



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,

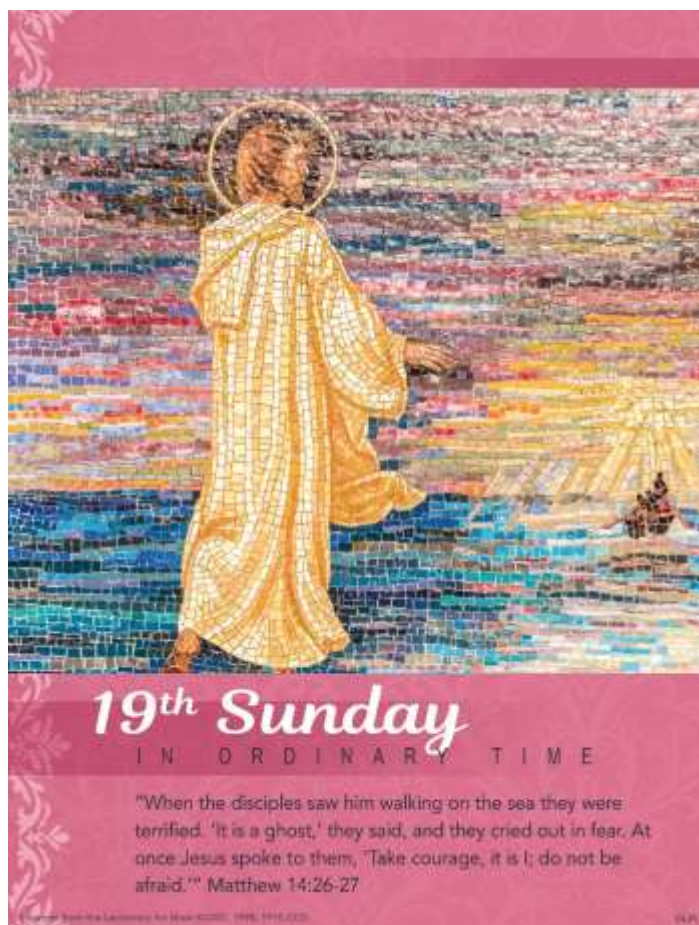
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

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 9, 2026

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

Saturday, August 8, 2026

5:00 PM Jack Henkel✠

7:00 PM Thanksgiving

Sunday, August 9, 2026

7:30 AM Eusebia Carrera✠; Paul Lucia Quang Hien✠
& All Ancestors

9:00 AM Socorro Leon✠; Sr. Yolanda Archuleta De
Nava✠ & Ruben Rosales Carlos✠

11:00 AM Lentz Sy Go✠; All our Ancestors and Loved
Ones who passed away; June Sunderland✠

1:00 PM Sabino Dominguez✠ & Salvador Hernandez

4:00 PM Joseph Huan Ba Nguyen✠; Joseph✠ &
Mary✠

6:00 PM William Emanuel Saligan✠;
Erasto Guzman✠

Monday, August 10, 2026

6:30 AM Juana Rodrigus Luna✠;
Santiago Flores Gonzalez✠

8:30 AM Eugenio Cacnanta✠; Albert M. Muldong

6:30 PM All Fathers (Alive and Deceased) &
All Souls in Purgatory; Leonel Bautista✠

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

6:30 AM Christina Bahena Cuevas

8:30 AM Peter Hanh Ba Nguyen✠

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

6:30 AM Anna✠ & Maria✠

8:30 AM All Souls

Thursday, August 13, 2026

6:30 AM Maria Simona Salgado✠ & Acuna Family

8:30 AM All Souls

Friday, August 14, 2026

6:30 AM Richard Aguirre & Salina Santos

8:30 AM Catarina Hong Pham✠

4:00 PM All Souls

5:30 PM All Souls

7:00 PM Thanksgiving to Fr. Francis Xavier Truong &
Buu Diep

Saturday, August 15, 2026

8:30 AM John C. Norton✠; Hau Tran (Birthday) &
The Assumption of Mary

10:00 AM All Souls

12:00 PM All Souls

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9ab and 10,
11-12, 13-14/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33

Monday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9/
Jn 12:24-26

Tuesday: Ez 2:8-3:4/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111,
131/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wednesday: Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Mt 18:15-20

Thursday: Ez 12:1-12/Ps 78:56-57, 58-59, 61-62/
Mt 18:21-19:1

Friday: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63/Is 12:2-3,
4bcd, 5-6/Mt 19:3-12

Saturday: **Vigil:** 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/
Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14/1 Cor 15:54b-57/
Lk 11:27-28 **Day:** Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,
10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16/1 Cor 15:20 27/
Lk 1:39-56

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



PSA 2026 REPORT

AS OF 08/04/2026

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 453

AMOUNT PLEDGED: \$233,204.00

TOTAL PAID: \$190,861.00

OUR 2026 PSA GOAL: \$109,760.00



Thank You!

