

# 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)

## 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*

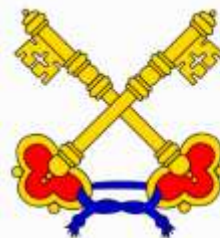
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM



## 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." John 10:10



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

# APRIL 26, 2026

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

**Saturday, April 25, 2026**

5:00 PM All Souls✠  
7:00 PM All Souls✠; Special Family Intentions

**Sunday, April 26, 2026**

7:30 AM Peter Trap Mai✠ & All Ancestors  
9:00 AM Candelario Salinas✠ & Mario Salinas✠;  
Galo & Marian Quingaizo (50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary)  
11:00 AM Andrew Rubio✠; Mary Strouse (Health)  
1:00 PM Maria Esther Ponce Hernandez✠;  
Clara Valladares & Berenice Chino (Health)  
4:00 PM Anne Marie Nguyen✠; Phuong Dung;  
Joseph David Rhoads✠ & Joseph✠ &  
Maria✠  
6:00 PM Jose Alfredo Corado✠;  
Alexander William Martinez and  
Edward Michael Martinez (Health)

**Monday, April 27, 2026**

6:30 AM Maria Chau Ai Ha  
8:30 AM Frank Hernandez✠;  
Maria Luisa Yanez Jimenez (Birthday) &  
Aliza Hurts Yanez (Birthday)  
6:30 PM All Souls in Purgatory✠;  
Rodrigo DeJesus Montenegro✠ &  
Regina Velasco

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

6:30 AM Jose Lasam✠; Ancestors of a family  
8:30 AM Angelina D. Robledo✠;  
Special Family Intentions

**Wednesday, April 29, 2026**

6:30 AM Minh Thu; Catherine Duc✠;  
Catherine Tai✠; Catherine Quyen✠  
8:30 AM Alexander William Martinez and  
Edward Michael Martinez (Health);  
Ancestors of family

**Thursday, April 30, 2026**

6:30 AM Emilia Almaraz✠; Chela Canseco✠  
8:30 AM Jafet Emiliano Pena Sandoval;  
Special Family Intentions

**Friday, May 01, 2026**

6:30 AM Manolo D. Diaz✠  
8:30 AM Catarina Hong Pham✠;  
Toma Lai Pham✠ & Giuse Tien Pham✠  
6:30 PM Living and Deceased of the Vietnamese

**Saturday, May 02, 2026**

8:30 AM Jose Antonio Casas✠; Ernest Hurst✠;  
Rodrigo De Jesus Montenegro✠ &  
Johnny Dietz✠

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5,  
6/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10  
**Monday:** Acts 11:1-18/ Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/  
Jn 10:11-18 (second choice)  
**Tuesday:** Acts 11:19-26/ Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/  
Jn 10:22-30  
**Wednesday:** Acts 12:24-13:5a/ Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/  
Jn 12:44-50  
**Thursday:** Acts 13:13-25/ Ps 89:2-3, 21-22,  
25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20  
**Friday:** Acts 13:26-33/ Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/  
Jn 14:1-6  
**Saturday:** Acts 13:44-52/ Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/  
Jn 14:7-14  
**Sunday:** Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/  
1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



April 18/19 Masses \$ 19,807.50  
April 18/19 Online \$ 2,690.04  
**Total collection: \$ 22,497.54**

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

## Las lecturas de la semana del 26

**Domingo:** Hch 2, 14. 36-41/Sal 22, 1-3. 3-4. 5. 6/  
1 Pe 2, 20-25/Jn 10, 1-10  
**Lunes:** Hch 11, 1-18/ Sal 41, 2-3; 43, 3. 4/Jn 10, 11-18  
**Martes:** Hch 11, 19-26/ Sal 86, 1-3. 4-5. 6-7/Jn 10, 22-30  
**Miércoles:** Hch 12, 24-13, 5/ Sal 66, 2-3. 5. 6 y 8/Jn 12, 44-50  
**Jueves:** Hch 13, 13-25/ Sal 88, 2-3. 21-22. 25 y 27/  
13, 16-20  
**Viernes:** Hch 13, 26-33/ Sal 2, 6-7. 8-9. 10-11/Jn 14, 1-6  
**Sábado:** Hch 13, 44-52/ Sal 97, 1. 2-3. 3-4/Jn 14, 7-14  
**Domingo:** Hch 6, 1-7/Sal 32, 1-2. 4-5. 18-19/1 Pe 2, 4-9/  
Jn 14, 1-12

## Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 26 de abril

**Domingo:** 4º Domingo de Pascua; Día Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones  
**Martes:** San Pedro Luis María Chanel, sacerdote y mártir; San Luis María Grignon de Montfort, sacerdote  
**Miércoles:** Santa Catalina de Siena, virgen y doctora de la Iglesia  
**Jueves:** San Pío V, papa  
**Viernes:** San José, obrero; Día Nacional de la Oración  
**Sábado:** San Atanasio, obispo y doctor de la Iglesia  
**Domingo:** 5º Domingo de Pascua

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini reflexión:** Podemos reconocer lo que es real por su origen. Como se escucha. Esta capacidad de discernir la verdad está grabada en nuestra alma. Podemos ignorarla, si queremos. Reprimirla. Podemos seguir al desconocido. ¿Pero a dónde nos llevará?

## La Larga Estafa del Diablo

El algoritmo de mi servicio de streaming ha estado sugiriendo muchos documentales de estafas románticas últimamente. Si no las conoces, las estafas románticas son una forma especialmente cruel de "la estafa larga".

Un hombre se presenta ante una mujer como el Príncipe Azul. Él la alaga con vino y cena. Él encanta a su madre y pone celosas a sus amigas. Aparecen pequeñas señales de alarma aquí y allá, pero ella las ignora todas. Acepta explicaciones convenientes.

Solo quiere ser feliz.

Y entonces, un día, el Príncipe Azul desaparece, junto con el contenido de la cuenta de ahorros de la mujer. Todas las víctimas dicen lo mismo: "Debería haberlo sabido, pero quería que fuera real."

Creo que la razón por la que me atraen tanto estas series es que me identifico con estas mujeres. No, nunca he sido víctima de una estafa romántica (si mi marido se casó conmigo pensando que tendría acceso a algún tipo de fortuna, él es el que ha sido estafado). Pero todos nos hemos dicho a nosotros mismos que algo está bien porque se siente bien. Hemos dejado de lado dudas sobre una elección, una relación, un hábito.

Hemos aceptado respuestas fáciles que no pasan la prueba— porque realmente, realmente queríamos una respuesta, y realmente, realmente queríamos que fuera fácil.

El diablo es un estafador romántico. Un minorista externo que vende alegría y satisfacción de imitación. Un lobo con piel de cordero. Un falso profeta. Un ladrón, un bandido que ha escalado la valla, sabiendo que la puerta no le dejará entrar.

Todas estas son formas diferentes de decir lo mismo: podemos reconocer lo que es real por su origen. Como se escucha. Esta capacidad de discernir la verdad está grabada en nuestra alma. Podemos ignorarla, si queremos. Reprimirla. Podemos seguir al desconocido.

¿Pero a dónde nos llevará? ©LPi

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

Lo fundamental en este cuarto Domingo de Pascua es conocer la voz del Pastor y saber cómo se identifica Él: *"Yo soy la puerta; el que entre por mí estará a salvo; entrará y saldrá y encontrará alimento"* (Juan 10:9). Al entrar por su puerta lo encontraremos todo, y especialmente sabremos escucharlo. Santa Teresa de Ávila decía: *"Tratar de amistad, estando muchas veces tratando a solas con quien sabemos nos ama"* (Vida 8,5). Es ahí, en la oración diaria, donde descubrimos que a cada uno nos llama por nuestro nombre, que no somos desconocidos para Él. En esos pastos del Reino de Dios tenemos un lugar asignado para trabajar los dones que Dios nos ha regalado.

