



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,

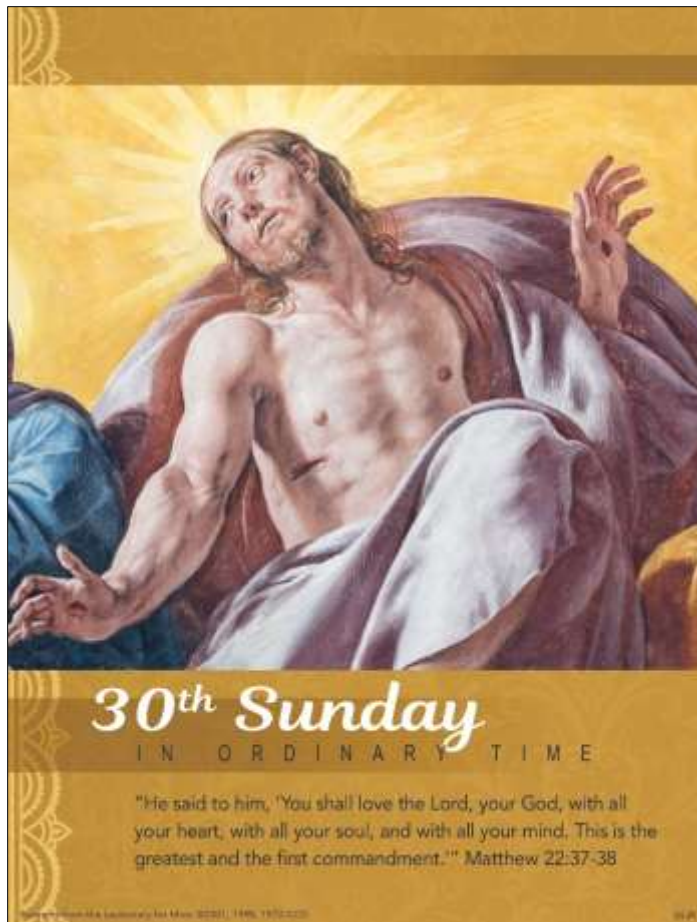
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Sunday

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

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



POPE'S INTENTION - OCTOBER

For Mental Health Ministry

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

October 25, 2026

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

Saturday, October 24, 2026

5:00 PM All Souls in Purgatory✠

7:00 PM Ana Truong Thu Van✠

Sunday, October 25, 2026

7:30 AM Florencio Tomas✠ & Margaret Fuchs✠;
Paul Lucia Quang Hien✠ & All Ancestors

9:00 AM Francisco Jimenez Tovar✠ &
Guillermo Alfonso Tello Ramirez✠;
Family of Galvan Silva, Silva Alejandrez,
Maria Luz Alejandrez (Birthday)

11:00 AM Edwin C. Gonzalez✠ & Daxx Gonzalez✠ &
Lourdes C. Gonzalez✠; Jose Aguilar✠ &
Maria Herrera Gonzalez;
Rafaela Flores (Birthday)

1:00 PM Family of Silva Alejandrez &
Living and Deceased Priests;
Ignacia Cortez✠

4:00 PM Peter Luu✠ & Puc Xa Maria Ng Thi Khuoc✠

6:00 PM Vincente Guzman Macedo✠;
Modesta Hernandez Dominguez✠;
Teresa Zuniga✠

Monday, October 26, 2026

6:30 AM Special family intentions for
Anton Tong Nguyen

8:30 AM All Souls

6:30 PM Amelia (3rd Birthday);
Clara Jalladares (Health)

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

6:30 AM All Souls

8:30 AM All Souls

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

6:30 AM Ray Eusebio✠; All Souls

8:30 AM Jason Tang (Birthday)

Thursday, October 29, 2026

6:30 AM All Souls

8:30 AM Alice Jarecki✠

Friday, October 30, 2026

6:30 AM Anton Tong Nguyen

8:30 AM Bonifacio Sambayan✠; Teresa Nguyen &
Thi Hong Van Family

6:30 PM Peter Luu Van✠ & Maria Ng Thi Nhi✠

Saturday, October 31, 2026

8:30 AM All Souls

Pray for the Sick

Pope Leo XIV

Ricarda Hernandez

Leonila Martinez

Candelario Medrano

Maria Santos

Funeral

Nguyen Quang Dung (Nov 7 @12 PM)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Ex 22:20-26/Ps 18:2-3a, 3b-4, 47 and
51/1 Thes 1:5c-10/Mt 22:34-40

