

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

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)

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

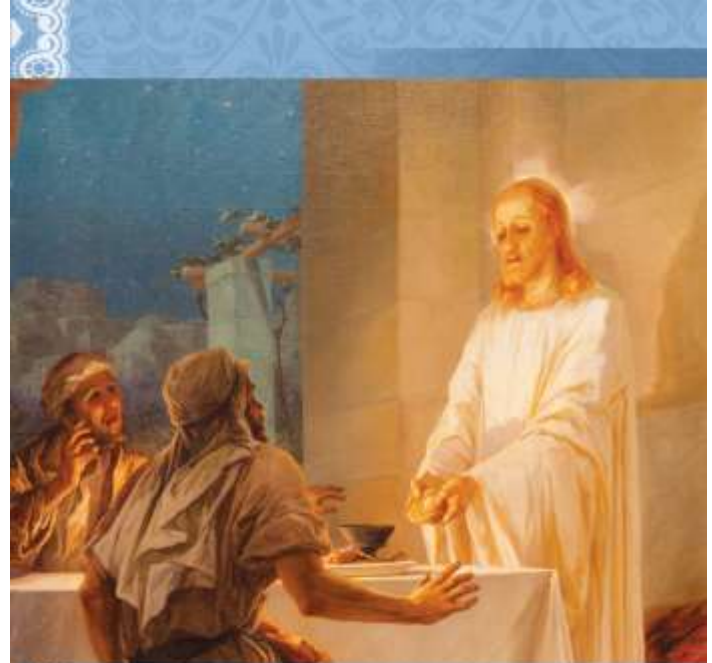
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Sunday

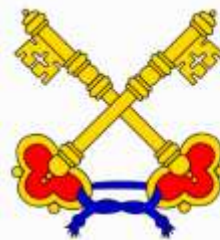
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

"And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight." Luke 24:30-31



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.

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

APRIL 19, 2026

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

Saturday, April 18, 2026

5:00 PM David Magnus☩;
Frank☩ and Phyllis☩ Filipek
7:00 PM Joseph Francis Xavier☩; All Souls☩;
Special Family Intentions

Sunday, April 19, 2026

7:30 AM Paul Quang Hien Nguyen☩ & all ancestors☩;
All souls in Purgatory☩
9:00 AM Luciano Gallardo Limon☩; Sofia and Mateo
11:00 AM Andrew Rubio☩; Benjamin Mendoza, Sr☩
1:00 PM Carmelita Tamauchi☩; Jovita Patino☩ &
Ysaias Martinez☩
4:00 PM Anne Marie Nguyen☩; Phuong Dung;
Father Thanh Tran & Bon Than
6:00 PM Apolinar Uriostegui &
Abunidio Santos Perez☩; Carlos Lamas &
Angelina Zalawas (Health)

Monday, April 20, 2026

6:30 AM Agnes Nguyen☩; Sister Karen Wilken
8:30 AM Mario Salinas Neri☩; Frank Hernandez☩
6:00 PM Jose Manuel Naves Lemus☩ &
Jose Luis Lemus Cortes; Regina del Cid &
David Osnaya (Health)

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

6:30 AM Alexander William Martinez &
Edward Michael Martinez (Health);
All Souls☩
8:30 AM Apolinar Uriostegui;
Gerardo Serrano (Health)

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

6:30 AM Vincent Simonetta☩;
Mayra Magana Cortes (Birthday) &
Rita Martinez (Health)
8:30 AM Audias T. Lopez☩ & Adelina M. Lopez;
Catalina☩ & Emilio☩ Ramirez

Thursday, April 23, 2026

6:30 AM Peter☩ & Teresa☩ and Ancestors
8:30 AM Jose Manuel Nares Lemus☩; Jose Lemus
Cortes & the sick