En la experiencia de la vida hay muchos ladrones que roban la inocencia y descarrilan a muchas personas hacia el abismo. Solo el Buen Pastor, que es Jesús, nos ayuda a distinguir las puertas y las voces falsas que nos rodean. Las herramientas que nos ayudan a reconocer a Jesús son los Sacramentos y la práctica de los Mandamientos, como una forma de vivir la moral cristiana. El papa Francisco, feliz memoria, decía: *"La voz de Dios y la del tentador, en definitiva, hablan en diferentes ambientes: el enemigo prefiere la oscuridad, la falsedad, el chismorreó; por el contrario, el Señor ama la luz del sol, la verdad, la transparencia sincera. El enemigo nos dirá: 'Enciértrate en ti mismo, porque nadie te entiende ni te escucha; ¡no te fíes!' El bien, contrariamente, nos invita a abrirnos, a ser claros y a confiar en Dios y en los demás"*. Pidamos al Señor la gracia de escuchar su voz.

©LPi

# Rước Kiệu Tôn Vinh Mẹ Maria

Kính mời quý cộng đoàn cùng tham dự Rước Kiệu Tôn Vinh Mẹ, dâng lên Mẹ những đóa hoa lòng, hiệp ý cầu nguyện cho Cộng Đoàn, gia đình và quê hương.

**Chúa Nhật - 03/05/2026 - 3PM**

Kính mong sự tham dự đông đủ, đúng giờ và sốt sắng của quý vị.  
Xin các hội đoàn mặc đồng phục và mang theo cờ đoàn.

## Múa Dâng Hoa

Trong hai ngày **Thứ Bảy, 2/5/26** và **Chúa Nhật 3/5/26**, Ban Múa Phụng Vụ sẽ múa dâng hoa kính Mẹ Maria trước Thánh Lễ.  
Kính mời quý ông bà anh chị em đến sớm để cùng thưởng thức và hòa lòng với các em trong tâm tình yêu mến, dâng lên Mẹ những đóa hoa đẹp nhất của lòng hiếu thảo và lòng tin.

## Chuỗi Mân Côi Liên Kết

Trong tâm tình tôn vinh Mẹ Maria, Cộng Đoàn sẽ phát hành chục Kinh Mân Côi Liên Kết trong Tháng 5. Mong quý vị mỗi người, mỗi gia đình hiệp ý lần hạt Một Chục hoặc Một Chuỗi kết nối với nhau thành tràng hoa Mân Côi sống động dâng lên Mẹ để đón nhận ơn lành từ Chúa qua lời chuyển cầu của Mẹ Maria.



## **Ngày Hiền Mẫu**

Vào Ngày Lễ Vinh Danh các Người Mẹ 09/5 và 10/5, Cha Quản Nhiệm và Cộng Đoàn sẽ dâng Thánh Lễ để cầu nguyện và tặng hoa bày tỏ lòng tri ân đối với các Người Mẹ. Kính mời quý ông bà, anh chị em cùng hiệp ý tạ ơn và cầu nguyện cho tất cả các Người Mẹ - những người còn đang đồng hành với chúng ta cũng như những người đã được Chúa gọi về.



## **Tiệc Tri Ân Cha Mẹ & 10 Năm Thiên Chúc Linh Mục**

Mùng Ngày Hiền Phụ, trong Thánh Lễ 4h00 chiều, Chúa Nhật ngày 21/6/2026

Cộng Đoàn sẽ hiệp ý cầu nguyện đặc biệt cho những Người Cha.

Địp này cũng là Kỷ Niệm 10 Năm Thánh Chúc Linh Mục của Cha Quản Nhiệm.

Cộng Đoàn sẽ tổ chức Tiệc Tri Ân Cha Mẹ và Mừng 10 Năm Hồng Ân Linh Mục

lúc 5h30 chiều cùng ngày tại Diamond Seafood Palace 3

**Vé tham dự là \$40/ người, sẽ được bán vào Đầu Tháng 5**

**tại các hội đoàn và cuối nhà thờ sau các thánh lễ.**

Kính mời quý ông bà anh chị em tham dự để cùng tri ân các Đấng Sinh Thành và chung vui cùng Cha Quản Nhiệm.



