



# 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

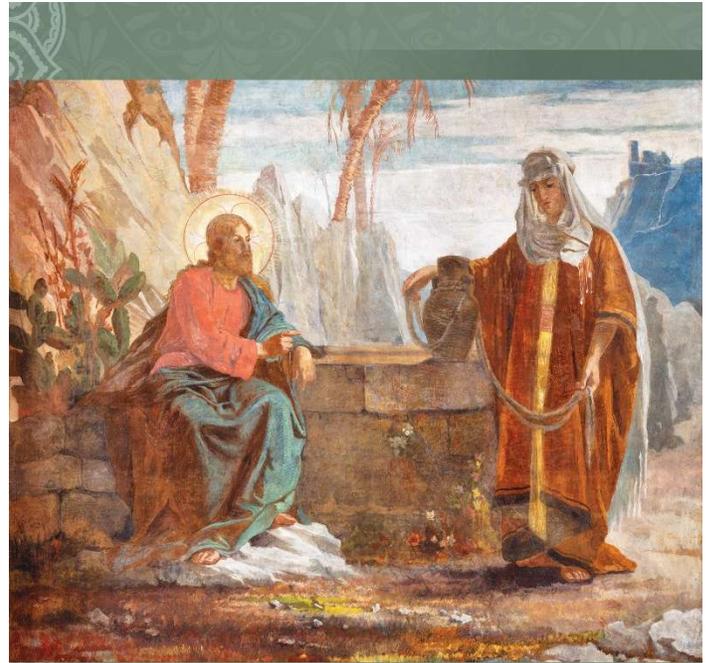
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

*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)



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

O F L E N T

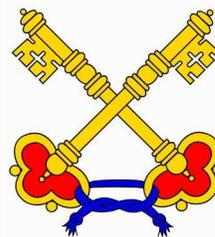
"A woman of Samaria came to draw water.

Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.'"

Jn 4:7-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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## 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 8, 2026



### Las lecturas de la semana del 8 de marzo

Domingo: Ex 17, 3-7/Sal 94, 1-2. 6-7. 8-9/Rom 5, 1-2. 5-8/Jn 4, 5-42 o 4, 5-15. 19b-26. 39. 40-42  
Lunes: 2 Re 5, 1-15/Sal 41, 2. 3; 42, 3. 4/Lc 4, 24-30  
Martes: Dn 3, 25. 34-43/Sal 24, 4-5. 6 y 7. 8-9/  
Mt 18, 21-35  
Miércoles: Dt 4, 1. 5-9/Sal 146, 12-13. 15-16. 19-20/  
Mt 5, 17-19  
Jueves: Jr 7, 23-28/Sal 94, 1-2. 6-7. 8-9/Lc 11, 14-23  
Viernes: Os 14, 2-10/Sal 80, 6-8. 8-9. 10-11. 14 y 17/  
Mc 12, 28-34  
Sábado: Os 6, 1-6/Sal 50, 3-4. 18-19. 20-21/Lc 18, 9-14  
Domingo: 1 Sm 16, 1. 6-7. 10-13/Sal 22, 1-3. 3-4. 5. 6/  
Ef 5, 8-14/Jn 9, 1-41 o 9, 1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

### Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 8 de marzo

Domingo: 3er Domingo de Cuaresma;  
Inicio del horario de verano  
Lunes: Santa Francisca Romana, religiosa  
Domingo: 4º Domingo de Cuaresma

PRACTICANDO) CATÓLICA: RECONOCE A DIOS EN TUS MOMENTOS ORDINARIOS

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini reflexión:** Antes de la Encarnación, Dios miró desde el Cielo y dijo: "Tienes sed. Aquí hay algo para beber". Después de la Encarnación, Dios se sienta a nuestro lado y dice: "Tengo sed. Dame algo de beber".

### Cuando Dios Pide Agua

Uno de mis primeros recuerdos es de mi madre llorando.

