

# 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

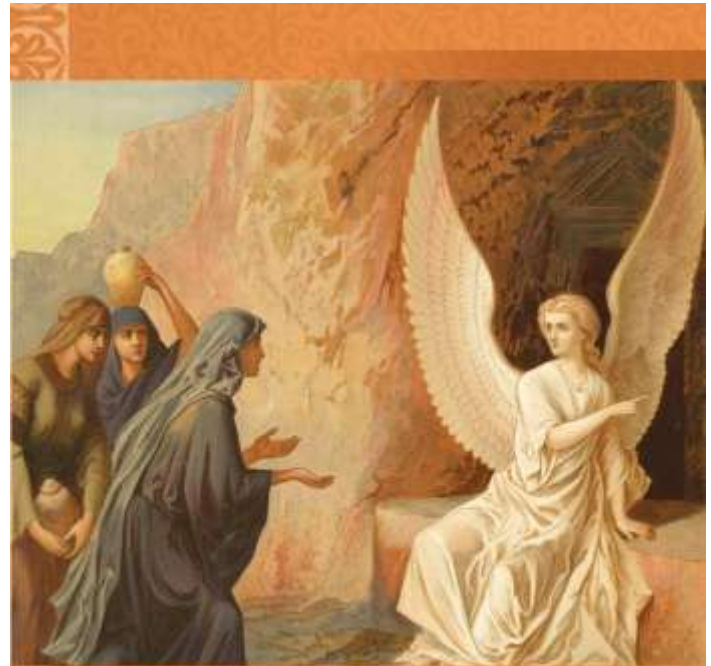
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Sunday

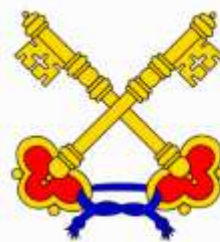
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM



## EASTER SUNDAY

"The angel said to the women in reply, 'Do not be afraid!'" Matthew 28:5



## 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 5, 2026

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

**Saturday, April 4, 2026**

5:00 PM All Souls✠  
7:30 PM Juan Mejia (health) & Celina

**Sunday, April 5, 2026**

7:30 AM Peter Trap Mai✠ & All Ancestors✠  
9:00 AM The Bustos Family✠; Tomasa Tapia✠,  
Rufino Torres✠ & Cira Torres✠  
11:00 AM Roberto Gomez✠; Dorothy Pantleo &  
Guadalupe Navarrete (birthday)  
1:00 PM Abundio Lomeli✠; Mayra Perez✠;  
Bernardita Brito Brito✠  
4:00 PM Minh Thu; Special Family Intentions  
6:00 PM Maria de Jesus Tovar✠ &  
Froylan Herrada Tovar✠

**Monday, April 6, 2026**

8:30 AM Toma Thuyet Pham✠ & Maria Beo Pham✠

**Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

6:30 AM Juana Layug Serrano✠; Thanksgiving  
8:30 AM Felipe Garcia✠; Augustino Thao Nguyen✠ &  
Anna Ngan Pham

**Wednesday, April 8, 2026**

6:30 AM Luca Cong Trong✠; Speedy Recovery  
8:30 AM Luiz Escobar✠; Toma Lai Pham✠ &  
Giuse Tien Pham✠

**Thursday, April 9, 2026**

6:30 AM Wiliam Emanuel Saligan✠; All Souls✠  
8:30 AM Jane Tran Mai; Joseph✠, Teresa✠ &  
Ancestors of a Family✠

**Friday, April 10, 2026**

6:30 AM Andrew Rubio✠; Special Family Intentions  
8:30 AM Catarina Hong Pham✠ &  
Jimmy Nguyen (birthday)  
6:30 PM Vicente Nguyen Van Ty✠

