

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

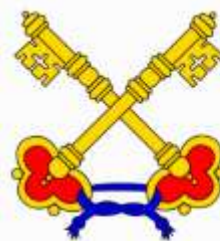
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

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



PENTECOST SUNDAY

"And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them." Acts 2:2-3



POPE'S INTENTION - MAY

That Everyone Might Have Food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

May 24, 2026

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

Saturday, May 23, 2026

5:00 PM Special Family Intentions for Paul Mac Chanh Hoa

7:00 PM All Souls✠

Sunday, May 24, 2026

7:30 AM Sister Armell Cat Linh✠;
Paul Lucia Quang Hien✠ & All Ancestors

9:00 AM Juan Villegas Garcia✠; Salvador Ramirez✠;
Isauro Manzo (Birthday);
Cristopher & Anna Manzo

11:00 AM Andrew Rubio✠; Frank Villa✠;
Linda Hernandez

1:00 PM Gary Fox✠; Miguel Lopez✠ & Jose Lopez✠;
Maria Susana Perez Madrigal✠;
Gabriel Ceja✠

4:00 PM Pray for Vocations; Thanksgiving

6:00 PM Ma Guadalupe Marquez✠; Gabriel Ceja✠;
Blessed Souls of Purgatory

Monday, May 25, 2026

6:30 AM Steven

8:30 AM Tran Quoc Thanh✠

6:30 PM Olea Aguna Family (Health and Healing);
Juan Yanez✠; Juan Villegas Garcia✠

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

6:30 AM Ophelia✠ & Richard Rubio✠; Andy Kiet Ha

8:30 AM Efren R. Katimbang✠; Thomas✠ &
Martha Yen✠ & Lou Nguyen✠

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

6:30 AM Clemente Munoz Sanchez✠; Cleo Rand✠

8:30 AM Theresa Pham Thu Hoai✠;
Maria Sorrosa Vernandino

Thursday, May 28, 2026

6:30 AM Eleanora Luna✠; Nieves Posadas✠ &
Luz✠ & Gabriel✠ & Francisco Reyez✠

8:30 AM Enriqueta Lopez-Berta Gomez✠;
Maria Eugenia Portillo✠

Friday, May 29, 2026

6:30 AM Anna✠ & Anthony✠ & Vincent;
Souls in Purgatory✠

8:30 AM Nuari Mejia✠; Catarina Hong Pham✠

6:30 PM Thanksgiving to God, Mother Mary, & St. Joseph

Saturday, May 30, 2026

8:30 AM John Norton✠ & Theresa Pham Thu Hoai✠;
Kristine Luna & Eduard Camacho
(11th Anniversary)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24 and 35, 27-28, 29b-30/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 or, for the **Extended Vigil:** Gn 11:1-9/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/ Ez 37:1-14/Jl 3:15/Rom 8:22-27/ Jn 7:37-39 (see Lectionary for Mass Supplement, 62) **Day:** Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1 and 24, 29-30, 31 and 34/ 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/ Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/ Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: 1 Pt 1:18-25/ Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/ Mk 10:32-45

Thursday: 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12/ Ps 100:2, 3, 4, 5/ Mk 10:46-52

Friday: 1 Pt 4:7-13/ Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mk 11:11-26

Saturday: Jude 17, 20b-25/ Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mk 11:27-33

Sunday: Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/ 2 Cor 13:11-13/Jn 3:16-18

PSA 2026 REPORT
AS OF 05/01/2026
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 360
AMOUNT PLEDGED: \$165,643.00
TOTAL PAID: \$119,301.00
OUR 2026 PSA GOAL: \$109,760.00

Thank You!

SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH
www.stpolycarp.org



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



May 16/17 Masses \$ 22,320.50
May 16/17 Online \$ 2,374.93
Total collection: \$ 24,695.43

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

Dear Parishioners of Saint Polycarp,

Happy Pentecost! May the Holy Spirit fill your heart with love. According to scriptures, the celebration of Pentecost or the coming of the Holy Spirit occurs ten days after the Ascension of the Lord Jesus. This Solemnity of Pentecost marks the birth of the Church, in which the first group of disciples was strengthened and guided by the Holy Spirit to go out and to preach the Good News of Salvation to the world.