++ SAINT POLYCARP
CATHOLIC CHURCH
www.stpoly.org



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



August 1/2 Masses	\$ 20,470.00
August 1/2 Online	\$ 1,288.39
Total collection:	\$21,758.39

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



Las lecturas de la semana del 9 de agosto

Domingo: 1 Re 19, 9a. 11-13/Sal 84, 9 y 10. 11-12. 13-14/Rom 9, 1-5/Mt 14, 22-33
Lunes: 2 Co 9, 6-10/Sal 111, 1-2. 5-6. 7-8. 9/Jn 12, 24-26
Martes: Ez 2, 8-3, 4/Sal 118, 14. 24. 72. 103. 111. 131/Mt 18, 1-5. 10. 12-14
Miércoles: Ez 9, 1-7; 10, 18-22/Sal 112, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/Mt 18, 15-20
Jueves: Ez 12, 1-12/Sal 77, 56-57. 58-59. 61-62/Mt 18, 21-19, 1
Viernes: Ez 16, 1-15. 60. 63 o 16, 59-63/Is 12, 2-3. 4. 5-6/Mt 19, 3-12
Sábado: Vigilia, 1 Cr 15, 3-4. 15-16; 16, 1-2/Sal 131, 6 7. 9-10. 13-14/1 Co 15, 54-57/Lc 11, 27-28 Día, Ap 11, 19; 12, 1-6. 10/Sal 44, 10. 11. 12. 16/1 Co 15, 20-27/Lc 1, 39-56
Domingo Is 56, 1. 6-7/Sal 66, 2-3. 5. 6 y 8/Rom 11, 13-15.29-32/Mt 15, 21-28

Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 9 de agosto

Domingo: 19º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario
Lunes: San Lorenzo, diácono y mártir
Martes: Santa Clara, virgen
Miércoles: Santa Juana Francisca de Chantal, religiosa
Jueves: San Ponciano, papa, y San Hipólito, sacerdote, mártires
Viernes: San Maximiliano Kolbe, sacerdote y mártir
Sábado: La Asunción de la Santísima Virgen María
Domingo: 20º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Buscando a Dios

¿Qué pensamos cuando vemos a Jesús venir a salvarnos?

Lo primero que gritan los Apóstoles es "¡Fantasma!" cuando ven a Jesús caminando hacia ellos sobre el agua. Eso siempre me hace reír. Después de todo lo que han presenciado hasta ahora como compañeros del Mesías, ven a alguien caminando sobre el agua y aun así reaccionan como extras en un mal episodio de Scooby-Doo.

Siempre somos más rápidos en creer algo malo que en algo bueno. Podemos creer fácilmente los chismes y los rumores sobre un amigo, pero tememos que nos tomen por tontos cuando se trata de fe. Preferimos parecer cínicos que tontos.

"Sálvame, Dios, porque las aguas han llegado a mi cuello", dice el Salmo 69. "Mis ojos fallan de buscar a mi Dios."

Pienso en mi vida, en todas las formas en que Dios me ha salvado de deslizarme bajo la superficie. Rara vez se me ocurría, en medio de todo eso, que me estaban rescatando. De hecho, normalmente pensaba que me estaban reteniendo bajo el agua. ¿Oí Su voz guiándome, o solo escuché mi propia desesperación? "Sálvame, Dios." ¿Le estaba buscando o tenía los ojos cerrados por el miedo? "Mis ojos fallan de buscar a mi Dios."

Es hasta después de los hechos — a veces años después, o décadas — cuando vemos las cosas con claridad. Que veamos a Cristo en la situación, acercándose a nosotros, con la mano extendida. ©LPi

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

No sé si alguna vez en tu vida has tenido miedo a algo o a alguien, y te has dado cuenta de que el miedo paraliza: no te deja avanzar, incluso te ciega y no te permite ver. Muchas veces, las causas del miedo son falsas y solo sirven para amedrentar a la persona y dejarla sin esperanza. El miedo también nos quita la paz y nos impide hacer planes para el futuro. El Papa León XIV afirma que: *"Cuanto más hermoso es el plan, mayor es la esperanza"*, sabiendo que *"el futuro está en manos de Aquel que ofrece la mayor esperanza"*. El santo cardenal John Henry Newman, canonizado por el Papa Francisco en octubre de 2019, escribió lo siguiente: *"A través de las tinieblas que me rodean, condúceme tú, siempre más adelante. La noche es oscura y estoy lejos del hogar: condúceme tú, siempre más adelante. Guía mis pasos; un solo paso cada vez es bastante para mí. Deseaba escoger y ver mi camino, pero ahora, condúceme tú, siempre adelante"*.