Friday, April 24, 2026

6:30 AM Martha Canseco☩; Angel Escalante☩;
Lourdes Carrera☩; Thanksgiving
8:30 AM Ane Ngo Thi Lan☩; Catarina Hong Pham☩
6:30 PM All Souls☩; Joseph Vu☩; Van Tho

Saturday, April 25, 2026

8:30 AM Mario Angel Escalante☩; Julio Barboza☩;
Sergio Oros☩

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2 and 5, 7-8,
9-10, 11/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35
Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/
Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday: Acts 7:51-8:1a/ Ps 31:3cd-4,
6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab/Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/ Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/
Jn 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/ Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/
Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20/ Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59
Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/ Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/
Mk 16:15-20
Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



April 11/12 Masses \$ 21,392.00
April 11/12 Online \$ 1,893.47
Total collection: \$ 23,285.47

Avocado sales \$ 7,042.00

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

Las lecturas de la semana del 19 de abril

- Domingo:** Hch 2, 14. 22-33/Sal 15, 1-2 y 5. 7-8. 9-10. 11/
1 Pe 1, 17-21/Lc 24, 13-35
- Lunes:** Hch 6, 8-15/Sal 118, 23-24. 26-27. 29-30/
Jn 6, 22-29
- Martes:** Hch 7, 51-8, 1/ Sal 30, 3-4. 6 y 7 y 8. 17 y 21/
Jn 6, 30-35
- Miércoles:** Hch 8, 1b-8/ Sal 65, 1-3. 4-5. 6-7/Jn 6, 35-40
- Jueves:** Hch 8, 26-40/ Sal 65, 8-9. 16-17. 20/
Jn 6, 44-51
- Viernes:** Hch 9, 1-20/ Sal 116, 1bc. 2/Jn 6, 52-59
- Sábado:** 1 Pe 5, 5-14/ Sal 88, 2-3. 6-7. 16-17/
Mc 16, 15-20
- Domingo:** Hch 2, 14. 36-41/Sal 22, 1-3. 3-4. 5. 6/
1 Pe 2, 20-25/Jn 10, 1-10

Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 19 de abril

- Domingo:** 3er Domingo de Pascua
- Martes:** San Anselmo, obispo y doctor de la Iglesia
- Miércoles:** Día de los Profesionales Administrativos;
Día de la Tierra
- Jueves:** San Jorge, mártir; San Adalberto,
obispo y mártir
- Viernes:** San Fidel de Sigmaringa, sacerdote y mártir;
Día del Árbol
- Sábado:** San Marcos, evangelista
- Domingo:** 4º Domingo de Pascua; Día Mundial de
Oración por las Vocaciones

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflexión: Cristo nos lo dio todo. Nos dio un "felices para siempre". ¿Pero qué haces con todo? ¿Qué haces con el "felices para siempre"? ¿Qué haces con la Resurrección? ¿Qué haces con la salvación?

La Historia que Nunca Termina

El mayor error que podemos cometer como cristianos es pensar que la Resurrección es el final de la historia.

Por supuesto, sabemos, lógicamente, que no es así — hay libros enteros de la Biblia que vienen después, detallando no solo las actividades y enseñanzas de Cristo Resucitado, sino el desarrollo de la Iglesia primitiva y los primeros pasos del Evangelio hacia el mundo más amplio. Lo sabemos.

Pero a veces no actuamos como tal.

La cuestión es que nos gustan las historias que se puedan arreglar perfectamente en un moño. Por eso existe el "felices para siempre". Estos finales pulcros son especialmente satisfactorios tras un golpe emocional y un giro — por ejemplo, digamos la crucifixión del héroe de la historia y un momento de "te atrape" en el que resulta que no está muerto después de todo. ¡Copas por todas partes! Y... escena. Cae el telón.

Pero el telón no cayó. Todavía no lo ha hecho.

Mira a Cleofás. Ha escuchado el testimonio de personas que conocía, personas en las que confiaba — y, sin embargo, está en un mundo de confusión. Está tambaleándose por el camino, preguntándose qué creer.

