



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. Francis Ang

Rev. Jaime Hernandez

DEACONS

Dcn. Ramiro Lopez

Dcn. Larry Leone

Dcn. Davis Tri Do

Dcn. Juan Ochoa

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)

SUPPORT STAFF

BUSINESS MANAGER

Tom H. Ma

FAITH FORMATION

(ENGLISH OCIA/SPANISH RCIA)

Sister Silvia Frias

(VIET OCIA/ Giáo Lý Tân Tòng)

Sister Maria Trang Nguyen

FAITH FORMATION

(VIETNAMESE)

Sister Mary Anne Thiên

Hương Nguyễn

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Sister Anna Anh Trâm Trần

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Kara Ford

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Joseph Do

EUCCHARISTIC

ADORATION

9:00 AM - 10 AM (Fri)

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (Sat)

SACRAMENT OF

RECONCILIATION

7:15 PM (Monday)

9:00 AM (Friday)

3:30 PM (Saturday)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM,

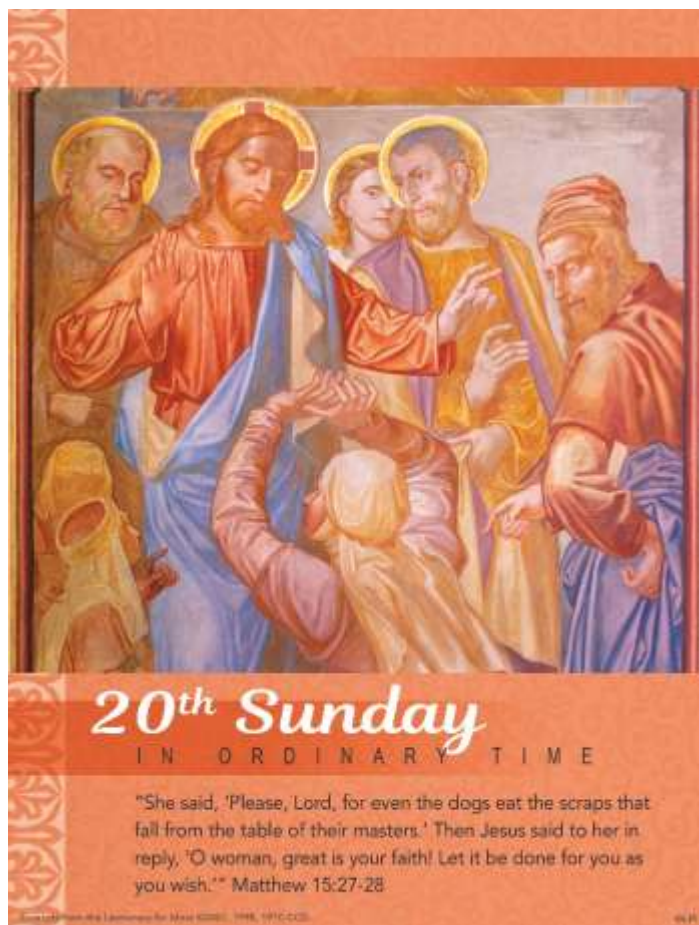
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Sunday

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

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



POPE'S INTENTION - AUGUST

For Evangelization in the City

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

August 16, 2026

Saturday, August 15, 2026

7:00 PM All Souls

Felino Acampado, Jr[†];

All Souls in Purgatory

(50th Wedding Anniversary)

1:00 PM Jose Ma Portillo† & Carmen Ramirez†:

Maria Avina† & Ivette Avina†;

Oscar Jimenez Ortiz†

4:00 PM All Souls

6:00 PM Javier & Osvaldo Pulido (Health)

Anna Binh Thi Nguyen†

Davelynn Graf; Frank and Tammy

Armstroug & Davelynn Graf

Souls in Purgatory

6:30 AM Healing

8:30 AM Kevin Coackley

6:30 AM Anthony Man Tran†

8:30 AM Roderick Roa†; Monina Sibal Santos†

6:30 AM Michael†

8:30 AM Mary Tam Chi Nguyen†

6:30 AM Dominic But Van Vu†

8:30 AM Maria Phien Luca Thia†;

Catarina Hong Pham†;

Regino and Christine Villanueva and Family

6:30 PM Thanksgiving from the Nguyen Family

8:30 AM Maria Inacia Montelonga Carmen Gonzales

Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/
Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28

Monday: Ez 24:15-23/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/
Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab/Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Ez 36:23-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15,
18-19/Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ez 43:1-7ab/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12,
13-14/Mt 23:1-12

Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 6 and 8/
Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



August 8/9 Online	\$ 2,345.08
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Total collection: \$21,258.58

Cảm ơn tấm lòng quảng đại của mọi người.



