. 23-24/Is 50, 4-7/Flp 2, 6-11/Mt 26, 14-27, 66 o 27, 11-54
- Lunes:** Is 42, 1-7/Sal 26, 1. 2. 3. 13-14/Jn 12, 1-11
- Martes:** Is 49, 1-6/Sal 70, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 15 y 17/Jn 13, 21-33. 36-38
- Miércoles:** Is 50, 4-9/Sal 68, 8-10. 21-22. 31 y 33-34/Mt 26, 14-25
- Jueves:** Ex 12, 1-8. 11-14/Sal 115, 12-13. 15-16. 17-18/1 Co 11, 23-26/Jn 13, 1-15
- Viernes:** Is 52, 13-53, 12/Sal 30, 2 y 6. 12-13. 15-16. 17 y 25/Heb 4, 14-16; 5, 7-9/Jn 18:1-19:42
- Sábado:** Vigilia de la Pascua de Resurrección: Gn 1, 1-2, 2 o 1, 1. 26-31/Sal 103, 1-2. 5-6. 10. 12. 13-14. 24. 35 (30) o Sal 32, 4-5. 6-7. 12-13. 20-22 (5)/Gn 22, 1-18 o 22, 1-2. 9. 10-13. 15-18/Sal 15, 5. 8. 9-10. 11 (1)/Ex 14, 15-15, 1/ Ex 15, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 17-18 (1)/Is 54, 5-14/Sal 29, 2. 4. 5-6. 11-12. 13 (2)/Is 55, 1-11/Is 12, 2-3. 4. 5-6 (3)/Bar 3, 9-15. 32-4, 4/Sal 18, 8. 9. 10. 11 (Jn 6, 68)/Ez 36, 16-17. 18-28/Sal 41, 3. 5; 43, 3. 4 (42, 2)/Rom 6, 3-11/Sal 118, 1-2. 16-17. 22-23/Mt 28, 1-10
- Domingo:** Hch 10, 34. 37-43/Sal 117, 1-2. 16-17. 22-23 (24)/Col 3, 1-4 o 1 Co 5, 6-8/Jn 20, 1-9 o Mt 28, 1-10 o Lc 24, 13-35

## Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 29 de marzo

- Domingo:** Domingo de Ramos de la Pasión de Cristo; Comienza la Semana Santa
- Miércoles:** Día de los Santos Inocentes
- Jueves:** Jueves Santo
- Viernes:** Viernes Santo
- Sábado:** Sábado Santo
- Domingo:** Domingo de Pascua

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini reflexión:** El abismo entre el hombre y su Creador es antiguo, y está abierto a lo profundo y ancho. Pero esta semana, esta Semana Santa, se construye un puente sobre el abismo. Y Dios extiende Su mano.

## La Humanidad de la Semana Santa

Todos hemos vendido a Jesús, en un momento u otro. Algunos de nosotros lo hemos hecho más de una vez, y lo hemos hecho por mucho menos de 30 piezas de plata.

Todos hemos negado a Cristo, y lo hemos hecho más de tres veces y bajo mucha menos presión que Pedro, quien temió por su vida cuando gritó: "¡No conozco a ese hombre!"

Todos hemos golpeado el rostro de Dios, ¿por ira? ¿Miedo? ¿Confusión? ¿Todo lo anterior? - gritando, en agonía: "¡Profetiza por mí!"

En un momento u otro, todos hemos visto a nuestro Señor

golpeado y traicionado, y todos hemos dicho, como lo hizo Pilato: "¿Qué haré con Jesús llamado Cristo?"

Y todos hemos colgado de la cruz elegida para nosotros, gritando desconcertados: "Dios mío, Dios mío, ¿por qué me has abandonado?"

La Semana Santa es una semana en la que vemos a la humanidad, en toda su vulnerabilidad e ignorancia. Lo vemos en los "villanos" de la pieza, como Judas, y en los personajes moralmente neutrales como Pilato y los judíos que han sido engañados sobre Jesús. Incluso lo vemos en los "buenos" como Pedro.