**Saturday, April 11, 2026**

8:30 AM Reynaldo Posadas✠; All Souls✠ &  
Special Family Intentions



**Pray for the Sick**

Carlos Masedo  
Anaid Serrato  
Courday Farnham  
Bob Mort  
Guadalupe Anguiano

**Wedding Banns**

Armando Linares & Rita Ontiveros

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17,  
22-23/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/  
Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 Or Lk 24:13-35  
**Monday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8,  
9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15  
**Tuesday:** Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and  
22/Jn 20:11-18  
**Wednesday:** Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/  
Lk 24:13-35  
**Thursday:** Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7,  
8-9/Lk 24:35-48  
**Friday:** Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24,  
25-27a/Jn 21:1-14  
**Saturday:** Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab,  
16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15  
**Sunday:** Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15,  
22-24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31



  
 PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL  
**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  
 www.stpolycarp.org



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



Mar 28/29 Masses \$ 22,941.00  
Mar 28/29 Online \$ 1,761.00  
**Total collection: \$ 24,702.00**

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

Dear Parishioners of Saint Polycarp,

Happy Easter! Christus resurrexit ~ Christ is risen! Easter celebrates Jesus' rising from the death: His rising from the death means that He defeats the greatest enemy that threatens us, His children. No longer does death have power over us. This is what Saint Paul preached to the Corinthians, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Cor 15: 17).

A brief review of this celebration is needed to strengthen and deepen our faith. Last Sunday, we began Holy Week with Passion Sunday, which is commonly known as Palm Sunday; and Holy Week culminates in the Holy Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday). During these three sacred days, the Church mourns the passion and death of Our Savior Jesus. However, our faith does not stop at the Savior's death. It surmounts to the Resurrection, where Jesus destroys sufferings, despair, and death. The Resurrection is the triumphant of God—the living God.

On Easter Vigil Mass, Saint Polycarp church receives more than thirty newly members into the Catholic Church. These new members are called neophytes. Their entrance into the Catholic faith through baptism gives them a new identity: they are children of the Kingdom of Heaven and of the Catholic Church. To these newly baptized, we congratulate you. We pray that your faith continues to grow, and that you continue to join us at the Eucharistic table every Sunday.

On this Easter Sunday, I welcome those who join us this special and sacred day of the Resurrection. I wish to thank all those who assisted in the Triduum, the Easter Vigil Mass. In particular, my brother priests (Fathers Luis and Nicolaus), deacons (Ramiro, Larry, Tri, Juan, and Francis), seminarians (Ivan L. and Ivan G.), the English, Hispanic, Filipino, and Vietnamese communities, sacristans, choirs, altar servers, ministers of hospitality, lectors, Sister Jessica and her O.C.I.A teams (English, Hispanic, and Vietnamese), the cleaning crews (both Hispanic and Vietnamese), and of course all of you-- the people of God for your support and love.

Christ is risen, let us rejoice and be glad. Easter blessings to all.

Father Viet Peter Ho  
Pastor



## Las lecturas de la semana del 5 de abril

**Domingo:** Hch 10, 34. 37-43/Sal 117, 1-2. 16-17. 22-23/  
Col 3, 1-4 o 1 Co 5, 6-8/Jn 20, 1-9 o Mt 28, 1-10 o  
Lc 24, 13-35

**Lunes:** Hch 2, 14. 22-33/Sal 15, 1-2 y 5. 7-8. 9-10. 11/  
Mt 28, 8-15

**Martes:** Hch 2, 36-41/Sal 32, 4-5. 18-19. 20 y 22/  
Jn 20, 11-18

**Miércoles:** Hch 3, 1-10/Sal 104, 1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8-9/Lc 24, 13-35

**Jueves:** Hch 3, 11-26/Sal 8, 2 y 5. 6-7. 8-9/Lc 24, 35-48

**Viernes:** Hch 4, 1-12/Sal 117, 1-2 y 4. 22-24. 25-27/  
Jn 21, 1-14

**Sábado:** Hch 4, 13-21/Sal 117, 1 y 14-15. 16-18. 19-21/  
Mc 16, 9-15

**Domingo:** Hch 2, 42-47/Sal 117, 2-4. 13-15. 22-24/  
1 Pe 1, 3-9/Jn 20, 19-31

## Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 5 de abril

Domingo: Domingo de Pascua

Lunes: Lunes de la octava de Pascua

Martes: Martes de la octava de Pascua

Miércoles: Miércoles de la octava de Pascua

Jueves: Jueves de la octava de Pascua

Viernes: Viernes de la octava de Pascua

Sábado: Sábado de la octava de Pascua

Domingo: 2º Domingo de Pascua (de la Divina Misericordia)