## **Thánh Lễ Tạ Ôn Cho Các Sinh Viên Tốt Nghiệp**

Cha Quản Nhiệm sẽ dâng Thánh Lễ Đặc Biệt cầu nguyện cho các em tốt nghiệp

Trung Học và Đại Học trong năm 2026

trong Thánh Lễ 7h00 tối Thứ Bảy ngày 06/06/2026.

Để việc tổ chức được chu đáo và trang trọng, xin quý phụ huynh và các em vui lòng ghi danh sớm, **trước ngày 31/5/26 qua email: [cdpolycarp94@gmail.com](mailto:cdpolycarp94@gmail.com)**

**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

**PARISHES IN COLLABORATION**




**2ND COLLECTION**



**5/2/2026 - 5/3/2026**

This collection is to assist parishes in the Diocese of Orange that exhibit ongoing needs that cannot be paid for by their ordinary income and have urgent needs (such as repairs and maintenance). Thank you for your generous financial support.


 **SAINT POLYCARP  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
8000 Chapman Avenue | Brea, CA 92603 | (714) 892-3158 | www.stpolycarp.org

**Pray for the Sick**

Eliam Phan  
Andrew Regalado  
Esperanza Ramirez  
Kathleen Regalado  
Richard Regalado  
Jason Minton  
Diego DiMassimo Velasquez  
Ngoc Tran

**Wedding Banns**

Catherine Mai & Nick Pham

 **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

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST COMMUNION  
CLASS OF 2026**



**St. Peregrine,  
Patron of cancer patients,  
and hope for youth at risk,  
Pray for us!**

*Mass at Christ Cathedral  
And blessing with relics of St. Peregrine  
Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> | 6:00pm  
Bishop Timothy Freyer D.D.*

**2026 PSA Pledge time!**

You may continue to submit your pledge in support of our **2026 Pastoral Services Appeal (PSA)** program. Pledge forms are available in the church lobby, or you may submit your pledge online through our parish website. Completed forms may also be dropped off at the parish office or placed in the collection baskets during Mass.

Forum for the Discernment to the  
*Diaconate Vocation*

Saturday, May 2, 2026  
 3:00 PM in the Bishop Freyer Hall  
 120 N Janss St., Anaheim, CA 92805  
 With Deacon Tom Saenz  
 Director of the Diaconate office

St. Boniface  
 Catholic Church

Foro para el discernimiento de la  
*Vocación al Diaconado*

Sábado, 2 de Mayo de 2026  
 A las 3:00 PM en el Salón Parroquial  
 120 N Janss St., Anaheim, CA 92805  
 Con el Diacono Tom Sáenz  
 Director de la Oficina del Diaconado

Scan the QR  
 code to register

Escanee el código  
 QR para inscribirse



*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






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](mailto:servitecommunications@servitehs.org) with any questions.

**SUMMER CAMPS**

**R**

**ROSARY ACADEMY**

**RISING 3RD-8TH GRADES**

**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.

REGISTER BY APRIL 1 AND RECEIVE A \$10 DISCOUNT ON EACH CAMP.





LEO XIV

**GENERAL AUDIENCE**

Wednesday, 18 March 2026

**Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II. II. Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*. 4. *The Church, a Priestly and Prophetic People***

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

Today I would like to revisit the second chapter of the Conciliar Constitution *Lumen gentium* (*LG*), devoted to the Church as the people of God.