Los últimos meses de su embarazo con mi hermanito fueron tremendamente dolorosos para ella, y más de una vez el dolor la hizo llorar. Tengo una imagen borrosa de ella en mi mente, con el vientre hinchado con un bebé de 12 libras acostado transversalmente en el útero, sentada en el borde de su cama, frotándose la cara con papel higiénico.

Le había traído el papel higiénico. Lo hacía cuando la veía llorar, para secarse las lágrimas. También tengo un vago recuerdo de eso: de la forma en que mi corazón se desgarraba al ver su sufrimiento, de mi desesperación por hacer algo para ayudar, y de mi inmensa satisfacción cuando tomaba el papel higiénico, sonreía y decía: "¡Oh, gracias, cariño!" como si acabara de sacarla en avión de una zona de guerra.

Qué regalo tan poderoso para darle a un niño que aún está aprendiendo el significado de la compasión y el altruismo, el regalo de poder sentir que, aunque sea de alguna

manera, ha "rescatado" a una persona a la que adora. Su sonrisa de gratitud vive, inmortal, en mi mente, junto con la oleada de satisfacción que produjo en lo más profundo de mi corazón. Fue entonces cuando aprendí que se siente bien ayudar a las personas, y este recuerdo es un pozo de agua viva perpetuamente renovado para mí. Saco de él a diario, tres décadas después.

Este es un don que Cristo da, una y otra vez, en los Evangelios. Nos permite encontrarlo cansado, asustado, triste y hambriento. Poder omnipotente sometido a la absoluta vulnerabilidad de la forma humana.

Antes de la Encarnación, Dios miró desde el Cielo y dijo: "Tienes sed. Aquí hay algo para beber".

Después de la Encarnación, Dios se sienta a nuestro lado y dice: "Tengo sed. Dame algo de beber".

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

Durante la Cuaresma se tiene la oportunidad de un encuentro más profundo con Dios por medio de los Sacramentos, especialmente el de la Reconciliación. Las parroquias ofrecen diferentes servicios de reconciliación y en diversos horarios, para que toda persona pueda acercarse y reconciliarse. Hoy, en este tercer domingo de Cuaresma, se nos presenta la sed como fuente de vida. El diálogo entre Jesús y la samaritana nos lo demuestra: *"Si conocieras el don de Dios, si supieras quién es el que te pide de beber, tú misma le pedirías agua viva y él te la daría"* (Juan 4:10). El comportamiento de Jesús al pedir agua a una mujer no era bien visto y contradecía las costumbres de su tiempo. Sin embargo, ese diálogo entre ambos no tiene nada de desperdicio: fue un diálogo perfecto, al grado que la mujer samaritana se convierte en misionera.

Este personaje, la mujer samaritana, no tiene nombre. De tal manera que yo puedo poner el mío y entablar mi propia conversación con el Señor en la oración. ¿A qué pozo voy por agua? ¿Dónde está Jesús, cansado y sediento? ¿Qué me pide que haga? ¿Dónde debo anunciarlo? Señor, como a la samaritana, hazme testigo de tu Evangelio. Para lograrlo, recordemos que el Espíritu Santo, desde nuestro Bautismo, ha sido derramado en nosotros como fuente de agua viva. No hay excusa para no participar como discípulos misioneros en nuestras parroquias, en la familia y en la sociedad. ¡Señor, dame de esa agua, y así ya no sufriré más sed!

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## PHỤNG VỤ CÁC THỨ SÁU TRONG MÙA CHAY

**5:35 - 5:55PM** : Tìm hiểu về Khăn Liệm Chúa Giêsu

**6:00PM** : Ngắm Đàng Thánh Giá

**6:30PM** : Thánh Lễ

(sẽ không có giờ Châu Thánh Thể và đọc kinh)

# Mùa Chay

## GIẢI TỘI MÙA CHAY CỦA GIÁO XỨ

**7 PM | 17/3/26 | Thứ Ba**



## Đại Hội Thánh Mẫu Orange 2026



## GHI DANH THAM GIA HAI CA ĐOÀN TỔNG HỢP

Đại Hội Thánh Mẫu Orange kỳ V sẽ được tổ chức trong ba ngày 9, 10 và 11 tháng 7/ 2026, với bốn Thánh Lễ: 1 Thánh Lễ lúc 8:00 sáng Thứ Bảy; 3 Thánh Lễ lúc 7:00 tối vào Thứ Năm, Thứ Sáu và Thứ Bảy.