The First Reading from Acts of the Apostles recounts the event of the universal commission of the first disciples by the Holy Spirit as follow:

*When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled,
they were all in one place together.
And suddenly there came from the sky
a noise like a strong driving wind,
and it filled the entire house in which they were.
Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in different tongues,
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim (Acts 2: 1-4).*

The speaking of different tongues in Acts of the Apostles, which refers to the ability to reach out to the Gentiles, signifies the universality of the mission of the Church. The First Reading of Acts of the Apostles also claims that foreigners were able to understand the speech of the disciples in their own language. They asked among themselves:

*Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?
Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?
We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites,
inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,
Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,
Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene,
as well as travelers from Rome,
both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs,
yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues
of the mighty acts of God (Acts 2: 7-9).*

Speaking of the universality of the Church's mission, sacred ministers of the Church are ordained for a broader mission; they are commissioned to bring the Good News to many people. Sometimes, due to pastoral necessity, a sacred minister is transferred to a different location for ministry. Today, I want to inform you that Bishop Vann has asked two of our parochial vicars, Father Luis Segura, and Father Nicolaus Duy Thai, to serve at different parishes. Beginning July 01, Father Luis will serve at La Purisima Parish in Orange, and Father Nicolaus at Saint Boniface in Anaheim.

Personally, I am sad to see Fathers Luis and Nicolaus go. However, I must accept the bigger pastoral needs of our diocese as the reality of ecclesial ministry. I hope we all cherish their love, service, and their remaining time at our parish.

To compensate for our loss, Bishop Vann has graciously given us Deacon Francis Ang, who is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood on June 06, to be our new parochial vicar. In addition, Father Jaime Hernandez, who is now serving at Saint Cecilia in Tustin, will be another new parochial vicar. As for the successor of Sister Jessica, her community sends us Sister Silvia Frias; she will assume the responsibility as Coordinator of the English and Spanish Faith Formation.

Due to changes in personnel, I need to put some projects or programs on hold, so that I can focus on journeying with our new parochial vicars and Sister of Faith Formation. In addition, I need to focus also on journeying and supporting a seminarian-intern named Eddie Hubber, who will be staying with us from July 01 to the end of December.

Lastly, I wish to inform you also that we had a total of one hundred fifty-eight (158) children receiving First Holy Communion, eighty-five (86) for Teen-Confirmation, fourteen (14) for Adult Confirmation, and forty-three (43) receiving into the Catholic Church at Easter Vigil.

Oh Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, and Saint Polycarp: Pray for us!

Father Viet Peter Ho
Pastor

Las lecturas de la semana del 24 de mayo

- Domingo:** *Vigilia:* Gn 11, 1-9 o Ex 19, 3-8. 16-20 o Ez 37, 1-14 o Jl 3, 1-5/Sal 103, 1-2. 24. 35. 27-28. 29. 30/Rom 8, 22-27/Jn 7, 37-39 *Vigilia Extensa:* Gn 11, 1-9/Ex 19, 3-8. 16-20/Ez 37, 1-14/Jl 3, 1-5/Rom 8, 22-27/Jn 7, 37-39 *Día:* Hch 2, 1-11/Sal 103, 1. 24. 29-30. 31. 34 (ver 30)/ 1 Co 12, 3-7. 12-13/Jn 20, 19-23
- Lunes:** Gn 3, 9-15. 20 o Hch 1, 12-14/Sal 86, 1-2. 3 y 5. 6-7/Jn 19, 25-34
- Martes:** 1 Pe 1, 10-16/ Sal 97, 1. 2-3. 3-4/ Mc 10, 28-31
- Miércoles:** 1 Pe 1, 18-25/ Sal 147, 12-13. 14-15. 19-20/ Mc 10, 32-45
- Jueves:** 1 Pe 2, 2-5. 9-12/ Sal 99, 2. 3. 4. 5/ Mc 10, 46-52
- Viernes:** 1 Pe 4, 7-13/ Sal 95, 10. 11-12. 13/Mc 11, 11-26
- Sábado:** Jud 17. 20-25/ Sal 62, 2. 3-4. 5-6/ Mc 11, 27-33
- Domingo:** Ex 34, 4-6. 8-9/Dn 3, 52. 53. 54. 55. 56/2 Co 13, 11-13/Jn 3, 16-18

Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 24 de mayo

- Domingo:** Domingo de Pentecostés
- Lunes:** Santísima Virgen María, Madre de la Iglesia; Día de los Caídos en Guerra (EEUU)
- Martes:** San Felipe Neri, sacerdote
- Miércoles:** San Agustín de Canterbury, obispo
- Viernes:** San Pablo VI, papa
- Domingo:** La Santísima Trinidad

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflexión: Gran parte de lo que hace Jesús en Su Cuerpo resucitado es extraordinario y sobrehumano. Está pasando a través de puertas cerradas. Está en dos sitios a la vez. Pero hoy, simplemente está respirando. Así que tenemos que preguntarnos: ¿por qué?

Signos de Vida

Si eres asmático, sabes que la expresión "tan natural como respirar" no siempre tiene mucho sentido.

Quizá sea porque respirar no siempre es natural. A veces, es algo sobrenatural.

Porque no tengo asma y no pienso en respirar, al menos que esté subiendo una escalera o persiguiendo a uno de mis hijos. Es algo tan utilitario, respirar. No impresiona, no tiene nada de especial. Literalmente cualquiera puede hacerlo.

Hasta que ya no pueden.

Los muertos no respiran. Eso es lo que pienso al leer las palabras del Evangelio de Juan: "Él sopló sobre ellos." (Juan 20:22) Gran parte de lo que Jesús hace en su Cuerpo resucitado es extraordinario y sobrehumano, lo que hace inconfundible que aquí hay un Cuerpo que ya no sigue las reglas del mundo físico. Está pasando a través de puertas cerradas. Está en dos sitios a la vez.

Pero hoy, simplemente respira.

Así que tenemos que preguntarnos: ¿por qué? Su sangre ya no necesita oxígeno. Si fuera asmático, ni la hoguera ni el aire húmedo de la noche pudieran hacer que sus pulmones se contrajeran. Su Carne ha sido perfeccionada.

Pero aquí vemos una realidad tan espiritual como física: donde hay aliento, hay vida.

En el Génesis, Dios sopla en polvo y crea al hombre. En el Evangelio de hoy, Él sopla Su Espíritu sobre el hombre y crea una Iglesia. ©LPi

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

El Espíritu Santo llena el vacío que la Ascensión del Señor había dejado en los discípulos. Ahora da comienzo la Iglesia naciente, con la fuerza del Espíritu Santo en sus corazones. Pentecostés es la realidad presente del Padre, del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo en la Iglesia. Es el Espíritu quien nos sostiene, impulsa y fortalece. Este día, la Iglesia entera se anima con cantos y alabanzas por este gran acontecimiento: *"Dicho esto, sopló sobre ellos y les dijo: 'Reciban el Espíritu Santo. A quienes descarguen de sus pecados, serán liberados, y a quienes se los retengan, les serán retenidos'"* (Juan 20:22-23).

La Iglesia es una, como lo recitamos cada domingo en el Credo, y es obra del Espíritu Santo. Como dice san Pablo: *"Hay diferentes dones espirituales, pero el Espíritu es el mismo. Hay diversos ministerios, pero el Señor es el mismo. Hay diversidad de obras, pero es el mismo Dios quien obra todo en todos. La manifestación del Espíritu que a cada uno se le da es para provecho común"* (1 Corintios 12:4-7). Esto nos recuerda que nadie es dueño de los ministerios en la Iglesia, ni puede aprovecharse del poder que se le otorga en el servicio. Solo somos servidores al servicio del Señor. El Espíritu Santo está para construir las comunidades, los grupos parroquiales, los movimientos y las organizaciones. Y la mejor manera de construir es obedeciendo al Señor, que nos dice en su Evangelio: *"¡La paz esté con ustedes!"* (Juan 20:21). La paz une, anima y fortalece.

