



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

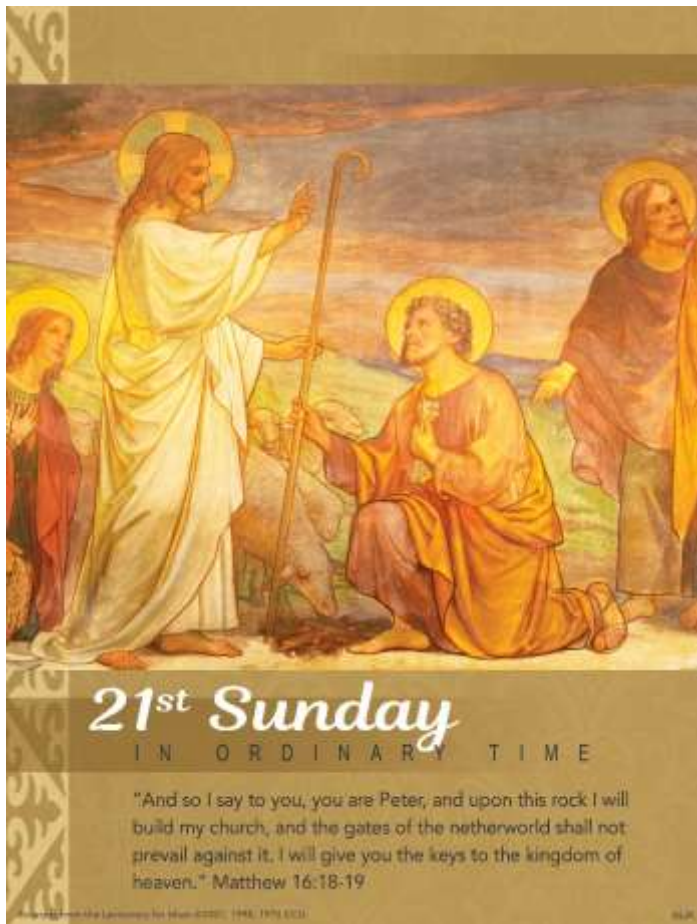
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM,

1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Sunday

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM



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.

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

August 23, 2026

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

Saturday, August 22, 2026

5:00 PM Baby Francisco Hizon✠

7:00 PM Erin Davis✠

Sunday, August 23, 2026

7:30 AM Peter Trap Mai✠ & All Ancestors

9:00 AM Sonia Valencia (Health) &
Graciela Rodriguez✠;
Leticia Villanueva (transplant)

11:00 AM Marie Newland✠ & Cesar G. Polvorosa✠ &
Nieves Destacamento✠

1:00 PM Celerina Mares✠; Edward L. Laird✠ &
Debbie Russell

4:00 PM All Souls

6:00 PM Clara Valladares Berenice Chino (Health)

Monday, August 24, 2026

6:30 AM Todd Ha

8:30 AM Eliana Gamboa✠

6:30 PM Garcia & Escobar Families

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

6:30 AM John the Baptist✠

8:30 AM Teresa✠ & Joseph✠ & Peter✠ &
Their Ancestors

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

6:30 AM Thanksgiving

8:30 AM Isave Tuyet Nguyen✠; All Souls

Thursday, August 27, 2026

6:30 AM Sandra Perez

8:30 AM Dolores Martinez✠

Friday, August 28, 2026

6:30 AM Fermin✠ & Socorro Madrio;
Pelagia Posadas✠

8:30 AM Julia L. Hernandez✠; Catarina Hong Pham✠

6:30 PM Maria Tran✠; Thanksgiving from the
Hong Van Nguyen Family

Saturday, August 29, 2026

8:30 AM Jane Tran Mai (Birthday)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

Monday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13,
17-18/Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12,
13/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/
Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/
Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19,
20-21/Mk 6:17-29

Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



August 15/16 Masses \$ 20,758.50
August 15/16 Online \$ 1,937.26
Total collection: \$ 22,695.76