Cristo nos dio un "felices para siempre". Pero ¿qué haces con el "felices para siempre"? ¿Qué haces con la Resurrección? ¿Qué haces con la salvación?

La Resurrección dejó cabos sueltos — no porque fuera insuficiente, sino porque no era un capítulo final. Así que ser cristiano significa abrazar la vida de un cabo suelto. Significa averiguar qué hacer con la Resurrección, con la salvación, con el perdón — con este "felices para siempre" ganado con esfuerzo que es un regalo, pero también una comisión.

Porque el telón sigue levantado, y todos somos personajes de la Mejor Historia Jamás Contada.

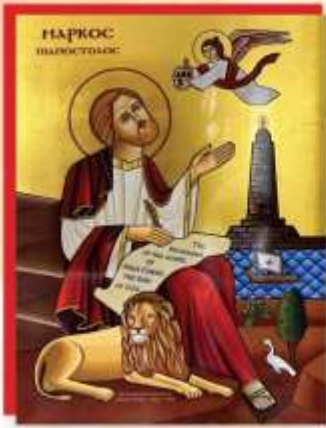
Entonces, ¿cuál es la siguiente escena?

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

Señor Jesús, haz que comprendamos las Escrituras y enciende nuestro corazón mientras las escuchamos cada domingo en la Eucaristía. Es tu Palabra viva y eficaz la que enciende nuestro corazón, como a los discípulos de Emaús. ¡Qué alegría tan grande tener a Jesús Eucaristía entre nosotros como alimento vivo para el camino! Jesús se acerca discretamente en nuestra vida de cada día; se une a nosotros, nos consuela y nos anima a seguir adelante. No les dijiste al principio quién eras, sino que les explicaste las Escrituras para que ellos mismos te reconocieran. Aunque fue tarde, lo hicieron: te invitaron a su casa, y allí surgió el milagro de reconocerte.

¿Dónde reconoces tú a Jesús en tu vida? ¿En qué etapa de tu historia se ha unido a ti?

Ayúdanos, Jesús, a sentir tu presencia en nuestra vida; que no pases desapercibido, a pesar del ruido y la monotonía del día a día. *"Quédate con nosotros, ya está cayendo la tarde y se termina el día. Entró, pues, para quedarse con ellos"* (Lucas 24:29). Así de importante es el camino de Emaús, que escuchamos cada tercer Domingo de Pascua. Jesús explica las Escrituras por el camino, no en una sinagoga; se le invita a quedarse en casa porque el día se acaba, y lo más hermoso: parte el pan para todos nosotros. No hay mejor manera de continuar celebrando la Pascua que invitar a Jesús Resucitado a casa, para platicar con Él, contarle lo que nos pasa, las alegrías y las tristezas, por medio de la oración. Para que Él renueve nuestra esperanza y nuestra fe. ¡Feliz Pascua! ©LPi



Thánh Mác-Cô TÁC GIẢ SÁCH TIN MỪNG

Lễ Thánh 25 tháng 4

Thánh Mác-cô là một trong bốn tác giả đã ghi lại cuộc đời của Chúa Giêsu. Bốn thánh sử viết Tin Mừng của Chúa Giêsu là Matthêu, Máccô, Luca và Gioan. Tất cả bốn thánh sử, mỗi người một về, mỗi người một cách đã tường thuật đầy đủ cuộc đời của Chúa Giêsu. Thánh Mác-cô đã được Chúa gọi mời, tuyển chọn để trở nên tông đồ và là một người tường thuật lại đời sống của Chúa Giêsu.

1. Thân thế và ơn gọi

Thánh Mác-cô (Máccô) là người Do Thái thuộc dòng Lêvi, thường được đồng nhất với “Gioan-Máccô” trong sách Công Vụ (Cv 12,12). Ngài không thuộc nhóm Mười Hai, nhưng là môn đệ thân tín của các tông đồ, đặc biệt là thánh Phêrô. Sau khi Chúa Giêsu lên trời, Mác-cô theo thánh Phêrô đến Rôma và được ngài yêu thương, hướng dẫn, nâng đỡ trong sứ vụ rao giảng.