Monday: Eph 4:32-5:8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/
Lk 13:18-21

Wednesday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16

Thursday: Eph 6:10-20/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/
Lk 13:31-35

Friday: Phil 1:1-11/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Lk 14:1-6

Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26/Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef/
Lk 14:1, 7-11

Sunday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab,
5-6/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



October 17/18 Masses \$ 22,722.00

October 17/18 Online \$ 1,873.70

Total collection: \$ 24,595.70

World Mission Sunday: \$10,119.00

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

Las lecturas de la semana del 25 de octubre

Domingo: Ex 22, 20-26/Sal 17, 2-3. 3-4. 47 y 51/
1 Tes 1, 5-10/Mt 22, 34-40

Lunes: Ef 4, 32-5, 8/Sal 1, 1-2. 3. 4 y 6/Lc 13, 10-17

Martes: Ef 5, 21-33/Sal 127, 1-2. 3. 4-5/Lc 13, 18-21

Miércoles: Ef 2, 19-22/Sal 18, 2-3. 4-5/Lc 6, 12-16

Jueves: Ef 6, 10-20/Sal 143, 1. 2. 9-10/Lc 13, 31-35

Viernes: Flp 1, 1-11/Sal 110, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/Lc 14, 1-6

Sábado: Flp 1, 18-26/Sal 41, 2. 3. 5/Lc 14, 1. 7-11

Domingo: Ap 7, 2-4. 9-14/Sal 23, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/
1 Jn 3, 1-3/Mt 5, 1-12

Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 25 de octubre

Domingo: 30º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Miércoles: San Simón y San Judas, apóstoles

Sábado: Víspera de Todos los Santos (EEUU)

Domingo: Día de Todos los Santos; Fin del horario de verano; Semana Nacional de Concientización sobre las Vocaciones

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Ama a Dios Primero

Cuando la icónica catedral de Notre-Dame de París se incendió en 2019, algunos argumentaron que el dinero necesario para reconstruirla sería mejor invertido por la Iglesia en prestar servicios a los pobres.

"Después de todo", oí a alguien discutir. "La historia es importante, pero el humanitarismo es nuestra religión."

Casi, pero — como le gusta decir a mi padre — nada de puro.

El humanitarismo en realidad no es nuestra religión, y nunca deberías dejar que nadie te diga que lo es. Es un error pequeño, pero puede convertirse en uno grande, rápido. El humanitarismo es maravilloso: describe un conjunto de principios animados por una creencia subyacente en el valor de la vida humana. Pero esto no es suficiente. No podemos empezar por amar a las personas y avanzar hasta llegar a Dios.

¿Por qué? Porque te prometo que nunca llegaremos a Dios.

Si tienes alguna duda sobre esto, puedes consultar literalmente cualquier libro de historia. Cada guerra, cada hambruna, cada desastre político desde el principio de los tiempos ha sido resultado de un intento de poner a las personas en primer lugar. "Estamos poniendo a

nuestra gente en primer lugar", dicen los gobiernos — siempre justo antes de hacer algo realmente atroz.

Por si sirve de algo, la Iglesia no ha poseído la Notre-Dame de París desde la Revolución Francesa. Fue incautada y re-dedicada al Culto de la Razón — la religión estatal atea que, aseguraba a todos, ponía a las personas en primer lugar (y daba muerte a quienes no estaban de acuerdo en la guillotina).

No podemos empezar por el amor a la gente, porque siempre desplazaremos *a algunos de los demás*. Solo empezando por el amor a Dios — corazón, alma y mente — podemos entrar en la estrecha puerta de amar correctamente a los demás. LPi

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

Hoy la Palabra de Dios nos da una "recortadita" sobre la importancia de los mandamientos. Sí, esas oraciones que aprendimos de memoria cuando hicimos la primera comunión. ¿Los recuerdas? Son exactamente diez, pero Jesús dijo que el más grande es: "Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, con toda tu alma y con toda tu mente. Este es el gran mandamiento, el primero. Pero hay otro muy parecido: 'Amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo'. Toda la Ley y los Profetas se fundamentan en estos dos mandamientos" (Mateo 22:37-40). Esto quiere decir que debemos buscar a Dios en todo lo que hacemos.