2nd Collection: \$ 28,305.00
Assumption Masses: \$ 5,558.00

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



Las lecturas de la semana del 23 de agosto

Domingo: Is 22, 19-23/Sal 137, 1-2. 2-3. 6 y 8/Rom 11, 33-36/Mt 16, 13-20
Lunes: Ap 21, 9-14/Sal 144, 10-11. 12-13. 17-18/Jn 1, 45-51
Martes: 2 Tes 2, 1-3. 14-17/Sal 95, 10. 11-12. 13/Mt 23, 23-26
Miércoles: 2 Tes 3, 6-10. 16-18/Sal 127, 1-2. 4-5/Mt 23, 27-32
Jueves: 1 Co 1, 1-9/Sal 144, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7/Mt 24, 42-51
Viernes: 1 Co 1, 17-25/Sal 32, 1-2. 4-5. 10-11/Mt 25, 1-13
Sábado: 1 Co 1, 26-31/Sal 32, 12-13. 18-19. 20-21/Mc 6, 17-29
Domingo: Jr 20, 7-9/Sal 62, 2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9/Rom 12, 1-2/Mt 16, 21-27

Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 23 de agosto

Domingo: 21er Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario
Lunes: San Bartolomé, apóstol
Martes: San Luis; San José Calasanz, sacerdote
Jueves: Santa Mónica
Viernes: San Agustín, obispo y doctor de la Iglesia
Sábado: La pasión de San Juan Bautista
Domingo: 22º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Solo Pedro tiene la Respuesta

"¿Qué opinas del Papa?"

Tras la elección del Papa León XIV en 2025, todos mis amigos no católicos me enviaron esta pregunta por mensaje. El resultado del cónclave papal dominaba el ciclo informativo, y todos sentían curiosidad por este hombre que ahora sería tan prominente en el escenario mundial, haciéndome temporalmente popular entre personas que aparentemente necesitan más (y mejores) católicos en sus vidas.

En el Evangelio de hoy, vemos a Jesús confiar a Pedro y a sus herederos la administración del reino aquí en la tierra, creando una línea de autoridad ininterrumpida que se extiende a lo largo de los milenios hasta nuestro Papa actual — quienquiera que sea en el momento en que estés leyendo esto.

No sé si te gusta el Papa. Lo mismo ocurre con tu obispo local y tu párroco. Si un amigo te escribiera: "¿Qué te parece él?" No tengo ni idea de cómo responderías.

Lo único que sé es esto: realmente no importa. Lo que realmente importa es lo que diríamos si un amigo nos enviara un mensaje con la misma pregunta sobre Jesucristo: "¿Qué piensas de él y por qué?"

En el Evangelio actual, Jesús no pide a sus discípulos que hagan una prueba de Coeficiente Intelectual (CI). No intenta averiguar cuál es el más amable, el más trabajador, el más humilde o incluso el más santo.

Pedro tiene la respuesta.

No soy católica porque me guste el Papa. No soy católica porque los representantes humanos de la Iglesia tengan algo que ofrecerme (a menudo lo hacen, pero eso es otro tema).

Soy católica porque solo Pedro tiene la respuesta. ©LPi

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

La pregunta que Jesús hizo a sus discípulos fue: *"Según el parecer de la gente, ¿quién es este Hijo del Hombre?"*. La respuesta no se hizo esperar; presurosos respondieron: *"unos dicen que Juan el Bautista, otros que Elías, o Jeremías, o alguno de los profetas"*. Enseguida vino otra pregunta: *"Y ustedes, ¿quién dicen que soy yo?"* (Mateo 16:13-17). Esta segunda pregunta ya es directa para los discípulos: quién es Jesús para cada uno de ellos. Pedro lo identifica con claridad: *"Tú eres el Mesías, el Hijo de Dios vivo"* (Mateo 16:16). Jesús le dice que esta revelación viene del Padre que está en los cielos y no de su propia capacidad humana.