Ban Tổ Chức trân trọng kính mời quý anh chị em ca viên của 18 cộng đoàn Việt Nam trong Giáo phận Orange ghi danh tham gia phục vụ trong hai **Thánh Lễ 7:00 tối**

**Thứ Sáu, ngày 10/7/2026** và **Thứ Bảy, ngày 11/7/2026**

Xin vui lòng truy cập [melavangoc.com](http://melavangoc.com) để ghi danh và biết thêm chi tiết.

**Hạn chót ghi danh: ngày 9 tháng 3 năm 2026**

Ban Tổ Chức chân thành cảm ơn sự quảng đại và tinh thần phục vụ của quý ca viên.

### HỢP HỘI ĐỒNG MỤC VỤ

**1PM | 15/3 | Chúa Nhật**  
**2026**

tại Phòng St. Polycarp

Kính mời quý thành viên tham dự đồng đủ và đúng giờ.

# TỈNH TÂM MÙA CHAY 2026

## MÀU NHIỆM THÁNH GIÁ ĐỨC KITÔ:

Hiểu biết để yêu thương

### NHÌN LÊN THÁNH GIÁ:

Thiên Chúa nói gì qua nỗi đau?

*Đề tài 1*

### Ở LẠI VỚI THÁNH GIÁ:

Khi hiểu bằng trái tim.

*Đề tài 2*

### MANG LẤY THÁNH GIÁ:

Thương như Đức Kitô.

*Đề tài 3*

**T**rong tâm tình

sám hối và canh

tân của Mùa Chay thánh,

kính mời cộng đoàn tham dự Hai

Ngày Tỉnh Tâm do Linh mục Phêrô

Nguyễn Bá Quốc Linh, Dòng Chúa Cứu Thế

hướng dẫn.

Trong những ngày tỉnh tâm, giáo xứ được hồng phúc đón rước Linh

Ảnh Đức Mẹ Hằng Cứu Giúp và Thánh Tích của Thánh Gioan Neumann

đến viếng thăm, để cộng đoàn tôn kính và cầu nguyện cách sốt sắng. Kính mời cộng

đoàn tham dự và hiệp thông cầu nguyện, để chuẩn bị tâm hồn bước vào Mùa Phục Sinh

trong sự đổi mới và ân sủng của Chúa.

**24 & 25**

Thứ Ba & Thứ Tư

Tháng 3

**2026**

6:00pm - Thánh Lễ

6:45pm - Giải lao/ăn nhẹ

7:00pm - Tỉnh Tâm



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**  
8100 Chapman Avenue | Stanton, CA 90680 | (714) 893-2766 | www.stpolycarp.org



**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 Giaquinta, 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."

**BLESSING OF HOPE**

*In Your goodness Lord, bless us.  
Help us to know Your abundance and Your gifts.  
Help us to hear Your voice and know Your assurance.  
Help us remember what You have done, and look forward to what You will do.  
Amen.*

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**LIFE WINS!**

**A Lenten Morning of Reflection**

*These days, we might be feeling anxious, unsettled or sad. During our Lenten Morning of Reflection, we will go with Jesus into the Garden of Gethsemane. With Simon of Cyrene, we will explore what carrying the cross really means. What looked like defeat as Jesus hung dead on the cross turned into victory through his resurrection. Life wins! Come and see how life continues to win even though at times it may not look like it. You will not want to miss this opportunity to be refreshed and renewed by God's grace!*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026**