©LPi



Thánh Lễ Tạ Ơn Cho Các Sinh Viên Tốt Nghiệp

☪—————☪

Cha Quản Nhiệm sẽ dâng Thánh Lễ cầu nguyện cho các em tốt nghiệp Trung Học và Đại Học trong năm 2026 vào 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



Chầu Thánh Thể 48 Giờ

Kỷ niệm 50 Năm
Thành Lập Giáo Phận Orange
Giáo Xứ có chương trình Chầu Thánh Thể 48 Giờ liên tục trong Hội Trường.
Trân trọng kính mời cộng đoàn cùng hiệp thông cầu nguyện

Bắt đầu 8h00 tối - Thứ Sáu 5/6/2026
Kết thúc 5h00 chiều - Chúa Nhật 7/6/2026

Kính mời quý ông bà anh chị em sắp xếp thời gian đến Chầu Thánh Thể, để cùng dâng lời tạ ơn và cầu nguyện cho giáo phận, giáo xứ và cho gia đình chúng ta.

Thánh Hiến Hoa Kỳ Cho Thánh Tâm Chúa Giêsu



Theo chỉ thị của Đức Cha Kevin Vann và Hội Đồng Giám Mục Hoa Kỳ, các giáo xứ trên toàn quốc được mời gọi cử hành Thánh Lễ đặc biệt để thánh hiến Quốc Gia cho Thánh Tâm Chúa Giêsu.

Kính mời quý ông bà anh chị em hiệp thông với Giáo Hội Hoa Kỳ trong dịp trọng đại kỷ niệm 250 năm Thành Lập Hiệp Chúng Quốc Hoa Kỳ.

Giáo xứ chúng ta sẽ cử hành như sau:

Thứ Năm, ngày 11/6/2026
8:30 sáng – 4:30 chiều: Chầu Thánh Thể trong thánh đường
5:00 chiều: Thánh Lễ ba ngôn ngữ



Trong tâm tình tạ ơn và phó thác, xin cộng đoàn cùng đến tham dự Chầu Thánh Thể và Thánh Lễ để cầu nguyện cho đất nước Hoa Kỳ luôn được Chúa gìn giữ, hướng dẫn và chúc lành; cho mọi gia đình được sống trong bình an, công lý và tình liên đới.

Thánh Lễ tại Linh Đài Đức Mẹ La Vang

Cộng đoàn chúng ta được phụ trách Thánh Lễ tại Linh Đài Đức Mẹ La Vang,
Nhà Thờ Chính Tòa Chúa Kitô - Christ Cathedral
vào lúc **8:30AM - Thứ Bảy ngày 6/6/2026**.
Kính mời quý cộng đoàn cùng sắp xếp thời gian tham dự và hiệp ý cầu nguyện.

Lễ Thụ Phong Linh Mục của Thầy Phó Tế Francis Ang
tại Nhà Thờ Chính Tòa vào lúc **10AM - Thứ Bảy ngày 6/6/2026**
Kính mời quý cộng đoàn tham dự và thêm lời cầu nguyện để Thầy luôn được trung tín với
Ơn Gọi và được nhiều Ân Sủng Chúa để Thầy hăng say mang Chúa đến cho mọi người.



Tiệc Tri Ân Cha Mẹ & 10 Năm Hồng Ân Linh Mục



Trong tâm tình tạ ơn Thiên Chúa - Tri ân Cha Mẹ -

Và mừng kỷ niệm 10 năm Hồng Ân Thánh Chức Linh Mục của Cha Quản Nhiệm

Cộng Đoàn sẽ cử hành Thánh Lễ TạƠn

vào lúc **4h00 chiều, Chúa Nhật ngày 21/6/2026**

Ngay sau Thánh Lễ, kính mời cộng đoàn tham dự tiệc mừng và chia tay Cha Quản Nhiệm tại nhà hàng
Diamond Seafood Palace 3 (góc Golden West & Westminster).