Se necesita revelación y una fe profunda para identificar a Jesucristo como nuestro Mesías y Salvador. ¿Cómo anda tu relación personal con Jesús? ¿Qué dicen tu familia, tus amigos y tu comunidad acerca de Él? El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, en el número 424, nos dice: *"Movidos por la gracia del Espíritu Santo y atraídos por el Padre, nosotros creemos y confesamos a propósito de Jesús: 'Tú eres el Cristo, el Hijo de Dios vivo' (Mt 16:16). Sobre la roca de esta fe, confesada por san Pedro, Cristo ha construido su Iglesia"*. Mateo, en su Evangelio, nos muestra un vínculo especial con la Iglesia, y debemos prestar atención a ello. La identidad de Jesús con la comunidad eclesial es única. Entonces, ahora vale la pregunta: ¿qué es la Iglesia para mí? ¿Veo una relación viva entre Jesús y la Iglesia? Pidamos por la Iglesia y oremos por el Papa León XIV, especialmente hoy. ©LPi

ĐÓN TIẾP ĐỨC CHA MATTHÊU NGUYỄN VĂN KHÔI



Cộng Đoàn hân hạnh
được Đức Cha Matthêu Nguyễn Văn Khôi,
Giám Mục Giáo Phận Qui Nhơn,
đến thăm và chủ tế Thánh Lễ.

Vào lúc 5:00PM, Thứ Ba ngày 25 / 8 / 2026

Kính mời quý ông bà anh chị em sắp xếp thời gian đến
hiệp dâng Thánh Lễ cùng hiệp ý cầu nguyện,
dâng lời tạ ơn Thiên Chúa,
và lãnh nhận phép lành từ Đức Cha.

GHI DANH CÁC LỚP GIÁO LÝ, VIỆT NGỮ & TNTT

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

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 TÒNG

Lớp Giáo Lý Tân Tòng 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.

Fiesta

ĐỨC TIN VÀ DÂN TỘC

Hãy Cùng Nhau Mừng Lễ Hội!

2026

Thứ Sáu

11/9

5pm - 10pm

Thứ Bảy

12/9

11am - 10pm

Chúa Nhật

13/9

8am - 8pm

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.



VĂN NGHỆ NGOÀI TRỜI

Thứ Sáu 11/9/2026

6:30PM - 10PM



Vào Cửa
Miễn Phí

Có Bán Thức Ăn
Nước Uống Đủ Loại



T-Bon
Rapper

Ca Sĩ
Thy Châu

Ca Sĩ
Huy Tuấn

Ca Sĩ
Huỳnh Đức

Ca Sĩ
Hugo

Ca Sĩ
Khánh Hoàng

Ca Sĩ
Ngọc Hà

Ca Sĩ
Thúy An

Ca Sĩ
Hoa Thảo

MC.
Hiền Đào

MC.
Thúy Phượng



Vũ Đoàn TNTT



Xổ Số - Raffle



Ban Tổ Chức Văn Nghệ



Vũ Đoàn TNTT



Band: Dũng Lạc
(Nhóm Chúa Nhật)



Vũ Đoàn TNTT



Vũ Đoàn TNTT



Dance Group



CỘNG ĐOÀN ĐỨC MARIA MẸ THIÊN CHÚA - GIÁO XỨ SAINT POLYCARP

8100 Chapman Ave, Stanton CA 90680 * Phone: 714-893-2766



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
8820 Chapman Avenue • Stanton, CA 95680 • (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
 Jorge Quiroz

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE HOURS
English/Spanish Faith Formation
Sister Silvia Frias
(714) 892-3158
 Monday/Thursday/Friday 2 PM - 6 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

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





NEW BIBLE STUDY!!!

Reading the Bible should bring us closer to Christ, but understanding it is often difficult. The good news is that you can understand the Bible—and the newly refilmed Bible Timeline program makes it easy.

This twenty-four-part study will take you on a guided journey through salvation history, while offering fresh, practical tools to help you read and appreciate the Bible.

St Polycarp will offer The Bible Timeline on Mondays at 7 PM, beginning September 14, 2026, via Zoom. Participants will meet every week online to view an engaging video presentation, followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. For more information or to register, contact Rita Tarrab at rtarrab@gmail.com.