El pasaje del Evangelio que nos narra lo sucedido a los discípulos en el lago, aquella noche, es muy parecido a lo que vivimos en el día a día de nuestra vida. La barca era golpeada por las olas y el viento era fuerte. En medio de todos esos acontecimientos aparece Jesús caminando sobre las aguas, y ellos, asustados, creen ver un fantasma. El miedo los paraliza y gritan aterrados. Enseguida, Jesús les dice: *"Ánimo, no teman, que soy yo"* (Mateo 14:27). ¡Señor, nos falta fe como a Pedro! Danos tu mano y sálvanos. ©LPi

La Asunción
de María ©LPi

Chương trình Thánh lễ ĐỨC MẸ HỒN XÁC LÊN TRỜI

LỄ VỌNG

4 GIỜ CHIỀU | THỨ SÁU 14/8/2026

XIN LƯU Ý

- Vẫn có 2 Thánh lễ tiếng Anh ngày thường lúc 6:30 và 8:30 sáng.
- Không có giờ Châu Thánh Thể lúc 9:00 sáng.
- Không có giờ Giải Tội lúc 9:00 sáng.
- Không có Thánh lễ tiếng Việt lúc 6:30 chiều.

LỄ CHÍNH NGÀY

10 GIỜ SÁNG | THỨ BẢY 15/8/2026



Fiesta

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.

Từ nay đến 15/8/2026, khi mua 10 vé, sẽ được tặng thêm 5 vé.

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.

Picnic

CÔNG VIÊN TWILA REID PARK
3100 W Orange Ave, Anaheim, CA 92804

CHÚA NHẬT, NGÀY 16-8-2026
8AM - 3PM

Để tạo tinh thần ái và hiệp nhất trong Cộng Đoàn.
Kính mời quý ông bà anh chị em cùng đến tham dự buổi Picnic Ngoài Trời.
Cộng đoàn sẽ lo phần ăn trưa miễn phí cho tất cả mọi người.

CHƯƠNG TRÌNH

- 9:00AM - 10:00AM Thánh Lễ Chúa Nhật - Khai Mạc
- 10:30AM - 12:00PM Các Trò chơi Vận động - Thi đấu thể thao
- 12:00PM - 1:00PM Giờ kết thân & Dùng cơm trưa - Xổ số
- 1:00PM - 2:30PM Đố vui - Lô tô
- 2:30PM - 3:00PM Tổng kết / Trao giải thưởng

Kính mong mọi người sắp xếp thời gian đến tham dự đông đủ để cùng vui chơi và thắt chặt tình huynh đệ.
Xin mang theo dù và ghế.

POLYCARP TALENT SHOW



6:00 tối - Thứ Sáu, ngày 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 NHẪM TẠO SỰ GẮN KẾT VÀ TRUYỀN CẢM HỨNG CHO CÁC THẺ HỆ
CON CHÁU BIẾT HIỆP NHẤT VÀ NÂNG ĐỖ 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.



8/15/2026 & 8/16/2026 DIOCESAN MISSION APPEAL

The Diocesan Missionary Appeal is the main source of income for many missionary groups/projects worldwide. This year, we are supporting the Vietnamese Congregation of the Servants of Loving Jesus as selected by the Diocese.

Your generous financial support is appreciated.

St. Polycarp Catholic Church www.stpolycarp.org

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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Pray for the Sick

Anastasia "Ana" Filipek

Anita

Juan Hernandez

Maria de Jesus Puentes

Dianna Chavira

Michael Duarte

Maria Zenaida Fraiss

Gilbert Navarro

Genaro Martinez

Eustoria Gonzalez

Norma Lopez

Joel Romo

Linda

Lupe Barrios Viramontes

Maria Elena Mirada

Vincent Lau

Gaudelio Jose Salgado

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 for 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

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Mass Schedule August 14–15, 2026

Vigil Masses – Friday, August 14

4:00 PM – Vietnamese
5:30 PM – English
7:00 PM – Spanish

Please note: The regular weekday English Masses at 6:30 AM and 8:30 AM will remain as scheduled.

There will be **no Confessions** and **no 9:00 AM Adoration** on Friday.

Masses on the Solemnity – Saturday, August 15

8:30 AM – English
10:00 AM – Vietnamese
12:00 PM – Spanish



2026

YOU WERE MADE FOR MORE... COME DISCOVER IT!



Lovers of the Holy Cross
invite you to...