Vé tham dự là \$40/ người, quý ông bà anh chị em có thể mua vé qua các hội đoàn, Ban Thường Vụ,
hoặc tại cuối thánh đường sau các Thánh Lễ Việt Nam.

Đây cũng là Tiệc Chia Tay Cha Quản Nhiệm trước khi Cha rời cộng đoàn để nhận nhiệm sở mới.

Xin mọi người tham dự đông đảo để nói lên tấm lòng tri ân Cha
sau hai năm ngài phục vụ nhiệt tình và tận tâm tại cộng đoàn chúng ta.



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

SUMMER CAMP



JUNE 15 - 19 2026
1st - 6th grade
9AM - 4PM
\$100

FIELD TRIPS
JUN 16: Beach 🐦
JUNE 18: Irvine Park



MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026
OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED IN
CELEBRATION OF MEMORIAL DAY

WE WILL RE-OPEN TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026



SAINT POLYCARP
CATHOLIC CHURCH
www.stpolycarp.org

Annual Priest Retreat

JUNE 1, 2026 - JUNE 5, 2026

MONDAY, 6/1/2026 ONLY 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM
MASSES

NO EVENING SPANISH MASS & NO CONFESSION
HOUR

TUESDAY, 6/2/2026 - FRIDAY 6/5/2026
ONLY 8:30 AM ENGLISH MASS

FRIDAY, 6/5/2026, AFTER THE 8:30 AM MASS, WE
STILL HAVE THE ADORATION HOUR, BUT THERE IS NO
CONFESSION HOUR. THE VIETNAMESE MASS IS AT
6:30 PM.



SAINT POLYCARP
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Pray for the Sick

- Eliam Phan
- Esperanza Ramirez
- Jason Minton
- Diego DiMassimo Velasquez
- Ngoc Tran
- Richard Saragosa
- Maria Urendiz
- Rosa Garcia
- Yolanda Meillon
- Evangelina Escobedo
- Anaid Serrato
- Brenda Barrios

Wedding Banns

- Antonio Mora & Angelina Cortez
- Juan & Micaela (50th Anniversary)



LEO XIV

GENERAL AUDIENCE

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 **The Apostolic Journey in Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea**

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Today I would like to talk about the Apostolic Journey I made from 13 to 23 April, [visiting four African countries: Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea](#).

Since the very beginning of my Pontificate, I have thought about a journey in Africa. I thank the Lord for granting me the opportunity to undertake it, as Shepherd, to meet and encourage the people of God; and also to experience it as a message of peace at a moment in history marked by conflicts and serious and frequent violations of international law. And I express my heartfelt thanks to the Bishops and Civil Authorities who welcomed me, and to all those who helped organize the visit.

Providence would have it that the first stop should be the very country where the sites of Saint Augustine are found, namely Algeria. Thus, I found myself, on the one hand, revisiting the roots of my spiritual identity and, on the other, crossing and strengthening bridges that are very important for the world and the Church today: the bridge with the very fruitful age of the Fathers of the Church; the bridge with the Islamic world; and the bridge with the African continent.

In Algeria I received a welcome that was not only respectful but warm, and we were able to experience first-hand and show the world that it is possible to live together as brothers and sisters, even of different religions, when we recognize ourselves as children of the same merciful Father. Furthermore, it was a timely opportunity to learn from the example of Saint Augustine: through his life experience, his writings and his spirituality, he is a teacher in the search for God and for truth. A testimony that is more important than ever today for Christians and for every person.

In the next three countries I visited, the population is instead predominantly Christian, and I therefore found myself immersed in an atmosphere of celebration of the faith and warm welcome, enhanced also by the characteristic traits of the African people. Like my Predecessors, I too experienced something of what happened to Jesus with the crowds in Galilee: He saw them thirsting and hungry for justice, and proclaimed to them: “Blessed are the poor, blessed are the meek, blessed are the peacemakers”, and, recognizing their faith, said, “You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world” (cf. Mt 5:1-16).