Las lecturas de la semana del 16 de agosto

Domingo: Is 56, 1. 6-7/Sal 66, 2-3. 5. 6 y 8/Rom 11, 13-15. 29-32/Mt 15, 21-28
Lunes: Ez 24, 15-23/Dt 32, 18-19. 20. 21/Mt 19, 16-22
Martes: Ez 28, 1-10/Dt 32, 26-27. 27-28. 30. 35-36/Mt 19, 23-30
Miércoles: Ez 34, 1-11/Sal 22, 1-3. 3-4. 5. 6/Mt 20, 1-16
Jueves: Ez 36, 23-28/Sal 50, 12-13. 14-15. 18-19/Mt 22, 1-14
Viernes: Ez 37, 1-14/Sal 106, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9/Mt 22, 34-40
Sábado: Ez 43, 1-7/Sal 84, 9 y 10. 11-12. 13-14/Mt 23, 1-12
Domingo Is 22, 19-23/Sal 137, 1-2. 2-3. 6 y 8/Rom 11, 33-36/Mt 16, 13-20

Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 16 de agosto

Domingo: 20º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario
Miércoles: San Juan Eudes, sacerdote
Jueves: San Bernardo, abad y doctor de la Iglesia
Viernes: San Pío X, papa
Sábado: La coronación de la Virgen María como Reina de todo lo creado
Domingo: 21er Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Ajedrez, no Damas

Hay un dicho que dice que los buenos líderes tienen que jugar al ajedrez, no a las damas.

No sorprenderá a nadie que me conozca bien que soy terrible en el ajedrez. No es tanto falta de habilidad (aunque eso es parte de ello) sino una falta de esfuerzo. Encuentro el ajedrez agotador. Para tener éxito en este complejo juego de estrategia, tienes que ver no solo el tablero que tienes delante de ti, sino también a la persona que tienes delante de ti— y más que eso, tienes que considerar no solo lo que es, sino lo que podría ser.

Yo prefiero las damas.

Cuando leo un pasaje del Evangelio como el de hoy, pienso en cómo sería Jesús como jugador de ajedrez. Es tan fácil ver este relato de la mujer cananea y su tenacidad y tomarlo al pie de la letra, como un recordatorio para rezar sin cesar, para no dejar de pedir a Dios lo que necesitamos. Y desde luego, es eso.

Pero no es solo eso.

Vemos a una mujer suplicando ayuda a Dios, y vemos a Dios negarse — al principio. La vemos persistir, y vemos cómo él capitula. Al menos, eso es lo que nos parece a nosotros.

¿Cómo se ve para Jesús?

Jesús ve el rostro de esta mujer y escucha sus palabras, igual que sus discípulos — pero también ve su corazón. Él ve toda su vida. Ve cada momento que conduce a este. Él ve su creencia, pero también su incredulidad. Ve sus heridas. Ve a su hija.

Ve el tablero no solo por lo que es, sino por lo que podría ser. ©LPi

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

“Los llevaré a mi cerro santo y haré que se sientan felices en mi Casa de oración” (Isaías 56:7). Es decir, Dios acepta a todas las personas, sin distinción de raza o nación. Existen muchas personas que son maltratadas, humilladas o perseguidas, e incluso asesinadas, por su forma de pensar y de actuar en el ámbito social o político. En ocasiones, la persecución se da incluso dentro de la familia, tan solo por pensar diferente. ¿Qué nos pide Dios ante todo esto? ¿Qué opinas del mensaje de Jesús a través de su Palabra?