En esta, la semana más sagrada del año, nos vemos en nuestro peor momento. El abismo entre el hombre y su Creador es antiguo, y está abierto a lo profundo y ancho, por el orgullo de Adán y Eva, sí, pero también por cada mala elección que tú y yo hemos hecho.

Cada "¡No conozco al hombre!"

Cada "¡Profetiza!"

Cada "¿Qué haré con Jesús?"

Estos gritos resuenan desde las profundidades de este abismo.

Pero esta semana, esta Semana Santa, se construye un puente sobre el abismo. Y Dios extiende Su mano.

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

Con el Domingo de Ramos damos comienzo a la Semana Santa, también llamada Semana Mayor. Hoy se proclaman dos evangelios en la Misa: uno a la entrada del templo, para caminar alegres con palmas en la mano al encuentro de Cristo, y el otro durante la Liturgia de la Palabra: la Pasión del Señor. El Papa Francisco, en la Exhortación Apostólica La Alegría del Evangelio, escribe lo siguiente: "La verdadera fe en el Hijo de Dios hecho carne es inseparable del don de sí, de la pertenencia a la comunidad, del servicio, de la reconciliación con la carne de los otros. El Hijo de Dios, en su encarnación, nos invitó a la revolución de la ternura" (EG 88). La ternura y la misericordia de Dios se hacen especialmente presentes durante la Pasión del Señor.

La Semana Santa es un tiempo especial para nuestra renovación espiritual. Como cristianos bautizados, somos seguidores de Jesús y debemos alzar los dinteles de nuestra alegría, porque va a entrar en nuestro corazón el Rey de la Gloria. "¡Hosana al Hijo de David! ¡Bendito el que viene en el nombre del Señor! ¡Hosana en lo más alto de los cielos!" (Mateo 21:9). Aclamación y súplica es lo que repetimos año tras año durante el Domingo de Ramos. Somos bendecidos al poder participar en esta celebración que nos invita a vivir la vida, pasión, muerte y resurrección del Señor: la Pascua gloriosa, centro de todo el Año Litúrgico. ©LPI



# Chương trình **PHỤNG VỤ TUẦN THÁNH** 2026

**Thứ Năm Tuần Thánh**  
2 / 4 / 2026

4:50PM Nghi thức rước Dầu Thánh  
5:00PM **Thánh Lễ Tiệc Ly**  
8:15PM Chầu Thánh Thể trong Hội Trường

**Thứ Sáu Tuần Thánh**  
3 / 4 / 2026

**Ăn Chay và Kiên Thịt**  
5:00PM Đi Đàng Thánh Giá  
5:30PM **Tưởng Niệm Cuộc Thương Khó Của Chúa**

**Thứ Bảy Tuần Thánh**  
4 / 4 / 2026

5:00PM **Thánh Lễ Vọng Phục Sinh**

**Chúa Nhật Phục Sinh**  
5 / 4 / 2026

4:00PM **Thánh Lễ Mừng Chúa Sống Lại**

Kính chúc quý ông bà anh chị em  
**TUẦN THÁNH SỐT SÁNG**  
**& MÙA PHỤC SINH TRÀN ĐẦY NIỀM VUI**



# NHỮNG ĐIỀU TÍN HỮU QUAN TÂM VỀ VIỆC RƯỚC LỄ



## 1. RƯỚC LỄ THIÊNG LIÊNG:

- Tu tưởng đã có từ thời Thánh Augustinô: phân biệt rước lễ bằng lòng muốn và rước lễ thực sự.

- Thế kỷ XII: được nhấn mạnh vì tín hữu ít rước lễ.

- Công đồng Tren-tô nói về rước lễ thiêng liêng như sau: “Đó là những người khao khát Thánh Thể với đức tin sống động, qua tác động đức ái và cảm nghiệm hiệu quả, sự hữu ích của việc lãnh nhận” (DS 1648).

- Tông huấn Bí tích Tình yêu (Sacramentum caritatis) trong trường hợp không thể rước lễ, việc “áp úc khao khát hiệp thông trọn vẹn với Đức Kitô qua việc thực hành rước lễ thiêng liêng cũng đem lại nhiều ơn ích” (số 55).