The messianic people (*LG*, 9), receive from Christ the participation in the priestly, prophetic and kingly work office through which his salvific mission is carried out. The Council Fathers teach that the Lord Jesus, through the new and eternal Covenant, has established a kingdom of priests, constituting his disciples as a 'royal priesthood' (1 *Pet* 2:9; cf. 1 *Pet* 2:5; *Rev* 1:6). This common priesthood of the faithful is given with Baptism, which enables us to worship God in spirit and truth, and to "confess before men the faith which they have received from God through the Church" (*LG*, 11). Furthermore, through the sacrament of Confirmation, all the baptized "are more perfectly bound to the Church ... and the Holy Spirit endows them with special strength so that they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith, both by word and by deed, as true witnesses of Christ" (*ibid.*). This consecration is at the root of the common mission that unites the ordained ministries and the lay faithful.

In this regard, **Pope Francis** observed that, "Looking at the People of God is remembering that we all enter the Church as lay people. The first sacrament, which seals our identity forever, and of which we should always be proud, is Baptism. Through Baptism and by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, (the faithful) 'are consecrated as a spiritual house and a holy priesthood' (*LG*, 10), [so that] everyone forms the faithful Holy People of God" (*Letter to the President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America*, 19 March 2016).

The exercise of the royal priesthood takes place in many ways, all aimed at our sanctification, first and foremost through participation in the offering of the Eucharist. Through prayer, asceticism and active charity, we thus bear witness to a life renewed by God's grace (cf. *LG*, 10). As the Council summarizes, "it is through the sacraments and the exercise of the virtues that the sacred nature and organic structure of the priestly community is brought into operation" (*LG*, 11).

The Council Fathers then teach that the holy People of God also participate in the prophetic mission of Christ (cf. *LG*, 12). In this context, the important theme of the *sense of the faith* and the *consensus of the faithful* is introduced. The Doctrinal Commission of the Council specified that this *sensus fidei* "is like a faculty of the whole Church, by which she, in her faith, recognizes the revelation handed down, distinguishing between true and false in matters of faith, and at the same time penetrates it more deeply and applies it more fully in life" (cf. *Acta Synodalia*, III/1, 199). The sense of faith therefore belongs to individual believers not in their own right, but as members of the People of God as a whole.

*Lumen gentium* focuses on this latter aspect, and places it in relation to the infallibility of the Church, to which that of the Roman Pontiff is inherent and by which it is served. "The entire body of the faithful, anointed as they are by the Holy One (c. 1 *Jn* 2:20,27), cannot err in matters of belief. They manifest this special property by means of the whole peoples' supernatural discernment in matters of faith when from the Bishops down to the last of the lay faithful they show universal agreement in matters of faith and morals" (*LG*, 12). The Church, therefore, as the communion of the faithful – which naturally includes the pastors – cannot err in matters of faith: the organ through which this truth is preserved, founded on the anointing of the Holy Spirit, is the *supernatural sense of faith* of the entire People of God, which is manifested in the *consensus of the faithful*. From this unity, which the Magisterium of the Church safeguards, it follows that every baptized person is an active agent of evangelization, called to bear consistent witness to Christ in accordance with the prophetic gift which the Lord bestows upon His whole Church.

Indeed, the Holy Spirit, who comes to us from the Risen Christ, "distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. By these gifts He makes them fit and ready to undertake the various tasks and offices which contribute toward the renewal and building up of the Church" (*LG*, 12). A particular demonstration of this charismatic vitality is offered by consecrated life, which continually germinates and flourishes through the work of grace. Ecclesial associations, too, are a shining example of the variety and fruitfulness of spiritual fruits for the edification of the People of God.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Peter said to them,  
"Repent and be baptized, every one of you,  
in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;  
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

### Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)  
Or Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

By his wounds you have been healed.  
For you had gone astray like sheep,  
but you have now returned to the shepherd and  
guardian of your souls. (1 Pt 2:24-25)

### Gospel:

"I came so that they might have life and have it more  
abundantly." (Jn 10:10)