El Evangelio de hoy es una catequesis sobre la aceptación de todas las personas, a partir del ejemplo de la mujer cananea que buscaba en Jesús compasión para ella y para su hija. Aunque pueda resultar difícil de comprender, Dios no actúa como el ser humano: no es egoísta y está para todos. El diálogo entre Jesús y la mujer así lo demuestra. Por eso Él le dice: *“Mujer, ¡qué grande es tu fe! Que se cumpla tu deseo”*. Y en aquel momento quedó sana su hija (Mateo 15:28). El mensaje de la Palabra de Dios supone que debemos de aprender algo y ponerlo en práctica de inmediato: revisar nuestra actitud y la forma en que tratamos a los demás, especialmente a quienes consideramos diferentes por ser inmigrantes, de otro país o de otra cultura. Jesús cambia su actitud ante la petición de la mujer y, además, la enaltece por su gran fe. ¿Qué me enseña ese cambio? Pidamos al Señor que nos ayude a ser mejores y a tener un corazón más abierto, capaz de respetar y aceptar a las personas que piensan y actúan de manera diferente a nosotros. ©LPi

GHI DANH CÁC LỚP GIÁO LÝ, VIỆT NGŨ & TNTT

Lớp Giáo Lý, Lớp Việt Ngữ và Thiếu Nhi Thánh Thể sẽ tổ chức ba ngày ghi danh chung trong tháng 8, tại khu Pavilion bên hông trường học:

Thứ Bảy, ngày 15/8 — 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Thứ Bảy, ngày 22/8 — 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Thứ Bảy, ngày 29/8 — 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Kính mời quý phụ huynh thu xếp thời gian để ghi danh cho các em, giúp các em tiếp tục học hỏi Đức Tin, tiếng Việt và sinh hoạt trong tinh thần yêu mến Chúa và Giáo Hội.

KHAI GIẢNG LỚP GIÁO LÝ TÂN TÔNG

Lớp Giáo Lý Tân Tông sẽ khai giảng vào **Chúa Nhật ngày 30 tháng 8 năm 2026**.

Trong Cộng Đoàn có ai cần hoặc biết ai đang chuẩn bị lãnh nhận các bí tích khai tâm Kitô giáo, xin giới thiệu và liên lạc **Sơ Maria Trang Nguyễn 714-892-3158** hoặc **Văn phòng Giáo Xứ 714-893-2766**.

ĐẠI LỄ TẠ ƠN

Kỷ Niệm 50 Năm Thành Lập Giáo Phận Orange
Trong dịp Đại lễ mừng 50 năm thành lập Giáo phận, chúng ta cùng dâng lời tạ ơn vì muôn hồng ân Chúa đã tuôn đổ và hướng về tương lai với niềm hy vọng vào chương trình của Ngài dành cho cộng đoàn chúng ta.

Giáo Phận trân trọng kính mời quý vị tham dự **Lễ Kỷ Niệm 50 Năm**, được tổ chức tại **Honda Center** vào **Thứ Bảy, ngày 22 tháng 8 năm 2026**, từ **11:00 sáng – 3:00 chiều**.

Xin vui lòng ghi danh tại: www.rcbo.org/theres-more



THÁNH LỄ AN TÁNG

Cộng đoàn được tin

Bà Anna Trương Thu Vân

là phu nhân của Ông Vũ Thế Điện - Cựu Chủ tịch Cộng Đoàn và là thân mẫu của Anh Chị Hương - Phú.

Được Chúa gọi về ngày 5/8/2026

tại Westminster, California.

Hưởng thọ 87 tuổi

Linh cử được quản tại Giáo Xứ Thánh Polycarp

CHƯƠNG TRÌNH TANG LỄ

Thứ Sáu, ngày 21 tháng 8 năm 2026

1:00pm : Nghi thức phát tang và làm phép xác

2:00 - 6:00pm : Thăm viếng và Cầu nguyện

Thứ Bảy, ngày 22 tháng 8 năm 2026

10:00 am : Cử hành Thánh Lễ An Táng

Sau thánh lễ linh cửu của Bà sẽ được an táng tại Nghĩa trang Chúa Chiên Lành

Trong tâm tình hiệp thông và chia sẻ nỗi mất mát lớn lao này, Cộng Đoàn Đức Maria Mẹ Thiên Chúa và Giáo xứ Thánh Polycarp xin thành kính phân ưu cùng

Bác Vũ Thế Điện, anh chị Hương – Phú,

và toàn thể tang quyến.

"Chúa chữa lành những tấm lòng tan vỡ và băng bó những vết thương của họ."

(Tr. 147:3)

Xin Chúa là nguồn an ủi và bình an nâng đỡ gia đình trong lúc đau buồn, và xin Người thương đón nhận **Linh hồn Anna** vào hưởng phúc trường sinh trong Nước Chúa.