Ơn gọi của Mác-cô cho thấy sáng kiến hoàn toàn nhưng không của Thiên Chúa: Chúa chọn ai là do tình thương và tự do của Ngài. Nhờ trí thông minh,

lòng đạo đức và sự khôn ngoan của Chúa Thánh Thần, Mác-cô trở thành khí cụ hữu hiệu trong việc loan báo Tin Mừng.

2. Tác giả Tin Mừng đầu tiên

Trước nhu cầu của các tín hữu thời sơ khai – mong có bản ghi chép rõ ràng về cuộc đời Chúa Giêsu – thánh Mác-cô đã viết Tin Mừng dựa trên lời giảng của thánh Phêrô. Đây là Tin Mừng ngắn nhất và có lẽ là sớm nhất, được soạn cho các Kitô hữu gốc Dân Ngoại tại Rôma, khoảng những năm 60-70 sau Công Nguyên.

Tin Mừng Mác-cô nhấn mạnh:

- Đức Giêsu là Con Thiên Chúa nhưng bị loài người từ chối.
- Sứ vụ của Người được trình bày sống động, khẩn trương, giàu tính chứng nhân.
- Gioan Tẩy Giả được mô tả như “tiếng kêu trong hoang địa”, hình ảnh gắn với biểu tượng sư tử có cánh của thánh sử.

3. Sứ vụ truyền giáo

Sau thời gian phục vụ tại Rôma, thánh Mác-cô được thánh Phêrô sai đến Ai Cập. Ngài là vị sáng lập và Giám mục đầu tiên của Giáo đoàn Alexandria, một trong những trung tâm Kitô giáo quan trọng nhất thời sơ khai. Nhờ tài

giảng thuyết, lòng nhiệt thành và đời sống thánh thiện, thánh Mác-cô đưa rất nhiều người trở về với Chúa.

4. Phúc tử đạo

Vì ghen tỵ và chống đối, những người ngoại giáo đã bắt và hành hạ thánh nhân. Ngài bị kéo lê trên đường đá gồ ghề cho đến chết, vào ngày 25 tháng 4 năm 67 (hoặc 68 theo truyền thống Alexandria). Giáo Hội tôn kính ngài như vị tử đạo anh dũng, người đã hoàn tất sứ mạng rao truyền Tin Mừng bằng chính máu mình.

Thánh tích của ngài được đưa về Venice năm 815; thành phố này nhận thánh Mác-cô làm quan thầy, với biểu tượng sư tử cánh vàng nổi tiếng tại quảng trường San Marco.

5. Gương sáng và lời cầu nguyện

Cuộc đời thánh Mác-cô là mẫu gương cho mọi Kitô hữu: rao giảng Tin Mừng bằng chính khả năng Chúa ban – qua lời nói, việc viết lách, nghệ thuật, giáo dục hay đời sống gia đình.

“Lạy Chúa, Chúa đã ban cho thánh Mác-cô vinh dự rao giảng và ghi chép Tin Mừng. Xin cho chúng con được hiểu thấu những lời thánh nhân giảng dạy để trung thành bước theo Chúa Kitô”. (Lời nguyện nhập lễ, lễ thánh Mác-cô, tác giả sách Tin Mừng).

CHƯƠNG TRÌNH THÁNG HOA & CÁC SINH HOẠT ĐẶC BIỆT

RƯỚC KIỆU KÍNH ĐỨC MẸ

Cộng đoàn sẽ cử hành Rước Kiệu tôn vinh Mẹ vào **chiều Chúa Nhật 3/5/2026 lúc 3h15**.
Kính mời các hội đoàn có mặt lúc 3h00 để sắp xếp và chuẩn bị.
Xin mặc đồng phục và đem theo cờ đoàn.