**9:30 AM / ST. POLYCARP ROOM**

*Fr. Christopher Smith has served as a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange since 1978. He holds a Master's in Divinity from St. John's Seminary and a Master's in Religious Education from Fordham University. He has served in several capacities in the Diocese of Orange, including Parochial Vicar, Director of the Office for Religious Education, Vicar for Religious Education, Pastor of St. Joseph Church in Santa Ana, Episcopal Vicar for Priests, and Director of the Ministry to Priests Office. He was the first Rector of Christ Cathedral and is now the Rector Emeritus. He hosts the radio program Cathedral Square broadcast every Saturday 11:00 a.m. until 12 noon on Relevant Radio AM1000, with podcasts of the shows available on the OC Catholic website.*



**Fr. Christopher Smith**  
*Speaker*

**SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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**St. Polycarp Annual Men's Retreat**

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center  
Sierra Madre

**March 20-22, 2026**

Men from our parish are invited to make their annual retreat at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center in Sierra Madre. The Center provides a private room and bath, delicious meals, beautifully landscaped grounds and the guidance of the Passionist Retreat Team. The atmosphere of this silent, preached retreat will help you to relax, reflect and rejuvenate spiritually.

This year's theme-  
*"Faith: Trusting in the God Who Waits for You"*

Reservations can be made by contacting our parish retreat representative:

Ralph Gonzalez at 714-761-3089 or 714-815-1753.

A \$50 deposit is required.



Council 6095

**SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
www.stpolycarp.org

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

**MARCH 8/8 MARZO**  
POZOLES, TAMALES (ROJO, VERDE, ELOTE),  
QUESADILLAS (POLLO, QUESO), ENCHILADAS,  
CHAMPURRADO, SODAS  
*Presentado por Jovenes y Adultos Para Cristo*

**MARCH 15/15 MARZO**  
POZOLES, TAMALES, TACOS (ASADA)  
*Presentado por Ministerio Pastoral Acompañamiento*

SAINT POLYCARP  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
www.stpolycarp.org

**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

**Lenten Penance Service**

Our Lenten Penance Service will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in our church. We have invited several priests from neighboring parishes to assist with confessions.

*Please come and take this opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

**LABYRINTH WALK**

**MONDAY, MARCH 23**

**6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
in the Parish Hall**

Join us for  
**Lenten Labyrinth Walk 2026.**

Enter the labyrinth with an open mind and heart so that you are able to receive whatever awaits you on this prayerful journey.

The candlelit, meditative Labyrinth environment will calm your thoughts and offer a quiet respite from stress and burdens.

Looking forward to seeing you!



Health Ministry  
**ST IRENAEUS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
5201 Evergreen Ave., Cypress CA  
sticypress.org



**Lenten Litany of Fasting and Feasting**

*Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ within them.  
Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of life.  
Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.  
Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.  
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.  
Fast from anger; feast on patience.  
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.  
Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.  
Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.  
Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.  
Fast from hostility; feast on non-resistance.  
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.  
Fast from self concern; feast on compassion for others.  
Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.  
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.  
Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.  
Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.  
Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.  
Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of sincerity.  
Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.  
Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.  
Fast from instant gratifications; feast on self denial.  
Fast from worry; feast on divine order.  
Trust in God.  
And finally, fast from sin; feast on the abundance of God's mercy.*

LEO XIV

**GENERAL AUDIENCE**

Audience Hall

Wednesday, 21 January 2026

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**Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II. I. Dogmatic Constitution Dei Verbum. 2. *Jesus Christ reveals the Father*".**

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!*

We will continue the catecheses on the Dogmatic Constitution [Dei Verbum](#), of [Vatican Council II](#), on divine Revelation. [We have seen that God reveals himself in a dialogue of covenant](#), in which he addresses us as friends. It is therefore a *relational* knowledge, which not only communicates ideas, but shares a history and calls for communion in reciprocity. The fulfilment of this revelation takes place in a historical and personal encounter in which God himself gives himself to us, making himself present, and we discover that we are known in our deepest truth. It is what happens in *Jesus Christ*. The Document states that the deepest truth about God and the salvation of man shines out for our sake in Christ, who is both the mediator and the fullness of all revelation (cf. [DV](#), 2).