POLYCARP TALENT SHOW



6:00 tối
Thứ Sáu, 21.8.2026

Giáo Xứ sẽ tổ chức Đêm Văn Nghệ tại khuôn viên trường học.

Đây là đêm văn nghệ thường niên được tổ chức nhằm tạo sự gắn kết và truyền cảm hứng cho các thế hệ con cháu biết hiệp nhất và nâng đỡ nhau trong đời sống đức tin và trong tình yêu của Chúa Kitô.

Kính mời quý ông bà anh chị em sắp xếp thời gian đến tham dự.

Có phục vụ thức ăn miễn phí.

HỘI CHỢ 2026

*Trong tinh thần chuẩn bị cho Fiesta của Giáo xứ diễn ra vào các ngày **11, 12 và 13 tháng 9, 2026**, kính mong Cộng Đoàn tiếp tục quảng đại nâng đỡ qua việc mua vé số.*

Giá vé: \$ 2/vé. Quý vị có thể mua vé tại Văn phòng Giáo xứ, các Hội Đoàn, hoặc cuối Thánh Đường sau các Thánh Lễ.

GIẢI ĐẶC BIỆT: \$ 2,500.

Quý ân nhân và quý cơ sở thương mại mong muốn bảo trợ cho Fiesta năm nay, xin vui lòng liên lạc Văn phòng Giáo xứ để biết thêm chi tiết. Giáo xứ cũng trân trọng kêu gọi sự đóng góp các vật dụng cần thiết cho Hội Chợ như muống - nĩa nhựa, hộp đựng thức ăn, nước ngọt lon, nước suối...

Mọi đóng góp xin được gửi về Văn phòng Giáo xứ trong giờ làm việc. Sự quảng đại và chung tay của quý vị là nguồn nâng đỡ quý báu cho các sinh hoạt mục vụ của Giáo xứ.



ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

The Filipino Community of St. Polycarp invites everyone to come to the church every Wednesday at 4 PM to help celebrate a perpetual novena to Our Mother Mary.

Please join us!

SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH
8420 Chapman Avenue • Stanton, CA 95693 • (714) 891-2700 • www.stpolycarp.org

Pray for the Sick
 Gilbert Navarro
 Genaro Martinez
 Eustoria Gonzalez
 Norma Lopez
 Joel Romo
 Linda Alice
 Lupe Barrios Viramontes
 Maria Elena Mirada
 Vincent Lau
 Gaudelio Jose Salgado

Funerals
 Anna Truong Thu Van (8/22 @ 10 AM)

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE HOURS
English/Spanish Faith Formation
Sister Silvia Frias
(714) 892-3158

Monday	2 PM - 5 PM
Thursday	2 PM - 7 PM
Saturday	10 AM - 12 PM

Confirmation 1 & 2 Programs
(English/Español/Tiếng Việt)
Sister Anh Tram Tran
(714) 890-5200

Tuesday	2 PM - 5 PM
Wednesday/Friday	1 PM - 5 PM
Sunday	8 AM - 3 PM

Vietnamese Religious Education (Giáo Lý Việt Ngữ)
Sister MaryAnne Thiên Hương Nguyễn
(714) 620-7895

Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday	1 PM - 5 PM
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Faith Formation and OCIA Reminder

We would like to remind parents about the orientation meetings:

Monday, August 24
 5 PM in the Parish Hall for those who registered their children for the 1st year for preparation for the Sacrament of First Communion
 7 PM in the Parish Hall for those who registered their children for the 2nd year in preparation to receive the Sacrament of First Communion.

Thursday, August 27
 5 PM in the Parish Hall for those who registered their children for preparation to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.

ADULTS
Thursday, August 27
 7 PM in the Parish Hall for those registered for preparation to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation

Recuerdos para la Formación de Fe y RICA

Les recordamos a los padres de familia que tenemos las reuniones de orientación:

lunes, 24 de agosto
 5 PM en el Salón Parroquial para los niños y niñas registrados en el primer año para recibir el Sacramento de la Primera Comunión
 7 PM en el Salón Parroquial para los niños y niñas registrados en el segundo año para recibir el Sacramento de la Primera Comunión

jueves, 27 de agosto
 5 PM en el Salón Parroquial para los niños y niñas registrados para recibir los Sacramentos de Bautismo, Primera Comunión y Confirmación

ADULTOS
jueves, 27 de agosto
 7 PM en el Salón Parroquial para quienes están registrados para recibir los Sacramentos de Bautismo, Primera Comunión y Confirmación



St. Polycarp Church presents:

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TALENT SHOW 2026



FREE FOOD, RAFFLE PRIZES, AND SPECIAL GUESTS!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21st

6:00PM

Saint Polycarp School Courtyard



SCAN ME

Auditions: July 12th & 19th
To RSVP, scan the QR code or contact
karafor@stpolycarp.org

“SO LONG AS SHE IS IN YOUR MIND, YOU ARE SAFE FROM DECEPTION.”