MÚA DĂNG HOA

Trong hai ngày **Thứ Bảy 2/5/2026** và **Chúa Nhật 3/5/2026**
Các em trong Ban Múa Phụng Vụ sẽ Múa Dăng Hoa Kính Mẹ trước thánh lễ.

THÁNH LỄ BAN BÍ TÍCH THÊM SỨC

Giáo Xứ sẽ có Thánh Lễ Thêm Sức cho các em **chiều Thứ Sáu ngày 8/5/2026**.
Lưu ý: Sẽ không có Thánh Lễ 6h30 tối như thường lệ.

CHUỖI MÂN CÔI LIÊN KẾT

Cộng Đoàn sẽ phát hành Chuỗi Kinh Mân Côi Liên Kết trong tháng hoa.
Kính mời quý ông bà anh chị em nhận về và siêng năng lần hạt, xin Đức Mẹ chuyển cầu
cho mỗi gia đình được bình an và cho cộng đoàn ngày càng hiệp nhất.

NGÀY HIỀN MẪU

Thứ Bảy, 9/5/2026 và **Chúa Nhật, 10/5/2026**
Cộng Đoàn sẽ cầu nguyện và tặng hoa để tri ân các người Mẹ.
Kính mời quý ông bà, anh chị em cùng hiệp ý tạ ơn và cầu nguyện cho tất cả các Mẹ
còn sống cũng như đã qua đời.

TIỆC TRI ÂN CHA MẸ VÀ KỶ NIỆM 10 LINH MỤC CỦA CHA QUẢN NHIỆM

Trong tâm tình **Tri Ân Cha Mẹ** và **Kỷ Niệm 10 Năm Linh Mục** của **Cha Quản Nhiệm**, Cộng Đoàn
sẽ tổ chức buổi tiệc mừng vào **Chúa Nhật, ngày 21/6/2026**, sau Thánh Lễ lúc 4:00 chiều tại:
Diamond Seafood Palace 3
6731 Westminster Blvd, Westminster, CA 92683

Vé sẽ được phát hành vào cuối tuần ngày 02/5/2026, với giá \$40/vé.
Đây là dịp để cộng đoàn dâng lời cảm tạ, thể hiện lòng biết ơn sâu sắc và chúc phúc cho cha
mẹ cùng quý Cha; đồng thời là cơ hội để mọi người gặp gỡ, giao lưu, thêm gắn gũi và
cầu nguyện cho quý Cha luôn vững bước trong sứ vụ.
Kính mong quý cộng đoàn tham dự đồng đảo trong tâm tình hiệp thông và tri ân.

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

Pray for the Sick

Eliam Phan

Andrew Regalado

Esperanza Ramirez

Kathleen Regalado

Richard Regalado

Jason Minton

Diego DiMassimo Velasquez

Funerals

Manuel Robles Herrera – 04/20 @ 1 PM

Jesus Villegas – 04/22 @ 11 AM

Wedding Banns

Mai & Nick Pham



YOUR ARE INVITED!!!
AS WE HONOR
Donald Gohling
UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM
SERVING THE COMMUNITY
AS A SACRISTAN

When: Friday, April 24th @ 9:15 AM
Where: Patio on the west side of the church


NOTE: There will be no confessions on Friday, April 24th; adoration after the 8:30 AM Mass will continue as normal

St. Michael's Catholic Church



Catholic Family Night delivered, and so did the Anaheim Ducks with a 6-1 win! Thank you to families and friends from across Orange County who joined us on April 9 at the Honda Center for Catholic Family Night with the Ducks. The action-packed evening provided the perfect blend of faith and family fun. Attendees even had the opportunity to participate in a post-game slapshot experience on the ice!

But the fun isn't over yet! Grab your tickets for our Catholic Family Night at Angel Stadium on **June 27!** Visit RCBO.org/catholic-family-night to learn more.