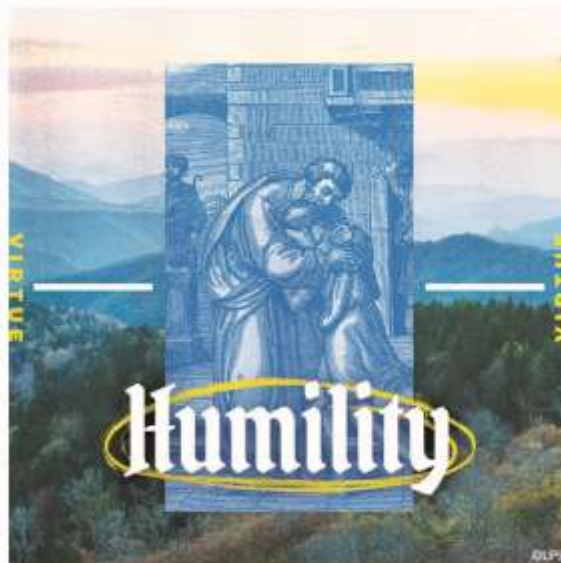
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"The sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice," Jesus says. Do we know the voice of Jesus when he speaks to us? Have we spent time in conversation with him? This week, listen for the voice of Jesus in your life, and follow where it leads.

## Observances for the week of April 26, 2026

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Easter;  
World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- Tuesday:** St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;  
St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest
- Wednesday:** St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and  
Doctor of the Church
- Thursday:** St. Pius V, Pope
- Friday:** St. Joseph the Worker; National Day of Prayer
- Saturday:** St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Easter



## Virtues, Explained!

True humility does not require us to ignore, underestimate, or hide our gifts — it merely demands that we use these gifts rightly, with the knowledge that they are from our Creator and meant for His glory, not our own.

## Blessing of the Good Shepherd

Dear Jesus,  
Be the Good Shepherd in my life.  
Help me to know your voice and to respond.  
Help me to find your fold and the paths on which you lead.  
Bless me with verdant pastures and restful waters.  
Refresh my soul.  
Amen.

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** We can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger. But where will he lead?

### The Devil's Long Con

The algorithm on my streaming service has been suggesting a lot of romantic scam documentaries lately. If you're not familiar, romantic scams are a particularly cruel form of "the long con."

Some man presents himself to some woman as Prince Charming. He wines her. He dines her. He charms her mom and makes her friends jealous. Little red flags pop up here and there, but she shrugs them all off. She accepts convenient explanations.

She just wants to be happy.

And then one day, Prince Charming vanishes, along with the contents of the woman's savings account. Every victim says the same thing: "I should have known better, but I wanted it to be real."

I think the reason I'm so drawn to these shows is that I identify with these women. No, I've never been the victim of a romantic scam (if my husband married me thinking he would gain access to some kind of fortune, he's the one who got scammed). But we have all told ourselves that something *is* right because it *feels* right. We have shrugged off doubts about a choice, a relationship, a habit.

We have accepted easy answers that don't pass the sniff test — because we really, really wanted an answer, and we really, really wanted it to be easy.

The devil is a romantic scammer. A third-party retailer hawking knock-off joy and fulfillment. A wolf in sheep's clothing. A false prophet. A thief, a robber who has climbed the fence, knowing the gate will not admit him.

These are all different ways of saying the same thing: we can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger.

But where will he lead?

— *Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

What is the history behind the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross?

### Answer:

Emperor Constantine's mother, Helena, is credited with having discovered the true cross around 330. She traveled to the Holy Land and uncovered the places associated with Jesus' life. Legend has it that Helena uncovered three crosses but was not able to detect the true cross until each of them was laid on a leper. Only one of them cured the leper, proving it to be the true cross. A great church was built at the site, and soon various portions of the cross were sent to other churches as relics to be venerated.

The day after the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, September 14, 335, the actual cross was displayed for veneration. Egeria, a women traveler to Jerusalem around the year 386, kept a diary that has survived. She tells of the unique veneration of the wood of the cross that took place on Good Friday, something maintained ritually to this very day.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross focuses on the gift of love that Jesus manifested by his total gift of self, offered for all. The cross, the ultimate form of capital punishment in its day, has become for us the ultimate symbol of love and triumph over evil and death.



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