ST. BERNARD



 ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY RETREATS

Marian Apparitions:

VITAL MESSAGES FROM OUR MOTHER

Our Blessed Mother has appeared many times, across history and the globe. Every apparition conveyed a vital message, not only for the people of that particular time and place, but for all her children. This message was revealed in overarching themes as well as particular details: the location and historical context of the apparition; her appearance, gestures, clothing; the visionaries chosen; miracles and signs; and, of course, her actual words.

The goal of this retreat is to unearth some of these messages from Our Heavenly Mother, so we may live out our faith more fully as her devoted children.

REGISTER ONLINE
COST: \$50
LUNCH NOT INCLUDED

AUGUST 22, 2026
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY
CONFERENCE CENTER



Fr. Anselm Rodriguez,
O.Praem.

27977 SILVERADO CANYON RD
SILVERADO, CA 92676 • (657) 314-9071
stmichaelsabbey.com/retreats



2026 ST. POLYCARP FIESTA RAFFLE TICKET SALE

GO TO THE PARISH OFFICE OR GO TO YOUR MINISTRY/GROUP COORDINATORS TO BUY TICKETS

GRAND PRIZE:
\$2,500.00

2ND PRIZE:
\$1,000.00

THIRD PRIZE
(5 WINNERS EACH WILL WIN \$100.00)

PROMOTION SALE
7/1/26-8/15/26
\$2.00 A TICKET
BUY A BOOK OF 10 TICKETS, GET FIVE FREE



THE FINAL DRAWING WILL BE ON THE LAST DAY OF THE FIESTA
SUNDAY SEPT 13, 2026 @ 8 P.M.

 **2026 ST. POLYCARP FIESTA DONATIONS NEEDED!!**

WE NEED DONATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR OUR 2026 FIESTA. DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE PARISH OFFICE DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS.

- *CANNED SODA (NO GLASS)
- *8.5" PAPER PLATES
- *BOTTLED WATER (16.9 OZ - NO GLASS)
- *PLASTIC FORKS, SPOONS, AND KNIVES
- *TO-GO CONTAINERS
- *NAPKINS

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Fiesta 2026: Sept 11, 12 & 13, 2026

www.stpolycarp.org



DIOCESE OF ORANGE
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



There's More

Saturday,
August 22nd

Doors open at 10 AM
Event from 11 AM to 3 PM

Honda Center

2695 EAST KATELLA AVENUE

Admission is free!

Register now:
rcbo.org/theres-more



ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
SPIRITUALITY • LEADERSHIP • SERVICE • 1976 - 2026

JOIN US AT ST. MARY'S BY THE SEA
IN HUNTINGTON BEACH ON SEPTEMBER 15



**Claire
Frazier-
Yzaguirre**
will share her insights
on St. Francis



Walking with St. Francis:

Living a Life of Love, Simplicity & Joy!

St. Mary's by the Sea . 321 10th St, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

There is limited parking so please carpool. RSVP BY 9-12 USING QR CODE

Mail \$30 check payable to ODCCW to
Kathy Kent at 13430 St. Andrews Dr, Unit 72L
Seal Beach, CA 90740

Questions? Call Kathy at 562-706-5481



Center for Spiritual Development
A MINISTRY OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF ORANGE

EMBRACE THE SACRED: FOUNDATIONS OF SPIRITUALITY

THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
SEPTEMBER 2026 - JUNE 2027
9 AM - 12 PM



In this series, we invite you to open yourself to spiritual practices and knowledge for a deeper spiritual life that will motivate and sustain you in your relationships, daily life, and in transforming work into ministry.