The visit to Cameroon allowed me to reinforce the call to work together for reconciliation and peace, for that country too is, unfortunately, marked by tensions and violence. I am glad to have travelled to Bamenda, in the Anglophone region, [where I encouraged people to work together for peace](#). Cameroon is known as “Africa in miniature”, because of the variety and richness of its natural environment and its resources, but we can also interpret this expression to mean that the great needs of the entire continent are found in Cameroon: the need for a fair distribution of wealth; the need to provide space for the young, overcoming endemic corruption, that of promoting integral and sustainable development, countering the various forms of neo-colonialism with far-sighted international cooperation. I thank the Church in Cameroon and all the Cameroonian people, who welcomed me with such love, and I pray that the spirit of unity which was evident during my visit may be kept alive and guide future choices and actions.

The third leg of the trip was in Angola, a large country south of the equator, with a centuries-long Christian tradition, linked to Portuguese colonization. Like many African countries, after achieving independence, Angola went through a troubled period, which in its case was marked by a long and bloody civil war. In the crucible of this history, God has guided and purified the Church, increasingly converting her in the service of the Gospel, human promotion, reconciliation and peace. A free Church for a free people! [In the Marian Sanctuary of Mamã Muxima](#) — which means “Mother of the Heart” — I felt the beating heart of the Angolan people. And in the various meetings I rejoiced to see so many men and women religious of every age, a prophecy of the Kingdom of heaven in the midst of their people; I saw catechists who dedicate themselves fully to the good of the community; I saw the faces of elderly people weathered by toil and suffering yet radiant with the joy of the Gospel; I saw women and men dancing to the rhythm of songs of praise to the Risen Lord, the foundation of a hope that withstands the disappointments caused by ideologies and the empty promises of the powerful.

This hope demands concrete commitment, and the Church has the responsibility, with the witness and courageous proclamation of the Word of God, to recognize the rights of all and to promote their actual respect. [With the Angolan civil authorities](#), but also with those of other countries, I was able to assure them of the Catholic Church’s willingness to continue making this contribution, particularly in the fields of healthcare and education.

The last country I visited was Equatorial Guinea, 170 years after its first evangelization. With the wisdom of tradition and the light of Christ, the Guinean people have weathered the vicissitudes of their history and, in recent days, in the presence of the Pope, have renewed with great enthusiasm their determination to walk together towards a future of hope.

I cannot forget what happened [in the prison in Bata](#), in Equatorial Guinea: the prisoners sang at the top of their voices a song of thanksgiving to God and to the Pope, asking him to pray “for their sins and their freedom”. I had never seen anything like it. And then they prayed the “Our Father” with me in the pouring rain. A genuine sign of the Kingdom of God! And still in the rain, [the great meeting with the young people began in the stadium in Bata](#). A celebration of Christian joy, with moving testimonies from young people who have found in the Gospel the path to free and responsible growth. This celebration culminated in the [Eucharistic celebration the following day](#), which fittingly concluded the visit to Equatorial Guinea, as well as to the entire Apostolic Journey.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Pope’s visit is, for the African peoples, a chance to make their voices heard, to express the joy of being God’s people and the hope for a better future, of dignity for each and every one. I am happy to have given them this opportunity, and at the same time I thank the Lord for what they have given me, an immeasurable treasure for my heart and my ministry.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:3-4)

Psalm:

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (Ps 104)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

As a body is one though it has many parts,
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body,
so also Christ. (1 Cor 12:12)

Gospel:

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:21)

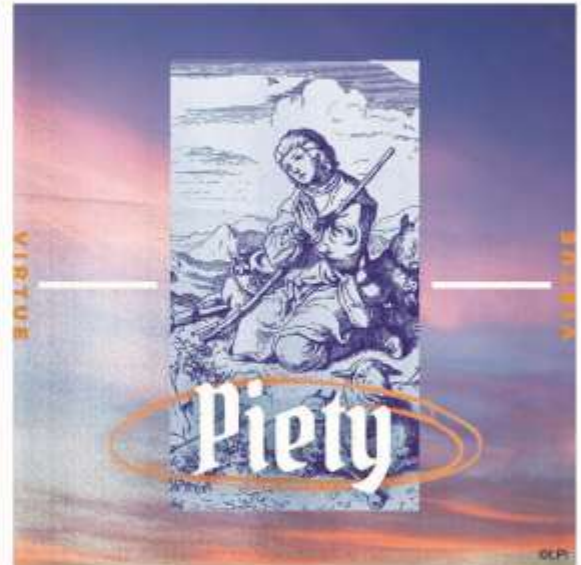
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Today, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit "the Advocate." The Latin for lawyer is "advocatus." Like a lawyer, the Holy Spirit defends us. The Holy Spirit guides us. So, when you're in trouble, don't forget: ask for your lawyer, and do what he tells you.