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini-reflexión:** voy a la iglesia — a misa católica, concretamente — por la misma razón que María Magdalena fue a la tumba. Voy porque es el último lugar donde vi a Cristo, y estoy desesperada por volver a verlo.

## Mientras Aún Está Oscuro

Si eres una persona religiosa de cualquier manera, lo más probable es que en algún momento alguien te haya pedido que des una razón.

Conozco a muchas personas que se identifican como *espirituales*, pero no *religiosas*, muchas personas que se sienten más cómodas adentrándose en la parte superficial de la fe, pero dudando en adentrarse en las profundidades más inciertas de la doctrina. Así que cuando hacen la pregunta "¿Por qué crees en lo que crees?", suele salir como "¿Por qué vas a la iglesia?"

Quieren saber por qué vengo a este lugar concreto en este momento concreto. ¿Qué espero que pase?

Leímos que María Magdalena fue a la tumba "mientras aún estaba oscuro." Imagino que no podía dormir. Estaba traumatizada. En duelo. Confundida. Enfadada, quizás. ¿Dudando? Quizás. Es posible. No podemos saber lo que había en su corazón.

Solo sabemos lo que hizo. Solo sabemos a dónde fue. Y sabemos que estaba oscuro, que la luz del amanecer de Pascua aún no había atravesado el cielo.

A menudo, estoy de duelo cuando voy a la iglesia, o enfadada, o confundida, o las tres cosas. He ido muchas veces con un corazón dudoso y resentido.

Porque, verás, todavía está oscuro. El amanecer de la eternidad, que iluminará todo entendimiento, aún no ha empezado a asomarse en mi horizonte.

Mi respuesta a la pregunta, cuando me la hacen, es que voy a la iglesia — a misa católica, concretamente — por la misma razón que María Magdalena fue a la tumba. Voy porque es el último lugar donde vi a Cristo, y estoy desesperada por volver a verlo.

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

La experiencia de la Pascua de aquella mañana era, sin lugar a duda, clara y perfecta: se trataba de ver y creer. Al amanecer, muy tempranito, fue María Magdalena al sepulcro para buscar al Señor; sin embargo, ¡qué sorpresa tan grande! Estaba movida la piedra del sepulcro. De inmediato regresó para avisar a Pedro y a Juan, y les dijo: "Se han llevado del sepulcro al Señor, y no sabemos dónde lo han puesto" (Juan 20:2). ¡Qué tremenda sorpresa para ellos! Después de ver sufrir a Jesús en la cruz, ahora estaba desaparecido. Sin embargo, ese no era el plan trazado por Dios para comprender la resurrección de su Hijo. Los más cercanos a Jesús —los que habían caminado juntos, predicando, curando a los enfermos y haciendo milagros— ahora tenían que testificar que Jesús había resucitado, que estaba vivo y que era el mismo que había compartido el pan con ellos.

El Evangelio nos dice: "No habían entendido todavía la Escritura: él debía resucitar de entre los muertos" (Juan 20:9). ¡Cristo vive! En verdad ha resucitado: este es el grito de sus discípulos y de la creación entera, entonces y ahora. El gozo y la alegría deben brotar del corazón de cada cristiano. Alegrémonos con este gran regalo de la Pascua; seamos portadores de paz y no de miedo. Seamos heraldos de esperanza en medio de la hostilidad y el odio que tantas veces paralizan la gracia de Dios en el mundo. ©LPi



Trong niềm hân hoan vì Chúa Đã Sống Lại,  
Hội Đồng Mục Vụ xin kính chúc quý vị và những người thân yêu  
một Mùa Phục Sinh An Lành, Hạnh Phúc.