El Compendio del Catecismo de la Iglesia católica, en su número 443, nos explica que: "*Las palabras 'adorarás al Señor tu Dios y a Él solo darás culto' suponen adorar a Dios como Señor de todo cuanto existe; rendirle el culto debido individual y comunitariamente; rezarle con expresiones de alabanza, de acción de gracias y de súplica; ofrecerle sacrificios, sobre todo el espiritual de nuestra vida unido al sacrificio perfecto de Cristo; mantener las promesas y votos que se le hacen*". Amar a Dios y amar al prójimo no se pueden separar. El amor no es un simple sentimiento; es una acción al servicio, un compromiso como camino de vida. Jesús no solo hablaba de amor, sino que ponía su amor al servicio de los pobres. Su mayor acto de amor por nosotros fue morir en la cruz y resucitar para que tengamos vida en abundancia. ¡Gracias, Señor, por tu amor! LPi



Ấm Thực Gây Quỹ

Cương trình bán Phở và Chả Giò gây quỹ nhằm hỗ trợ các sinh hoạt mục vụ của Cộng Đoàn tại hội trường Giáo Xứ vào 2 ngày:

Thứ Bảy 31/10/2026

Chúa Nhật 01/11/2026

Vé Phở đang được bán sau các Thánh Lễ ở cuối nhà thờ, với **giá \$12/một phần ăn**.

Kính mời quý cộng đoàn tích cực ủng hộ. Chân thành cảm ơn sự quảng đại và đồng hành của quý vị!

Kinh Mân Côi Liên Kết

Hiệp ý cùng Mẹ Maria trong tháng Mân Côi và tháng cầu cho các linh hồn, kính mời mỗi người chọn **một ngăm và đọc 10 kinh Kính Mừng mỗi ngày** trong suốt tháng 10 và tháng 11, để cầu nguyện cho người thân yêu và các linh hồn đã qua đời.

Ước mong, qua lời chuyển cầu của Đức Mẹ, cộng đoàn chúng ta cùng nâng đỡ nhau trong lời kinh nguyện và tình hiệp thông của Hội Thánh.

Sổ Hàng Sống

Kính mời quý ông bà và anh chị em ghi danh các linh hồn vào Sổ Cầu Nguyện trong Tháng 11 - Tháng Các Đấng Linh Hồn, như một cách thiêng liêng để tưởng nhớ và cầu nguyện liên li cho các linh hồn thân nhân đã qua đời sớm được hưởng hạnh phúc Thiên Đàng.

Quý vị có thể ghi danh trong các Thánh Lễ ngày **24 và 25/10/2026** tại cuối Thánh Đường

Hãy để những trang Sổ Hàng Sống trở thành chứng tích của lòng yêu thương, sự gắn kết gia đình và niềm tin vào sự sống đời đời.

Thánh Lễ Cầu Nguyện Cho Quý Cụ Cao Niên

Với tâm tình biết ơn và hiếu kính, Cha Chánh Xứ cùng cộng đoàn sẽ dâng lời cầu nguyện đặc biệt và tri ân Quý Cụ Cao Niên (từ 80 tuổi trở lên) đã đóng góp và giữ gìn đời sống đức tin qua nhiều thế hệ trong Thánh Lễ **4 giờ chiều Chúa Nhật ngày 15 tháng 11**.