## 2. MỖI NGÀY ĐƯỢC RƯỚC LỄ MẤY LẦN?

**B**í tích Thánh Thể là Nguồn Mạch và Chóp Đỉnh của đời sống Kitô hữu. Vì tôn trọng sự thánh thiêng của Bí tích, Giáo hội quy định rằng mỗi tín hữu chỉ được rước lễ một lần trong ngày (GL 917). Quy tắc này giúp chúng ta giữ tâm tình khao khát, tôn kính và chuẩn bị xứng đáng mỗi khi đón nhận Mình và Máu Thánh Chúa.

Tuy nhiên, Giáo Luật cũng cho phép một ngoại lệ mục vụ quan trọng theo điều 917: Một tín hữu đã rước lễ rồi vẫn có thể rước lễ lần thứ hai trong cùng một ngày, nếu và chỉ nếu

họ: Tham dự trọn vẹn một Thánh Lễ thứ hai, từ đầu đến cuối, và rước lễ trong chính Thánh Lễ đó. Ngoại lệ này nhằm tạo điều kiện cho các tín hữu tham dự những Thánh Lễ đặc biệt của cộng đoàn như: Thánh Lễ Hôn Phôi, An Táng, Lễ Trọng, hoặc Thánh Lễ Vọng.

### Những Trường Hợp Đặc Biệt

- Không được rước lễ lần hai ngoài Thánh Lễ, như trong giờ chiều hay giờ kinh.

- Thánh Lễ Vọng và Thánh Lễ ngày hôm sau được tính là hai ngày phụng vụ khác nhau.

- Nguyện tử (Viaticum): Người bệnh gần qua đời được rước lễ như Của Ăn Đàng, dù trong ngày đã rước lễ trước đó.

Quy định về rước lễ hai lần trong ngày không nhằm khuyến khích thói quen rước lễ nhiều lần, nhưng nhấn mạnh sự hiệp thông trọn vẹn với Hy Tế Thánh Lễ và nhu cầu mục vụ của cộng đoàn.

## 3. RƯỚC LỄ TRÊN TAY HAY TRÊN LUỖI?

Giáo hội sơ khai, như 1Cr 11 cho thấy, Thánh Lễ được cử hành với bữa ăn huynh đệ (agape), do đó các tín hữu đã đón nhận Mình Thánh trên tay.

Từ thế kỷ IX, được thay thế bằng rước lễ trên luôi, và thậm chí việc rước lễ trên tay còn bị cấm. Các sử

gia đã đưa ra nhiều cách để giải thích: Thứ nhất, có lẽ vì có những lạm dụng, người lãnh nhận Mình Thánh không rước, đem đi chỗ khác, dùng Mình Thánh vào việc ma thuật. Thứ hai, kích thước bánh thay đổi, bánh nhỏ có thể đưa thẳng vào miệng. Thứ ba, đôi bàn tay của linh mục được xúc dầu, nên chỉ linh mục mới xứng đáng cầm Mình Thánh.

Huấn thị của Bộ phụng vụ và kỷ luật bí tích, ngày 25/3/2004, số 92 quy định:

“Mọi tín hữu luôn có quyền chọn cách thức rước lễ trên luôi.

Ở những nơi mà Hội Đồng Giám Mục, với sự chuẩn nhận của Tòa Thánh, cho phép việc rước lễ trên tay, thì tín hữu có thể rước lễ trên tay. Tuy nhiên, trong trường hợp này, họ phải rước Mình Thánh ngay trước mặt thừa tác viên, không ai có thể ra đi với Mình Thánh trên tay. Nếu thấy có nguy cơ bị xúc phạm, Mình Thánh không được trao trên tay tín hữu”.

Điều cốt yếu không nằm ở số lần hay cách thức rước lễ, nhưng ở tâm hồn biết chuẩn bị xứng đáng và sống kết hiệp với Chúa sau mỗi lần đón nhận Người. Chính đời sống được biến đổi bởi ân sủng Thánh Thể mới là thước đo của lòng yêu mến thật sự.



**JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY IN MARCH/  
 ¡ÚNETE CON NOSOTROS  
 TODOS LOS DOMINGOS DE MARZO!  
 9AM - 2 PM**

**MARCH 29/29 MARZO  
 POZOLES TACOS (DORADOS),  
 QUESADILLAS**  
 Presentado por Ríos de Agua Viva

Thanks to all the groups who participated this month. We are so grateful!

Gracias a todos los grupos que participaron este mes. ¡Estamos muy agradecidos!



**OUR OFFICE IS CLOSED**  
 THURSDAY 4/2/2026 AT 12 NOON UNTIL  
 TUESDAY 4/7/2026

ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH OFFICE, WE WISH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A BLESSED AND JOYFUL EASTER. MAY THE MIRACLE OF THE RESURRECTION INSPIRE YOU TO WALK IN FAITH AND SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE WITH ALL.

"HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN!" – LUKE 24:6



**FAITH FORMATION OFFICE HOURS**  
 English/Spanish Religious Education  
 (714) 892-3158


Monday/Thursday	2PM - 6PM
Saturday	9AM - 1PM

**Confirmation Programs**  
 (714) 890-5200

Tuesday/Wednesday	1PM - 5:30PM
Friday	1PM - 5PM
Sunday	8AM - 3PM

**Vietnamese Religious Education**  
 (714) 620-7895

Monday/Wednesday/Friday	2PM - 5:30PM
Saturday	10AM - 1PM



**POPE'S INTENTION -  
 APRIL**

*For Priests in Crisis*

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

**BLESSING FOR HOLY WEEK**  
*Be with us this week, Lord,  
 journeying closer and closer to Your pierced and Sacred Heart.  
 Immerse us in Your intense and undying love.  
 Help us to encounter Your passion in new ways that inform, surprise, and inspire us.  
 Amen.*




**PSA 2026 REPORT**  
 AS OF 03/02/2026

# PLEDGES RECEIVED:	217
AMOUNT PLEDGED:	\$120,928.00
TOTAL PAID:	\$63,861.00
OUR 2026 PSA GOAL:	\$109,760.00

*Thank You!*





**SAINT POLYCARP  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

8100 Chapman Avenue | Stanton, CA 95680 | (754) 899-2766 | www.stpolycarp.org

# Holy Week 2026



## HOLY THURSDAY 4/2/2026

- 8:30 AM MORNING PRAYER
- 5:00 PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - VIETNAMESE
- 7:00 PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - ENGLISH/SPANISH
- 8:15 PM ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



## HOLY SATURDAY 4/4/2026

- 8:30 AM MORNING PRAYER IN ENGLISH
- 5:00 PM EASTER VIGIL - VIETNAMESE
- 7:30 PM EASTER VIGIL - ENGLISH/SPANISH

## GOOD FRIDAY 4/3/2026

- 8:00 AM GATHER IN THE HALL.  
REPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
- 8:30 AM MORNING PRAYER - ENGLISH
- 3:00 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS - ENGLISH
- 3:30 PM THE LORD'S PASSION - ENGLISH
- 5:00 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS - VIETNAMESE
- 5:30 PM THE LORD'S PASSION - VIETNAMESE
- 7:30 PM SERMON DE LAS 7 PALABRAS - ESPAÑOL
- 8:00 PM CELEBRACIÓN DE LA PASIÓN DEL SEÑOR - ESPAÑOL
- 9:00 PM PROCESIÓN EN SILENCIO Y ORACIÓN A LA VIRGEN DOLOROSA - ESPAÑOL



## EASTER SUNDAY 4/5/2026

NORMAL SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE



**Holy Thursday**  
  
**Jueves Santo**

**ADORATION HOURS**

THURSDAY 4/2/2026-FRIDAY 4/3/2026

**9PM THURSDAY- 8AM FRIDAY  
IN OUR PARISH HALL**

SAINT POLYCARP  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Sacred Heart Family  
Retreat Camp**