DATES

- September 19, 2026
- October 17, 2026
- November 21, 2026
- December 19, 2026
- January 16, 2027
- February 20, 2027
- March 20, 2027
- April 17, 2027
- May 15, 2027
- June 19, 2027



Register to
attend in person



Register to
attend on Zoom

For more information call (714) 744-3172 or visit thecsd.org

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Thus says the LORD:

Observe what is right, do what is just;
for my salvation is about to come,
my justice, about to be revealed. (Is 56:1)

Psalm:

O God, let all the nations praise you! (Ps 67)

Second Reading:

For God delivered all to disobedience,
that he might have mercy upon all. (Rom 11:32)

Gospel:

Then Jesus said to her in reply,
"O woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish." (Mt 15:28)

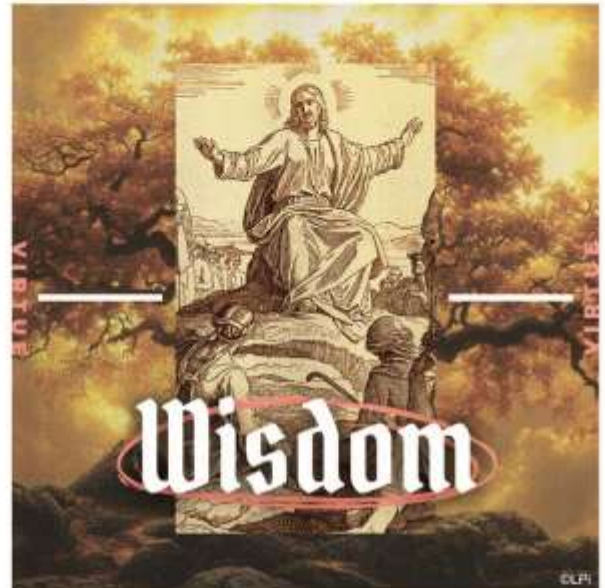
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The Canaanite woman did not take Jesus' initial refusal as rejection, but as an invitation to engage with God, to show him the depth of her faith. When our prayers are not answered as we wish, will we have the courage to do the same?

Observances for the week of August 16, 2026

Sunday:	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wednesday:	St. John Eudes, Priest
Thursday:	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Friday:	St. Pius X, Pope
Saturday:	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Next Sunday:	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

They say that wisdom comes with experience, and it does — but only if you accept it. Wisdom originates in both our will and in our intellect, meaning we must ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of wisdom — and remember to be ready when it comes.

Prayer for Conversion in Our Communities

Dear God,
Move in our community;
Bring Your light to the darkness,
Your justice to the oppressed,
Your hope to those in despair,
Your healing to those in pain.
Work in us, Lord, and change our hearts,
making us more loving, more merciful, and more compassionate.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Chess, Not Checkers

There's a saying that good leaders have to play chess, not checkers.

It will surprise no one who knows me well that I am terrible at chess. It's not so much a lack of skill (although that's part of it) as a lack of effort. I find chess exhausting. To succeed at this complex game of strategy, you have to see not just the board in front of you, but the person in front of you — and more than that, you have to consider not just what is, but what could be.

I prefer checkers.

When I read a Gospel passage like today's, I think of what Jesus would be like as a chess player. It's so easy to see this account of the Canaanite woman and her tenacity and take it at face value, as a reminder to pray without ceasing, to never stop asking God for what we need. And certainly, it is that.

But it's not only that.

We see a woman begging God for help, and we see God refuse — at first. We see her persist, and we see him capitulate. At least, that's what it looks like to us.

What does it look like to Jesus?

Jesus sees this woman's face and hears her words, just as his disciples do — but he also sees her heart. He sees her whole life. He sees every moment that leads up to this one. He sees her belief, but he also sees her unbelief. He sees her wounds. He sees her daughter.

He sees the game board not just for what it is, but for what it could be.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Our prayer group is discussing ways we can change and strengthen our faith. What one thing could we change that would have the greatest impact on our faith?

Answer:

A famous coach once said that when the team is in trouble and things aren't going well, go back to the basics; when the team is winning and things are going well, go back to the basics! Any renewal program, faith development, or spiritual growth effort has to start with the basic core of what it means to believe. If the foundation is not strong, the house will not stand.

So if you work on one thing, begin with the idea that God is love, who loves us and calls us to love one another. If we really take that belief to heart, it changes how we see God, ourselves, and one another. It would change how we pray, how we treat others, and how we understand and live our own lives. Our sense of mission and purpose will be more focused on God's plan and our role in it. Love is the core of faith, the goal of life, and the hope of heaven. Whatever we do to strengthen and deepen our faith will begin and end with love.



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