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



Share Your Faith

Saturday, August 29, 9:00 AM–3:30 PM

Join Us!

for a workshop and lunch designed to help you share your faith with anyone!

YOU WILL LEARN:

- How to talk about your faith naturally
- How to share your story of what God has done in your life
- How to invite others to take one small step closer to Jesus



PRESENTER
Adam Janke
President,
St. Paul Street
Evangelization

Saints Simon and Jude
20444 Magnolia Street,
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

Scan the QR code below or visit
ssj.org to register and learn more!



THE DIOCESE
of ORANGE
JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY



ST. PAUL STREET
EVANGELIZATION



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



This Fall, rekindle your love for your spouse!

Sept 26-27, 2026

Heart of Jesus
Retreat Center
Santa Ana, CA



worldwide
**marriage
encounter**

WWME.ORG

714-873-5136



JSERRA'S ANNUAL FAMILY & FRIENDS FESTIVAL

ADELANT+ FEST '26

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

"I'M ALIVE AGAIN"

AN EVENING OF FAITH, HOPE, AND INSPIRATION
FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY



PAUL J. KIM
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



MATT MAHER
SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST



GET TICKETS
& MORE INFO

\$10 OFF
per ticket*
PROMO: OCPARISH10



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

FOR FOSTER, ADOPTIVE, KINSHIP & DISCERNING FAMILIES:

Building Belonging

Join Springs of Love Orange County for a Catholic small group for those fostering, adopting, or discerning this calling. Grow in faith, understanding, and community with others on this journey.



What: A virtual small group led by Springs of Love Family & Chapter Support Coach, Katie Battle

When: Select Sunday evenings
September 20-November 15,
7-8:30pm PT

Intro Session (9/20)

Session 1 (10/4): God's Providence in a Broken World

Session 2 (10/11): Beloved from the Beginning

Session 3 (10/18): Grief, Loss, & Brokenness

Session 4 (10/25): Hope & Healing in Christ

Session 5 (11/1): Honoring Differences

Session 6 (11/8): Integrating Stories
Wrap-up (11/15): In-person gathering hosted by the Diocese of Orange

Scan the QR code or visit springsoflove.org/dioceseoforange to register.



Roman Catholic
Diocese of Orange

SAVE THE DATE

Polish HARVEST FESTIVAL Dożynki 2026

19-20 September

Saturday 12-11PM | Sunday 11AM-4PM

Saint John Paul II Polish Center
3999 Rose Drive | Yorba Linda | CA 92886
714-996-8161 | www.polishcenter.org



EMBRACE THE TASTE of Poland

Authentic Polish Food
Traditional Music & Dances
Cultural Exhibits
Family-Friendly Activities
Raffle with Attractive Prizes

FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING

PLEASE JOIN US! ZAPRASZAMY!

Bring your appetite & your friends!

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder;
when he opens, no one shall shut,
when he shuts, no one shall open. (Is 22:22)

Psalm:

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands. (Ps 138)

Second Reading:

For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen. (Rom 11:36)

Gospel:

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.
Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven;
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Mt 16:19)

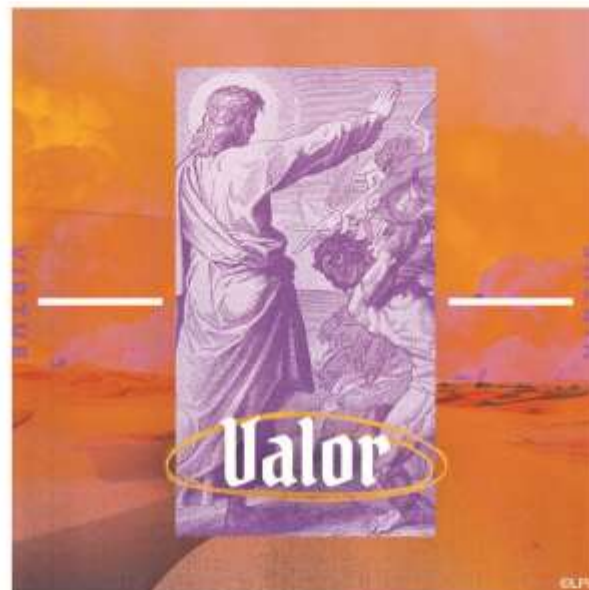
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Who do you say that I am?" Jesus asks his apostles. Peter is the first to answer. He knows who Jesus is. Do we? In everything we do and everything we are, let us say together with Peter: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Observances for the week of August 23, 2026