Observances for the week of May 24, 2026

Sunday:	Pentecost Sunday
Monday:	Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church; <i>Memorial Day</i>
Tuesday:	St. Philip Neri, Priest
Wednesday:	St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
Friday:	St. Paul VI, Pope
Next Sunday:	The Most Holy Trinity



Virtues, Explained!

"Piety denotes the reverence which we give to our faith and to our country," writes St. Thomas Aquinas. "And since God is the Father of all, the worship of God is also called piety."

Pentecost Prayer

Come Holy Spirit,
Descend upon us and fill us with the
fire of Your love!
Remind us of Your dreams for us,
ignite us with new zeal,
place new visions on our hearts,
and the grace to work alongside You.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Much of what Jesus does in his resurrected Body is extraordinary and superhuman. He's passing through locked doors. He's in two places at once. But today, he's just breathing. So we have to ask ourselves: why?

Signs of Life

If you're asthmatic, you know the phrase "as natural as breathing" doesn't always make a lot of sense.

Maybe that's because breathing isn't always natural. Sometimes, it's supernatural.

I come from a family of asthmatics. In my earliest childhood memories, my sister's nose and mouth are covered with a bulbous plastic mask connected by clear tubes to her transportable nebulizer. The machine whirs loudly as it vaporizes the medication that will open her lungs. In these memories, I watch my sister — her little eyes wide, her chest contracting and constricting with great difficulty — and wonder what it feels like.

Because I don't have asthma, and I don't think about breathing, unless I'm climbing a flight of stairs or chasing down one of my kids. It's such a utilitarian thing, breathing. It's unimpressive, unremarkable. Literally anyone can do it.

Until they can't.

Dead men don't breathe. That's what I think as I read the words of John's Gospel: "He breathed on them." (John 20:22) So much of what Jesus does in his resurrected Body is extraordinary and superhuman, making it unmistakable that here is a Body no longer playing by the rules of the physical world. He's passing through locked doors. He's in two places at once.

But today, he's just breathing.

So we have to ask ourselves: why? His Blood no longer requires oxygen. If he were asthmatic, neither bonfire nor damp night air could cause his lungs to constrict. His Flesh has been perfected.

But here we see a reality that is as spiritual as it is physical: where there is breath, there is life.

In Genesis, God breathes into dust and creates man. In today's Gospel, He breathes His Spirit onto man, and creates a Church.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Someone close to me has left the Church. How should I reach out to them?

Answer:

For many of us, this can be a challenging question. When people we love leave the Church, we may not always know how to relate to them in certain ways. Are some conversation topics off limits? Are there certain behaviors or decisions we can't support in good conscience? When someone or something is lost, Jesus shows two different attitudes in his parables.

One is *actively seeking*. Don't give up on this person and their life of faith. Ask them about their spiritual journey. Invite them to spend time with you in faith settings, as appropriate, and outside of them. Continue in relationship with those you love.

The other attitude Jesus shows is *consistent witness in the waiting*. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the father doesn't go after the son. He waits for his return. However, the son knows his father is trustworthy. He remembers his father's fair treatment of the hired hands and knows it is safe to return, despite all he has done.

Your ability to change someone is quite small. However, you can change yourself. Make sure you consistently treat others with kindness, compassion, and respect. If your loved one wants a deeper conversation, they'll know you are a person to trust, a place to which they can return.



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FRIDAY 6/5/2026 - SUNDAY 6/7/2026

**7:15 PM FRIDAY - 5PM SUNDAY
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