With the Sacred Heart Sisters

June 25-28, 2026 or  
July 2-5, 2026

Registration Opens  
February 26th!

or go to our website for more information:  
<https://sacredheartretreatcamp.com/family-camp/>

(909)866-5696  
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LEO XIV

**GENERAL AUDIENCE**

Wednesday, 11 February 2026

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**Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II. I. Dogmatic Constitution Dei Verbum 5. The Word of God in the life of the Church**

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

In today's catechesis we will look at the profound and vital link that exists between the Word of God and the Church, a bond expressed by the Conciliar Constitution [Dei Verbum](#), in the sixth chapter. The Church is the rightful home of Sacred Scripture. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Bible arose from the people of God, and is destined for the people of God. In the Christian community it has, so to speak, its habitat: indeed, in the life and the faith of the Church it finds the space where it can reveal its meaning and manifest its power.

[Vatican Council II](#) reminds us that "the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body". Furthermore, "she has always maintained them, and continues to do so, together with sacred tradition, as the supreme rule of faith" ([Dei Verbum](#), 21).

The Church never ceases to reflect on the value of the Sacred Scriptures. After [the Council](#), a very important moment in this regard was the [Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops](#) on the theme "The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church" in October 2008. [Pope Benedict XVI](#) gathered its fruit in the post-Synodal Exhortation [Verbum Domini](#) (30 September 2010), in which he affirms: "The intrinsic link between the word and faith makes clear that authentic biblical hermeneutics can only be had within the faith of the Church, which has its paradigm in Mary's fiat... the primary setting for scriptural interpretation is the life of the Church" ([no. 29](#)).

In the ecclesial community, Scripture therefore finds the sphere in which to carry out its particular task and achieve its purpose: to make Christ known and to open dialogue with God. Indeed, "ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ". [\[1\]](#) This well-known expression of Saint Jerome reminds us of the ultimate purpose of reading and meditating on the Scriptures: to get to know Christ and, through Him, to enter into a relationship with God, a relationship that can be understood as a conversation, a dialogue. And the Constitution [Dei Verbum](#) presented the Revelation to us precisely as a dialogue, in which God speaks to humans as though to friends (cf. [DV](#), 2). This occurs when we read the Bible with an inner attitude of prayer: God then comes towards us and enters into conversation with us.

The Sacred Scripture, entrusted to the Church and preserved and explained by her, performs an active role: indeed, with its efficacy and power it sustains and invigorates the Christian community. All the faithful are called to drink from this wellspring, first and foremost in the celebration of the Eucharist and the other Sacraments. Love for the Sacred Scriptures and familiarity with them must guide those who carry out the ministry of the Word: bishops, priests, deacons, catechists. The work of exegetes and those who practise biblical sciences is invaluable, and Scriptures have a central place in theology, which finds its foundation and soul in the Word of God.

The Church ardently desires that the Word of God may reach every one of her members and nurture their journey of faith. But the Word of God also propels the Church beyond herself; it opens her continually to the mission towards everyone. Indeed, we live surrounded by so many words, but how many of these are empty! At times we even listen to wise words, which do not however affect our ultimate destiny. On the contrary, the Word of God responds to our thirst for meaning, for the truth about our life. It is the only Word that is always new: revealing the mystery of God to us, it is inexhaustible, it never ceases to offer its riches.

Dear friends, living in the Church one learns that the Sacred Scripture is totally relative to Jesus Christ, and one experiences that this is the deep reason for its value and its power. Christ is the living Word of the Father, the Word of God made man. All the Scriptures proclaim his Person and his saving presence, for each one of us and for all humanity. Let us therefore open our hearts and minds in order to receive this gift, following the example of Mary, Mother of the Church.