Pro Sanctity Movement

Easter
Prayer Group

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

APRIL 16, 23, 30, MAY 7, 14, 21
AFTER 8:30 AM MASS UNTIL 10:30 AM

ST POLYCARP ROOM

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



SAINTS SIMON & JUDE

20444 Magrovia St, Huntington Beach, Ca 92646



— Fiat in Faith. Fortitude in Service. —

Mass & Prayer Breakfast Saturday, April 25

8:15 AM Mass | 9:00 AM Prayer Breakfast
Saints Simon and Jude Community Center

We are a Catholic support community devoted to the parents of those who they serve, while also embracing spouses, children and loved ones who faithfully carry the mission at home. Our mission is to accompany Catholic military families with prayer, sacramental life, and authentic community, empowering them to live their vocation with steadfast faith amid deployments, distance, and the unique sacrifices of military life.

Please
RSVP



Servite High School invites students entering 1st through 8th grade to join our summer camps.

Choose from eight sports camps: baseball, basketball, football, soccer, swim, track and field, volleyball, and water polo. Families may register for a single week or bundle multiple weeks for savings.

Looking for theater, academic enrichment, or a future Friar experience too? Multi-week camps offer students the chance to explore a variety of subjects, and our theater camp ends with a performance of Shrek: The Musical Kids!

Camp schedules are designed to align with Servite Athletic Youth Camps. Students attending both athletic and academic camps will be guided by staff from the athletic field or gym directly to their classrooms.

Camps begin as early as Monday, June 8.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Please contact servitecommunications@servitehs.org with any questions.

Sacred Heart Retreat Camp

WOMEN'S
SPRING RETREAT

April 24-26, 2026

or

May 1-3, 2026

CONDUCTED BY THE
SACRED HEART SISTERS



or go to our website for more information:

<https://sacredheartretreatcamp.com/spring-womens-retreat/>



909-866-5696
896 Cienega Rd.
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

SUMMER CAMPS

ROSARY ACADEMY

.....
CAMPS START JUNE 8

MON-THURS 9AM-12PM & 12:30PM-3:30PM

.....
OFFERINGS INCLUDE:

- Cooking
- Girls Lead!
- Games
- Photography
- Art
- Sports
- and more!

SCAN TO CHECK OUT ALL
SUMMER CAMP OFFERINGS.



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LEO XIV

GENERAL AUDIENCE

Wednesday, 11 March 2026

Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II. II. Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*. 3. The Church, people of God

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Continuing in our reflection on the Dogmatic Constitution [Lumen gentium](#) (LG), today we will look at the second chapter, dedicated to the People of God.

God, who created the world and humanity, and who wishes to save every man, carries out his work of salvation in history, choosing a real people and dwelling among them. For this reason, He calls Abraham and promises him descendants as numerous as the stars in the Continuing sky and the sand on the seashore (cf. Gen 22:17-18). With Abraham's children, after freeing them from slavery, God makes a covenant with them, accompanies them, cares for them, and gathers them together whenever they stray. Therefore, the identity of this people is given by God's action and by faith in Him. They are called to become a light for other nations, like a beacon that will draw all peoples, the whole of humanity, to itself (cf. Is 2:1-5).

The Council affirms that "All these things, however, were done by way of preparation and as a figure of that new and perfect covenant, which was to be ratified in Christ, and of that fuller revelation which was to be given through the Word of God Himself made flesh" ([LG](#), 9). Indeed, it is Christ who, in giving His Body and His Blood, unites this people in Himself and in a definitive way. It is a people now made up of members of every nation; it is united by faith in Him, by adherence to Him, by living the same life as Him, animated by the Spirit of the Risen One. This is the Church: the people of God who draw their existence from the body of Christ [\[1\]](#) and who are themselves the body of Christ; [\[2\]](#) not a people like any other, but the People of God, called together by Him and made up of women and men from all the peoples of the earth. Its unifying principle is not a language, a culture, an ethnicity, but faith in Christ: the Church is therefore – according to a splendid expression of the Council – the assembly of "all those who in faith look upon Jesus" ([LG](#), 9).