Nguyện xin Chúa Kitô Phục Sinh sẽ mang lại niềm tin, sự hy vọng và khơi dậy  
nơi mỗi người lòng nhiệt thành chia sẻ tình yêu của Đức Kitô cho mọi người chung quanh.

" Đức Kitô đã sống lại từ cõi chết và không còn chết nữa ". ( Rôma 6:9 )

### VĂN PHÒNG ĐÓNG CỬA

Văn phòng đóng cửa từ 12h trưa ngày 2/4/26

Văn phòng sẽ mở cửa làm việc trở lại  
vào 9h30 sáng Thứ Ba 7/4/2026.

Thứ Hai 6/4/26 không có Giải Tội lúc 7:15PM

Xin quý cộng đoàn lưu tâm.

### CHẦU MÌNH THÁNH CHÚA

Thứ Sáu - 10/4/2026

6:00PM Chầu Thánh Thể

6:30PM Thánh Lễ

Xin cộng đoàn tham dự sốt sắng.



### CHÚA NHẬT

12/4/2026

### Kính Lòng Thương Xót Chúa

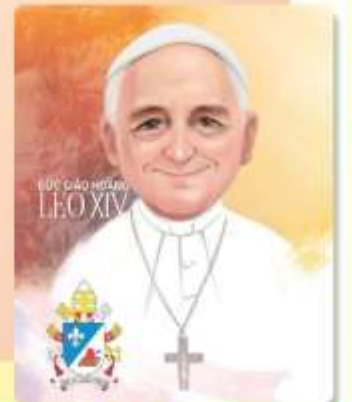
Cộng đoàn sẽ có giờ Lăn Chuối  
Lòng Thương Xót Chúa  
trước Thánh Lễ 4h chiều.

Kính mời quý cộng đoàn sốt sắng tham dự  
cùng dâng lời cầu nguyện trong tâm tình  
tín thác vào Lòng Chúa Thương Xót.

### Ý CẦU NGUYỆN CỦA ĐỨC GIÁO HOÀNG

Cho các Linh Mục đang khủng hoảng

Chúng ta hãy cầu nguyện  
cho các Linh mục đang  
trải qua những khoảnh  
khắc khủng hoảng trong  
ơn gọi, để họ tìm được sự  
đồng hành cần thiết và để  
cộng đoàn nâng đỡ họ  
bằng sự thấu hiểu và lời  
cầu nguyện.



THÁNG 4



# LÁ NÊN GIỮ NHƯ THẾ NÀO SAU THÁNH LỄ ?

Sau Thánh lễ Chúa Nhật Lễ Lá, cành lá bạn mang về không còn là một vật trang trí bình thường nữa. Đó là á bi tích - một dấu chỉ thánh thiêng nhắc nhớ cuộc khai hoàn của Chúa Giêsu khi tiến vào Giêrusalem, và cũng mở ra con đường dẫn đến Thập Giá. Vì thế, cách chúng ta trân trọng và sử dụng cành lá ấy nói lên rất nhiều về đời sống đức tin của mình.

## NÊN ĐẶT CÀNH LÁ Ở Đâu?

Thông thường, các gia đình Công Giáo sẽ đặt cành lá ở những nơi trang trọng và mang ý nghĩa thiêng liêng:

🌿 Trên bàn thờ gia đình: Đây là nơi xứng hợp nhất, vì cành lá như một lời tuyên xưng rằng Chúa là Vua trong gia đình bạn.

🌿 Cài trên Thánh giá: Nhiều người khéo léo bé cành lá thành hình thánh giá nhỏ và gắn lên Thánh giá trong nhà.

🌿 Treo ở cửa ra vào hoặc nơi dễ thấy: Như một dấu chỉ bảo vệ thiêng liêng, nhắc nhở mọi người khi ra vào nhà luôn sống trong ân sủng Chúa.