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[\[1\]](#) S. Girolamo, Comm. in Is., Prol.: PL 24, 17 B.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

I gave my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;  
my face I did not shield  
from buffets and spitting. (Is 50:6)

### Psalm:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Ps 22)

### Second Reading:

He humbled himself,  
becoming obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross.  
Because of this, God greatly exalted him. (Phil 2:8-9)

### Gospel:

The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch  
over Jesus  
feared greatly when they saw the earthquake  
and all that was happening, and they said,  
"Truly, this was the Son of God!" (Mt 26:54)

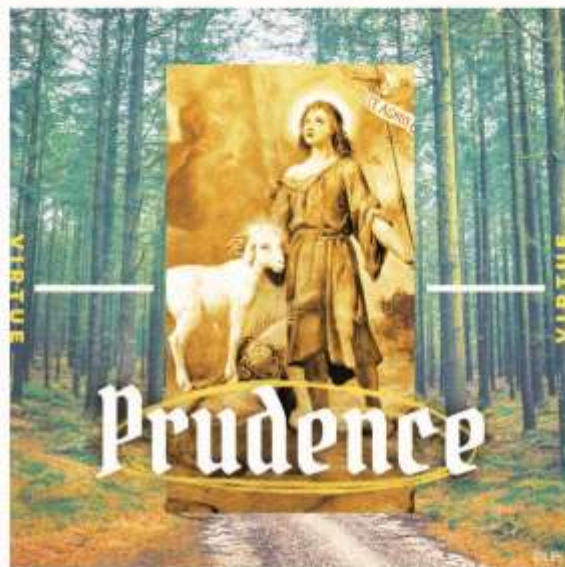
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

This week, we see things that break our heart —  
God betrayed. This week, we see things that shake  
our faith — God bleeding on a cross. This week,  
this Holy Week, with all its difficult moments, can  
change us, if we let it. Are we ready?

## Observances for the week of March 29, 2026

- Sunday:** Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord;  
Holy Week begins
- Wednesday:** April Fools' Day
- Thursday:** Holy Thursday
- Friday:** Good Friday
- Saturday:** Holy Saturday
- Next Sunday:** Easter Sunday



## Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of prudence is  
like glasses for a soul made  
nearsighted by original sin.  
Prudence disposes our practical  
reason to not only discern what is  
good, but to choose the right way  
of achieving that good.

## Blessing for Holy Week

Be with us this week, Lord,  
journeying closer and closer to  
Your pierced and Sacred Heart.  
Immerse us in Your intense and  
undying love.  
Help us to encounter Your passion  
in new ways that inform, surprise,  
and inspire us.  
Amen.

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** The chasm between man and his Creator is an ancient one, and it is driven deep and wide. But this week — this Holy Week — a bridge is built across the chasm. And God reaches out His hand.

### **The Humanity of Holy Week**

We have all sold Jesus out, at one point or another. Some of us have done it more than once, and we've done it for a lot less than 30 pieces of silver.

We have all denied Christ, and we have done it more than three times and under much less pressure than Peter, who feared for his life when he shouted, "I do not know the man!"

We have all struck the face of God — out of anger? Fear? Confusion? All of the above? — screaming, in agony, "Prophecy for me!"

At one point or another, we have all looked at our Lord beaten and betrayed, and we have all said, as Pilate did: "What shall I do with Jesus called Christ?"

And we have all hung on the cross chosen for us, crying out in bewilderment: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Holy Week is a week where we see humanity, in all its vulnerability and ignorance. We see it in the "villains" of the piece, like Judas, and in the morally neutral characters like Pilate and the Jews who have been misled about Jesus. We even see it in the "good guys" like Peter.

In this, the holiest week of the year, we see ourselves at our very worst. The chasm between man and his Creator is an ancient one, and it is driven deep and wide — by the pridefulness of Adam and Eve, yes, but also by every poor choice you and I have ever made.

Every "I don't know the man!"

Every "Prophecy!"

Every "What shall I do with Jesus?"

These cries echo forth from the depths of this chasm.

But this week — this Holy Week — a bridge is built across the chasm. And God reaches out His hand.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that?

### Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

What is the difference between a chastisement and a punishment?

#### Answer:

The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition.

First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As St. John Paul II observed, "chastisement appears to be ... a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scourges and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have.

The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is.

Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, our experiences can be an opportunity for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them.



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