Sunday:	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Tuesday:	St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest
Thursday:	St. Monica
Friday:	St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday:	The Passion of St. John the Baptist
Next Sunday:	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

Though valor itself is not a cardinal or theological virtue, as a Latin-based word that means "strength," we associate it with the gift of fortitude. It conjures an image of fortitude on the battlefield — of fidelity to the good fight, regardless of the coming attack.

Prayer for the Pope

Dear God,
Be with Our Holy Father in his ministry. Bless, anoint, and protect him in his comings and goings. Inspire his words, direct his interactions, guide his prayer. Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Only Peter Has the Answer

"What do you think of the Pope?"

After the election of Pope Leo XIV in 2025, all my non-Catholic friends texted me this question. The result of the papal conclave was dominating the news cycle, and everyone was curious about this man who would now be so prominent on the world stage, making me temporarily popular with people who apparently need more (and better) Catholics in their lives.

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus entrust Peter and his heirs with the stewardship of the kingdom here on earth, creating an unbroken line of authority which stretches through the millennia all the way to our current Pope — whoever he is at the time you are reading this.

I don't know if you like the Pope. The same goes for your local bishop and your pastor. If a friend texted you, "What do you think of him?" I have no idea how you would respond.

All I know is this: it doesn't really matter. What really matters is what we would say if a friend texted us the same question about Jesus Christ: "What do you think of him, and why?"

In today's Gospel, Jesus doesn't ask his disciples to take an IQ test. He doesn't try to find out which one is the nicest, the hardest worker, the most humble, or even the holiest.

He asks a very simple question: "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter has the answer.

I am not Catholic because I like the Pope. I am not Catholic because the human representatives of the Church have anything to offer me (they often do, but this is beside the point).

I am Catholic because only Peter has the answer.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

In Sunday school, the students are studying the Ten Commandments. I know that kids are important in the eyes of God, so I'm just wondering why there isn't a commandment about honoring children.

Answer:

Commandments provide EOO-Equal Opportunity for Observance! They are meant for everyone, children as well as adults. There are several assumptions that would make such a commandment a bit redundant. One, children are entrusted to the care of their parents. So, respect, love, and care — as well as teaching them — are assumed to be part of the responsibility of parents. They are the first teachers in the ways of faith and, as such, participate in God's work of loving and creating. The child has the obligation and responsibility towards their parents. Only when they are adults will they make decisions on their own.

In Biblical times, and in many societies today, children are responsible for caring for elderly parents, providing for their needs. In our culture today, too often kids have more rights than responsibilities, and oftentimes long before they are able to handle them. If we follow the Commandment of Jesus to love others and treat them as we would want to be treated, everyone is included, children too.



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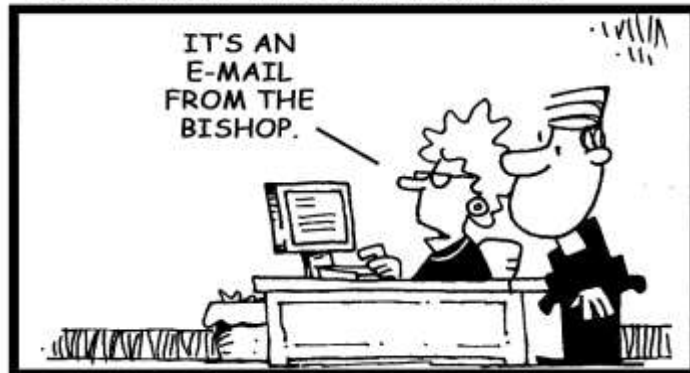


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