Đặt trong sách Kinh Thánh hoặc sách lễ: Để mỗi lần mở ra, lòng ta lại được nhắc nhở về Tuần Thánh.

Điều quan trọng không phải là đặt ở đâu cho "đẹp", mà là đặt ở nơi giúp bạn nhớ đến Chúa mỗi ngày.

## KHI CÀNH LÁ ĐÃ HÉO PHẢI LÀM GÌ?

Đây là điều nhiều người chưa biết hoặc làm sai.

Cành lá đã được làm phép không được vứt vào thùng rác như đồ bình thường. Vì đó là vật thánh, cần được xử lý cách tôn kính:

## 🌿 Cách đúng:

- ➔ Đem đốt: Đây là cách truyền thống và ý nghĩa nhất. Tro từ cành lá này thường được dùng cho Thứ Tư Lễ Tro năm sau.
- ➔ Chôn xuống đất: Nếu không tiện đốt, bạn có thể chôn ở nơi sạch sẽ, như một cách trả lại cho đất.
- ➔ Mang đến nhà thờ: Nhiều giáo xứ thu lại cành lá cũ để chuẩn bị tro.

## 🌿 Không nên:

- ➔ Vứt vào thùng rác
- ➔ Dẫm đạp hoặc để lẫn với đồ bỏ đi
- ➔ Sử dụng vào mục đích không phù hợp.

## MỘT LỜI NHẮN NHẸ NHANG NHƯNG SÂU SẮC

Cành lá hôm nay từng được tung hô: "Hosanna!" - nhưng chỉ ít ngày sau, đám đông lại hô: "Đóng đinh nó đi!".

Cành lá bạn giữ trong nhà không chỉ là kỷ niệm của một ngày lễ, mà là lời nhắc:

- ➔ Đức tin không phải là cảm xúc nhất thời
- ➔ Theo Chúa không chỉ lúc vinh quang, mà cả khi thập giá
- ➔ Và lòng trung thành cần được nuôi dưỡng mỗi ngày.

🌿 Giữ cành lá là giữ một lời hứa - sống trung tín với Chúa trong mọi hoàn cảnh.

**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



**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

ST. POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH  
www.stpolycarp.org

**EASTER BLESSING**

*Dear Lord,*  
*Where there has been death, bring new life! Renew and redeem the sorrow in our stories with Your goodness and grace. Bless our hearts and homes this Easter and always.*  
*Amen.*



**AVOCADO SALE**  
**4/11 & 4/12/2026**  
**\$10.00/ BAG**



**PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE DIOCESAN PRIEST RETIREMENT FUND**

ST. POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH  
www.stpolycarp.org

*Thank you*



Greetings and blessings from the Annual Men's Retreat at Mater Dolorosa in Sierra Madre. 90 men in total attended from Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura and San Bernardino counties. Thanks for your prayers and support. Please consider joining us next year!

Knights of Columbus Council 6095 at St. Polycarp Church

ST. POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH  
www.stpolycarp.org

**SUMMER CAMPS**

**RISING 3RD-8TH GRADES**

**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.



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



LEO XIV

**GENERAL AUDIENCE**

Wednesday, 18 February 2026

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**Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II. II. Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*. 1. *The mystery of the Church, sacrament of the union with God, and the unity of all humanity***

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

When the [Second Vatican Council](#), whose documents are the focus of our [series of] catecheses, wanted to describe the Church, it was concerned first and foremost with explaining where her origins lie. In order to do so, in the Dogmatic Constitution [Lumen gentium](#), approved on 21 November 1964, it drew the term “mystery” from the Letters of Saint Paul. By choosing this word, it did not intend to say that the Church is something obscure or incomprehensible, as is commonly thought when the word “mystery” is heard. It is exactly the opposite: indeed, when Saint Paul uses the word, especially in the Letter to the Ephesians, he wishes to indicate a reality that was previously hidden and is now revealed.