It is a messianic people, precisely because it has Christ, the Messiah, as its head. Those who belong to it do not pride themselves on merits or titles, but only on the gift of being, in Christ and through Him, daughters and sons of God. Above any task or function, therefore, what really matters in the Church is to be grafted onto Christ, to be children of God by grace. This is also the only honorary title we should seek as Christians. We are in the Church in order to receive life from the Father unceasingly and to live as His children and brothers and sisters among ourselves. Consequently, the law that animates relationships in the Church is love, as we receive and experience it in Jesus; and her goal is the Kingdom of God, towards which she walks together with all humanity.

Unified in Christ, Lord and Saviour of every man and woman, the Church can never turn inwards on herself, but is open to everyone and is for everyone. If believers in Christ belong to it, the Council reminds us that "All men are called to belong to the new people of God. Wherefore this people, remaining one and unique, must extend to the whole world and to all ages, so that the intention of God's will may be fulfilled, who in the beginning created human nature as one and wants to gather together his children who were scattered" ([LG](#), 13). Even those who have not yet received the Gospel are therefore, in some way, oriented towards the people of God, and the Church, cooperating in Christ's mission, is called upon to spread the Gospel everywhere and to everyone (cf. [LG](#) 17), so that every person may enter into contact with Christ. This means that in the Church there is, and there must be, a place for everyone, and that every Christian is called to proclaim the Gospel and bear witness in every environment in which he or she lives and works. Thus, this people shows its catholicity, welcoming the wealth and resources of different cultures and, at the same time, offering them the newness of the Gospel to purify them and to raise them up (cf. [LG](#), 13).

In this regard, the Church is one but includes everyone. A great theologian described it thus: "The unique Ark of Salvation must welcome all human diversity into its vast nave. The only banquet hall, the food it distributes is drawn from all of creation. The seamless garment of Christ, it is also – and it is the same thing – the garment of Joseph, with its many colours". [\[3\]](#)

It is a great sign of hope – especially in our times, traversed by so many conflicts and wars – to know that the Church is a people in which women and men of different nationalities, languages and cultures live together in faith: it is a sign placed in the very heart of humanity, a reminder and prophecy of that unity and peace to which God the Father calls all his children.

[\[1\]](#) Cf. J. Ratzinger, *The New People of God*, Brescia 1992, 97.

[\[2\]](#) Cf. Y. M.-J. Congar, *A Messianic People*, Brescia 1976, 75.

[\[3\]](#) Cf. H. de Lubac, *Catholicism: A study of dogma in relation to the corporate destiny of mankind* (*Catholicisme: Les aspects sociaux du dogme*).

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Exalted at the right hand of God,
he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father
and poured him forth, as you see and hear." (Acts 2:33)

Psalm:

Lord, you will show us the path of life. (Ps 16)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

He was known before the foundation of the world
but revealed in the final time for you. (1 Pt 1:20)

Gospel:

Then they said to each other,
"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the
Scriptures to us?" (Lk 24:32)

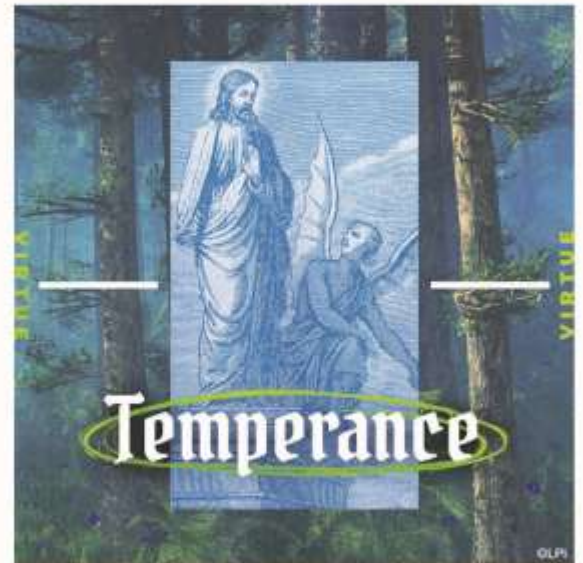
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Like Cleopas, we make our way
through this world with weary feet and
disappointed hearts. Christ falls into step
beside us. He can open our eyes. Will we
let him?