*Jesus reveals the Father to us by involving us in his own relationship with Him*. In the Son sent by God the Father "man might in the Holy Spirit have access to the Father and come to share in the divine nature" ([ibid.](#)). We therefore reach full knowledge of God by entering into the Son's relationship with his Father, by virtue of the action of the Spirit. This is attested to, for example, by the Evangelist Luke when he recounts the Lord's prayer of jubilation: "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him" ([Lk 10:21-22](#)).

*Thanks to Jesus we know God as we are known by Him* (cf. [Gal 4:9](#)); [1 Cor 13:13](#)). Indeed, in Christ, God has communicated himself to us and, at the same time, he has manifested to us our true identity as his children, created in the image of the Word. This "eternal Word ... enlightens all men" ([DV 4](#)), revealing their truth in the eyes of the Father: "Your Father, who sees in secret will reward you" ([Mt 6:4, 6, 18](#)), says Jesus, and he adds that "your Father knows that you need all these things" (cf. [Mt 6:32](#)). Jesus Christ is the place where we recognize the truth of God the Father, while we discover ourselves known by Him as sons in the Son, called to the same destiny of full life. Saint Paul writes: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son ... so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba!', Father!" ([Gal 4:4-6](#)). Finally, *Jesus Christ reveals the Father with his own humanity*. Precisely because he is the Word incarnate that dwells among men, Jesus reveals God to us with his own true and integral humanity: "To see Jesus is to see His Father" ([Jn 14:9](#)). For this reason, Jesus perfected revelation, fulfilling it through his whole work of making Himself present and manifesting Himself through His words and deeds, His signs and wonders, but especially through His death and glorious resurrection from the dead and final sending of the Spirit of truth" ([DV 4](#)). In order to know God in Christ, we must welcome his integral humanity: God's truth is not fully revealed where it takes something away from the human, just as the integrity of Jesus' humanity does not diminish the fullness of the divine gift. It is the integral humanity of Jesus that tells us the truth of the Father (cf. [Jn 1:18](#)).

It is not only the death and resurrection of Jesus that saves us and calls us together, but his very person: the Lord who becomes incarnate, is born, heals, teaches, suffers, dies, rises again and remains among us. Therefore, to honour the greatness of the Incarnation, it is not enough to consider Jesus as the channel of transmission of intellectual truths. If Jesus has a real body, the communication of the truth of God is realized in that body, with its own way of perceiving and feeling reality, with its own way of inhabiting and passing through the world. Jesus himself invites us to share his perception of reality: "Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" ([Mt 6:26](#)). Brothers and sisters, by following the path of Jesus to the very end, we reach the certainty that nothing can separate us from God's love. "If God is for us, who is against us?", writes Saint Paul again. "He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else?" ([Rom 8:31-32](#)). Thanks to Jesus, Christians know God the Father and entrust themselves to Him with confidence.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

"Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink." (Ex 17:6)

### Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

### Second Reading:

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Rom 5:5)

### Gospel:

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (Jn 4:13-14)

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

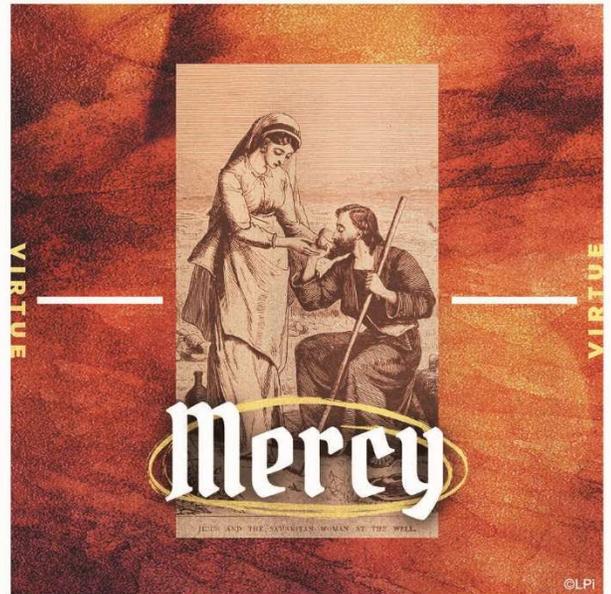
Jesus did not convert the Samaritan woman with miracles. He converted her with presence. He was not afraid of her sins or her failures. He listened to her. He sat with her. Let us learn from this: when we are present to others, we can show them the face of God.