It refers to God’s plan, which has a purpose: to unite all creatures thanks to the reconciliatory action of Jesus Christ, an action that was accomplished through his death on the cross. This is experienced first of all in the assembly gathered for the liturgical celebration: there, differences are relativized, and what counts is being together because we are drawn by the Love of Christ, that broke down the wall of separation between people and social groups (cf. Eph 2:14). For Saint Paul, the mystery is the manifestation of what God wanted to achieve for the whole of humanity, and it is made known in local experiences, which gradually expand to include all human beings and even the cosmos.

The condition of humanity is one of fragmentation that human beings are unable to repair, even though the tendency towards unity dwells in their heart. Jesus Christ’s action enters into this condition, and through the Holy Spirit, he overcomes the powers of division and the Divider himself. Gathering together to celebrate, having believed in the proclamation of the Gospel, is experienced as an attraction exerted by the cross of Christ, which is the supreme manifestation of God’s love. It is feeling called together by God: this is why the term *ekklesia* is used, that is, an assembly of people who recognise that they have been summoned together. So, there is a certain connection between this mystery and the Church: the Church is the mystery made perceptible.

Precisely because it is brought about by God, this convocation cannot be limited to a group of people, but rather is destined to become the experience of all human beings. Thus, at the beginning of the Constitution [Lumen gentium](#), the [Second Vatican Council](#) states: “The Church is in Christ like a sacrament or as a sign and instrument both of a very closely knit union with God and of the unity of the whole human race” (no. 1). With the use of the term “sacrament” and the consequent explanation, it is intended to indicate that, in the history of humanity, the Church is an expression of what God wants to accomplish. By looking at the Church, therefore, to some extent we can grasp God’s plan, the mystery. In this sense, the Church is a sign. Moreover, the term “instrument” is added to the term “sacrament”, precisely to show that the Church is an active sign. Indeed, when God works in history, he involves the recipients of his action in his activity. It is through the Church that God achieves the aim of uniting people to himself and reuniting them with one another.

Union with God is reflected in the union of human beings. This is the experience of salvation. It is not a coincidence that point 48 in Chapter 7 of the Constitution [Lumen gentium](#), dedicated to the eschatological nature of the pilgrim Church, describes the Church as a sacrament, with the specification “of salvation”: “Christ, having been lifted up from the earth has drawn all to Himself (cf. Jn 12:32). Rising from the dead (cf. Rom 6:9) He sent His life-giving Spirit upon His disciples and through Him has established His Body which is the Church as the universal sacrament of salvation. Sitting at the right hand of the Father, He is continually active in the world that He might lead men to the Church and through it join them to Himself and that He might make them partakers of His glorious life by nourishing them with His own Body and Blood”.

This text enables us to understand the relationship between the unifying action of the Pasch of Jesus, which is the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection, and the identity of the Church. At the same time, it makes us grateful to belong to the Church, the body of the risen Christ and the one people of God on pilgrimage through history, that lives as a sanctifying presence in the midst of a still fragmented humanity, as an effective sign of unity and reconciliation among peoples.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

To him all the prophets bear witness,  
that everyone who believes in him  
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name. (Acts 10:43)

### Psalm:

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (Ps 118)  
Or Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,  
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. (Col 3:1)

### Gospel:

Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,  
while it was still dark,  
and saw the stone removed from the tomb. (Jn 10:1)