Để việc tổ chức được trang trọng và thuận tiện cho quý Cụ, kính mời gia đình hoặc thân nhân ghi danh với Ban Thường Vụ sau các Thánh Lễ vào các ngày:

31/10 và 01/11/2026

7/11 và 8/11/2026

Các Sinh Hoạt Của Cộng Đoàn Trong Tháng 11

BÁN PHỞ & CHẢ GIÒ GÂY QUỸ

Thứ Bảy | 31 / 10 / 2026 | Từ 11am đến 8:30pm

Chúa Nhật | 01 / 11 / 2026 | Từ 9am đến 5:30pm

LỄ CÁC THÁNH NAM NỮ

Chúa Nhật | 01 / 11 / 2026 | Thánh Lễ 4pm

LỄ CÁC ĐẰNG LINH HÔN

Có 2 Thánh Lễ Tiếng Việt

Thứ Hai | 02 / 11 / 2026 | Thánh Lễ 4pm và 6pm

LỄ TƯỞNG NHỚ CÁC LINH HÔN ĐÃ QUA ĐỜI CỦA GIÁO XỨ TRONG NĂM QUA

Thánh Lễ 03 ngôn ngữ

Thứ Bảy | 07 / 11 / 2026 | Thánh Lễ 8:30am

THÁNH LỄ CẦU NGUYỆN CHO QUÝ CỤ CAO NIÊN

Chúa Nhật | 15 / 11 / 2026 | Thánh Lễ 4pm

HỌP HỘI ĐỒNG MỤC VỤ

Chúa Nhật | 15 / 11 / 2026 | Lúc 1pm

LỄ CÁC THÁNH TỬ VÌ ĐẠO NƯỚC VIỆT NAM

Thứ Ba | 24 / 11 / 2026 | Thánh Lễ 6pm

THANKS GIVING

Thánh Lễ 03 ngôn ngữ

Thứ Năm | 26 / 11 / 2026 | Thánh Lễ 9am



ALL SAINTS DAY

November 1

ALL SOULS DAY

November 2

ALL SAINTS DAY MASSES

Sunday, 11/1/2026

normal weekend Mass schedule

ALL SOULS MASSES

Monday, 11/2/2026

6:30 AM English

8:30 AM English

4 PM Vietnamese

5:30 PM English (in the Parish Hall)

6 PM Vietnamese

7:30 PM Spanish

 SAINT POLYCARP
CATHOLIC CHURCH
www.stpolycarp.org



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
8000 Chapman Avenue • Stanton, CA 95686 | (714) 893-1754 | www.stpolycarp.org

ROOTED

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY, 25+

**LECTIO
DIVINA**

EVERY OTHER MONDAY AT 7 PM

**Location: Blessed McGivney Room
Bring your bibles!**

ST. POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH

For all young adults looking for a consistent place to grow your faith and have fellowship, please join our new Young Adult Group: Rooted. We meet every other Mondays at 7:00pm in the Blessed McGivney Room starting Monday, October 12, 2026. We will experience together, Lectio Divina, so please bring your bible! For more questions, please contact Joseph Do at ido@stpolycarp.org

Faith Formation Office Hours

English/Spanish Faith Formation

Sister Silvia Frias (714) 892-3158

Monday, Thursday & Friday 2 PM—6 PM

Vietnamese Faith Formation (Giáo Lý Việt Ngữ)

Sister MaryAnne Thiên Hương Nguyễn (714) 620-7895

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 1 PM—5 PM

Confirmation 1/2 (English/Español/Tiếng Việt)

Sister Anh Tram Tran (714) 890-5200

Sunday 8 AM—3 PM Wednesday & Friday 1 PM—5 PM



Egg Rolls



Panda Waffle



Beef Noodle Soup

FOOD SALE

OCT 31, 2026 - NOV 1, 2026

**IN THE
PARISH HALL**

SATURDAY 11 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
SUNDAY 9 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!



Soft drinks

Hosted by the Vietnamese Community

ST. POLYCARP CHURCH

ALL LEGION OF MARY AUXILIARIES ARE WELCOME!

The Legion of Mary, Our Lady Queen of Apostles, invites all Auxiliaries to join us every Friday at 6:00 PM for prayer and fellowship.

Come pray the Rosary with us, deepen your devotion to our Blessed Mother, and share in the love and unity of our spiritual family.

Location: St. Polycarp Catholic School, Room 14
8182 Chapman Ave., Stanton, CA 90680

Please bring your Rosary and Tessera.

For more information, call Bill at (714) 330-4871.

We look forward to seeing you.
May our Blessed Mother guide and bless us all!