## Observances for the week of March 8, 2026

**Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Lent;  
Daylight Saving Time begins

**Monday:** St. Frances of Rome, Religious

**Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Lent



## Virtues, Explained!

True virtuous mercy is a choice governed by reason, not merely a feeling. God's mercy to us knows no bounds, but that mercy does not compel Him to grant us everything our appetitive passions desire. Rather, His perfect mercy is directed toward supplying our needs.

## Blessing of Living Water

Lord, where there has been dryness in my life, bless me with Your living water!  
Where I fear to dream of new hope and growth, bless me with Your living water!  
Where I'm thirsty for new and abundant life, bless me with Your living water!  
Drench the parched earth with Your promise, bless me with Your living water!  
Amen.

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** Before the Incarnation, God looked down from Heaven and said, “You are thirsty. Here is something to drink.” After the Incarnation, God sits down beside us and says, “I’m thirsty. Give me something to drink.”

### When God asks for Water

One of my earliest memories is of my mother weeping.

The last few months of her pregnancy with my little brother were tremendously painful for her, and more than once the pain brought her to tears. I have a hazy image of her in my mind, belly swollen with a 12-pound baby lying transverse in the womb, sitting on the edge of her bed, dabbing at her face with toilet paper.

I had brought her the toilet paper. I would do that when I saw her crying, to wipe away her tears. I have a hazy memory of that, too — of the way my heart was wrenched by the sight of her suffering, of my desperation to do something to help, and of my immense satisfaction when she would take the toilet paper, smile and say, “Oh, thank you, sweetheart!” as if I had just airlifted her out of a war zone.

What a powerful gift to give to a child still learning the meaning of compassion and selflessness — the gift of being able to feel that she has, even in some small way, “rescued” a person she worships. Her smile of gratitude lives, immortal, in my mind, along with the swell of satisfaction it produced in the deepest corner of my heart. This was when I learned that it feels good to help people, and this memory is a perpetually replenished well of living water for me. I draw from it daily, three decades later.

This is a gift that Christ gives, over and over again, in the Gospels. He allows us to encounter him tired, afraid, sad and hungry. Omnipotent power subjected to the utter vulnerability of human form.

Before the Incarnation, God looked down from Heaven and said, “You are thirsty. Here is something to drink.”

After the Incarnation, God sits down beside us and says, “I’m thirsty. Give me something to drink.”

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

If we are all meant to be united in Christ, why is there so much division in the Church?

### Answer:

Each Sunday, we profess that we believe in “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.” The Church is indeed one because her source is the Trinity, and she is founded by Christ. The Church also exists in the fallen world and is made up of fallen people. Sometimes, there are tensions over what we believe as Catholics. Who is Jesus really? Are we affected by original sin? How do our traditional sexual ethics play out amidst medical and technological developments? Doctrinal disagreements are rarely just about ideas ... they occur within a context.

Tensions are influenced by various social and political factors of the time period. For example, Martin Luther’s attempts at reform gained followers, in part, as a reaction against poor moral practices within the Catholic Church. When the schism between the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church occurred in 1028, tensions between the two culturally different regions had been brewing for centuries.

Division still occurs within the bounds of the Church today. Oftentimes, this is about pastoral or practical matters. These Questions can vary. Should we incorporate Latin back into the liturgy? What is the best way to reach the youth in our parish? These may not be articles of faith, but people have strong opinions about what ought to be done. We can remember the prayer of Christ — “*that all might be one*” — and do what we can to grow in understanding and respectful dialogue.



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