Observances for the week of April 19, 2026

Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Easter
Tuesday:	St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday:	<i>Administrative Professionals' Day; Earth Day</i>
Thursday:	St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr
Friday:	St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr; <i>Arbor Day</i>
Saturday:	St. Mark, Evangelist
Next Sunday:	4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations



Virtues, Explained!

This cardinal virtue of temperance is shown in the person who is master of his passions and his attachment to the world. "It ensures the will's mastery over instincts and keeps desires within the limits of what is honorable," we read in the Catechism.

Blessing for Spring

Dear Lord,
As this new season begins,
bring new life to our hearts as
well.
Prune what has grown
despondent,
brush back that which darkens
and clouds.
As the flowers bud and bloom,
bless us with new wonder, new
hope, new promise, new joy.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Christ gave us everything. He gave us “happily ever after.” But what do you do with everything? What do you do with “happily ever after?” What do you do with the Resurrection? What do you do with salvation?

The Story That Never Ends

The biggest mistake we can make as Christians is to think that the Resurrection is the end of the story.

Of course we *know*, logically, that it isn't — there are whole books of the Bible that come after it, detailing not just the activities and teachings of the Risen Christ, but the development of the early Church and the Gospel's first baby steps into the wider world. We know this.

But sometimes we don't act like it.

The thing is, we like stories that can be tied up neatly in a bow. It's why “happily ever after” is a thing. These tidy endings are especially satisfying following an emotional gut punch and a twist — for instance, let's say the crucifixion of the story's hero and a *gotcha!* moment where it turns out he's not dead after all. Drinks all around! And...scene. The curtain falls.

But the curtain didn't fall. It still hasn't.

Look at Cleopas. He has heard the testimony of people he knew, people he trusted — and yet, he's in a world of confusion. He's stumbling along the road, wondering what to believe.

Christ gave us “happily ever after.” But what do you do with “happily ever after?” What do you do with the Resurrection? What do you do with salvation?

The Resurrection left loose ends — not because it was insufficient, but because it was not a final chapter. So being a Christian means embracing the life of a loose end. It means figuring out what to do with the Resurrection, with salvation, with forgiveness — with this hard-won “happily ever after” that is a gift but also a commission.

Because the curtain is still up, and we are all characters in the Greatest Story Ever Told.

So, what's the next scene?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What do Catholics believe about the end of the world?

Answer:

We hear the phrase “the end of the world” casually today. Often in film or media, it means the end of civil society or the threat of human annihilation by natural disasters. For the Christian, our perspective is distinctly Christ-centered. Numerous times through the Gospel, Jesus notes that he will come again, even after he has ascended into heaven. The Church typically refers to this as the Second Coming of Jesus or the Latin “Parousia,” meaning “presence” or “arrival.”

We believe that Christ will come again, and at his Second Coming, temporal time will end. Human history will end, at least as we know it. However, it doesn't mean that creation will be destroyed. The book of Revelation speaks of a renewal, indeed a “*new heaven and a new earth*” (Rev 21:1). Christ will come again in glory. Our souls will be reunited with our bodies. While our lives were judged individually at our deaths, which we call the particular judgment, something new will happen here. Theologians call it the general judgment or the last judgment, in which our deeds and the effects — for good or ill — will be known to all. For the early Christians, this second coming was hoped for! They knew it was the completion of God's work of redemption for the human race. We, too, should pray with them, “Come Lord Jesus!”



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