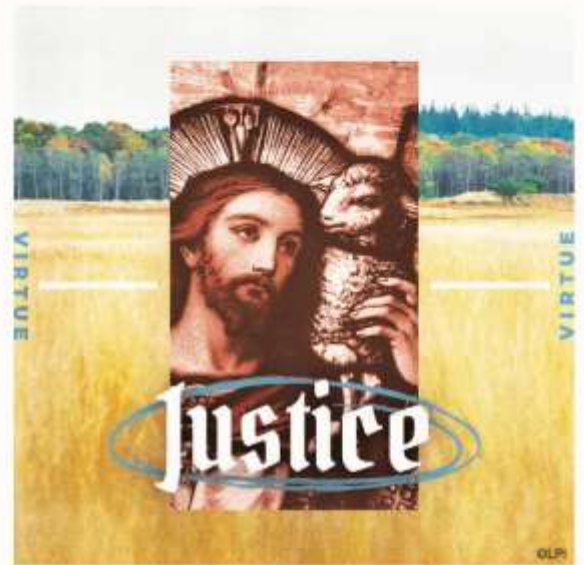
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The disciples didn't understand, at first, what happened at the tomb. Often, we can't fathom the purpose of God's plan. We only see a stone in the wrong place. When we pause and look deeper, we see it: God has moved the stone. So, we must ask ourselves: why?

## Observances for the week of April 5, 2026

- Sunday:** Easter Sunday
- Monday:** Monday within the Octave of Easter
- Tuesday:** Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
- Wednesday:** Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
- Thursday:** Thursday within the Octave of Easter
- Friday:** Friday within the Octave of Easter
- Saturday:** Saturday within the Octave of Easter
- Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)



## Virtues, Explained!

The cardinal virtue of justice has to do with the fulfillment of our duty to one another and to God. It gives us a framework for existing in the world alongside one another, in reverence with our respective rights, property, and obligations.

## Easter Blessing

Dear Lord,  
Where there has been death, bring new life! Renew and redeem the sorrow in our stories with Your goodness and grace. Bless our hearts and homes this Easter and always. Amen.

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** I go to church — to Catholic Mass, specifically — for the same reason Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. I go because it is the last place I saw Christ, and I am desperate to see him again.

### While It Is Still Dark

If you are a person who is religious in any way, chances are that at some point, someone has asked you to give a reason why.

I meet lots of people who identify as *spiritual* but not *religious*, lots of people who are more comfortable splashing in the shallow end of belief but hesitating to wade into the more uncertain depths of doctrine. So when they ask the question “Why do you believe what you believe?” it usually comes out as “Why do you go to church?”

They want to know why I come to this specific place at this specific time. What am I expecting to happen?

We read that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb “while it was still dark.” I imagine she could not sleep. She was traumatized. Grieving. Confused. Angry, perhaps. Doubting? Maybe. It’s possible. We cannot know what was in her heart.

We only know what she did. We only know where she went. And we know that it was dark, that the light of Easter’s dawn had not yet pierced the sky.

Often, I am grieving when I go to church, or angry, or confused, or all three. I have gone many times with a doubting and resentful heart.

Because, you see, it is still dark. The dawn of eternity, which will illuminate all understanding, has not yet even begun to creep across my horizon.

My answer to the question, when I am asked, is that I go to church — to Catholic Mass, specifically — for the same reason Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. I go because it is the last place I saw Christ, and I am desperate to see him again

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Why is the Easter season so long? And should we be doing something special for it?

### Answer:

You’ve probably noticed the priest continuing to wear white vestments at the Sunday liturgy. While we celebrated Christ’s resurrection several weeks ago, the Easter season extends fifty days — just over seven weeks — from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. For most of that time — about six weeks — Jesus is still with the disciples, teaching and encouraging them. The Easter season isn’t just a celebration of when Jesus is with us. At the Last Supper, Jesus promised to send an “advocate” or “counselor” when he left. At the Ascension, he directs the disciples to await “power from on high” — the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Ascension completes the Paschal Mystery, beginning with Jesus’ suffering and death and continuing in the resurrection. But the Holy Spirit ushers in a new era for the Church.

After spending weeks in prayer, fasting, and service during Lent, it may seem odd that we don’t widely have similar practices for Easter. That doesn’t mean you can’t embrace the season! Commit to taking moments of little joy throughout the weeks, like random acts of kindness towards others. Consider reading the Acts of the Apostles to learn more about the early Church or picking up an Easter devotional to pray with. He is still risen indeed!



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