**AUG 10-12 &
DEC 27-30**

COME & SEE RETREAT
*more dates available upon request

DEC 19-22

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Retreats for women age 17-35 open to discerning God's will

CONTACT: VOCATION@LHCLA.ORG / WWW.LHCLA.ORG / (213)944-3095 OR (213)851-1039



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



AMERICAN MARTYR

THE STANLEY ROTHER STORY

NARRATED BY MARTIN SHEEN

Learn more



IN THEATRES AUGUST 25 & 26
EL 27 DE AGOSTO EN ESPAÑOL



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:

Then the LORD said to him,
"Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD;
the LORD will be passing by." (1 Kgs 19:11)

Psalm:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. (Ps 85)

Second Reading:

I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie;
my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me
witness. (Rom 9:1)

Gospel:

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter,
and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you
doubt?" (Mt 14:31)

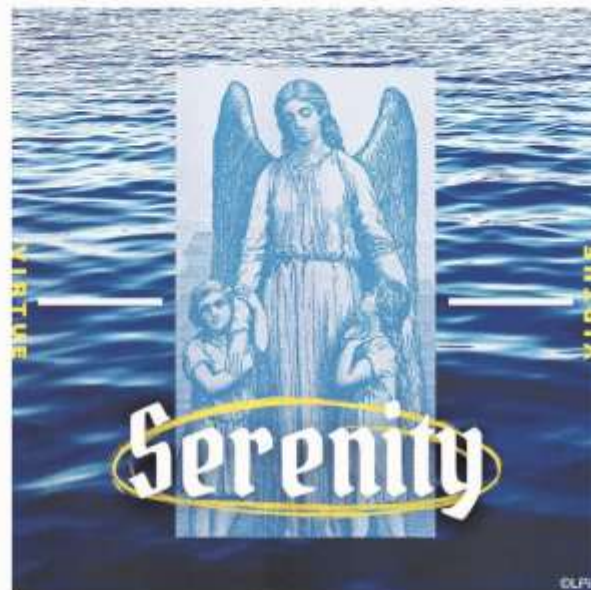
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

In the midst of life's greatest storms, Jesus comes to us, but we may not recognize him. We may test him. In doing so, he will test us — and likely, we will fail. But when we falter, his saving hand is there.

Observances for the week of August 9, 2026

Sunday:	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr
Tuesday:	St. Clare, Virgin
Wednesday:	St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious
Thursday:	Sts. Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs
Friday:	St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr
Saturday:	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Next Sunday:	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

What is serenity? It is an attitude of calm, one that can only be identified when contrasted with turmoil. It is stillness in a storm. It is Christ, walking steadily across the raging waves. It is the feeling we find when we are reconciled to God's mercy.

Prayer in Faith in Trial

Dear God,
In this time of difficulty, be with me.
When I don't feel Your presence or
hear Your voice, sustain me.
When I don't see the path ahead,
guide me.
When I don't know the next step,
support me.
In every day and in every moment, be
my strength.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Looking for God

What do we think when we see Jesus coming to save us?

The first thing the Apostles scream is “Ghost!” when they catch sight of Jesus walking towards them on water. That always makes me laugh. After all they have witnessed thus far as the companions of the Messiah, they see someone walking on water and they still react like extras in a bad episode of Scooby-Doo.

We are always more quick to believe a bad thing than a good thing. We can easily believe gossip and hearsay about a friend, but we fear being taken for a fool when it comes to faith. We would rather look cynical than stupid.

“Save me, God, for the waters have reached my neck,” reads Psalm 69. “My eyes fail, from looking for my God.”

I think back on my life, on all the various ways that God has rescued me from slipping beneath the surface. Rarely did it ever occur to me, in the midst of it, that I was being rescued. In fact, I usually thought I was being held underwater. Did I hear His voice directing me, or did I only hear my own despairing? “Save me, God.” Was I looking for Him, or were my eyes shut in fear? “My eyes fail, from looking for my God.”

It's never until after the fact — sometimes years after, or decades — that we see things clearly. That we see Christ in the situation, making his way toward us, hand outstretched.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we call Jesus “the light of the world”?

Answer:

In cultures around the world, light and darkness are chief symbols of good and evil, order and chaos, clarity and confusion, hope and despair. These symbols tap into something essential about the nature of things. God has given us the created world as a gift. His first work, as we see in Genesis 1, is to create *light*, giving meaning and insight to the abyss. It is in the light that the rest of creation comes to be. A gathering darkness emerges in Genesis 3. Adam and Eve hide, shrouding themselves from the sun's rays and the gaze of God. While God offers a promise of salvation and establishes a covenant with His people, the sense of fog and dim understanding still remains. The Hebrew people repeatedly betray the promises they have made to God, and all around them the nations actively worship idols.

The promise of God is not in vain, however. In John 1, we see a depiction of Christ as primordial goodness, order, clarity, and hope. “*The true light, which enlightens everyone was coming into the world ... this life was the light of the human race*” (John 1: 9, 4). Think of the last sunrise you witnessed (if you could wake up for it!). As you watched the lavender brighten to rose edged with gold, did your heart swell? Did you recall the goodness of the world? Did you feel rekindled hope? Such is the role of Christ in the soul. Such is his coming Incarnate in our world.



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