St. Polycarp Catholic Church
STANTON, CA

Annual Memorial Mass

**Saturday,
Nov 7, 2026
@ 8:30 a.m.**

8100 Chapman Ave.
Stanton, CA 90680
(714) 893-2766
www.stpolycarp.org



Pro Sanctity Movement

Join our 8 week faith-sharing series on Thursdays:

- September 24
- October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- November 5, 12

Refreshments & Fellowship following the 8:30 am Mass
Cost: Donation

LIVING HOLINESS WITH FULTON SHEEN

Register:
Text/Call Cathy
714-496-9597
cathy@prosancity.org

St. Polycarp Room
St. Polycarp Catholic Church
8100 Chapman Ave.
Stanton, CA 90680

Pro Sanctity is an international Catholic lay movement founded by the Servant of God, Guglielmo Gualtiero, in 1947. Its mission is to lead our brothers and sisters on the path of holiness and to elicit in everyone a total response of love to God's infinite love. Pro Sanctity offers people specific spiritual opportunities to help them respond to this universal call in three ways: personal holiness, communal holiness, and societal holiness. The Apostolic Oblates are consecrated women who support and spread the message of Pro Sanctity, assisting in bringing about a "world of saints, a world of brothers and sisters."

PRO SANCTITY MOVEMENT

Mary of Advent

A Weekend Retreat to Prepare for the Advent Season

Retreat Director:
Rev. Michael Murphy,
Apostolic Sodales and priest of the Diocese of San Diego

Where:
Pro Sanctity Spirituality Center
205 S. Pine Drive
Fullerton, CA

Retreat Begins:
Friday, November 20, 2026, 7:00 PM

Retreat Ends:
Sunday, November 22, 2026, 2:00 PM

Retreat Cost:

Limited space is available for overnight guests

- \$185.00 overnight guest**
single occupancy, 2 overnights and 5 meals
- \$155.00 overnight guest**
double occupancy, 2 overnights and 5 meals
- \$100.00 Commuters**
Includes lunch & dinner on Sat. & lunch on Sunday

RETREAT REGISTRATION
is required no later than
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2026
Register via QR code

Send any questions to:
Caprosancity@prosancity.org

Dominican Sisters
OF MISSION SAN JOSE
www.msjdominicans.org
Congregation of the Queen
of the Holy Rosary



Come and see! Have a live-in experience and join our journey!
Vocation Director, Sr. Dulce Aguilar, OP, Cell (209) 406-8111 or dulce@msjdominicans.org

ST. CATHERINE'S ACADEMY
A BOYS' CATHOLIC SCHOOL WITH A MILITARY TRADITION
TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN - 8TH GRADE - DAY & BOARDING

Contact us at 714-772-1363
<https://stcatherinesacademy.org/> or on Facebook & Instagram





Dominican Sisters
OF MISSION SAN JOSE

**RESPONSE TO THE CALL
ZOOM RETREAT**
Saturday, October 31, 2026
10:00 AM-2:00PM

Come and learn practical ways about
discernment to religious life.

If you are interested in the retreat or
an individual visit,
email Sister Dulce at:
dulce@msjdominicans.org




Mother

We are thrilled to announce Jessica Echeverry as our November speaker. Jessica is a sought-after speaker and retreat facilitator who regularly addresses audiences on homelessness, human dignity, trauma-informed accompaniment, community engagement, healing, and forgiveness, and the transformative power of hope. Her work bridges the worlds of social service, faith formation, and public advocacy, inspiring individuals and organizations to respond to human suffering with compassion, encounter, and action.

Each quarter, we will explore a room of a woman's heart. In November, Jessica will help us explore the room where the heart of the mother rests. No matter your vocation, this brunch is for you.

The Four Rooms of the Heart
A BETHANY SERIES



RSVP Today

JOIN US FOR THREE

JESUS & POPCORN

MOVIE NIGHTS: OCT. 24, 31.

Stories have always been an integral part of Scripture & Film. Through the Jesus & Popcorn movie night you and your family will not only enjoy a good movie in the company of family and friends, we will also discover the seeds of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness embedded in each film. Join us as we watch a movie and consider how film can become an opportunity for Family Faith Formation and the beginning of new and meaningful conversations. At every movie night, we will also have an opportunity to enter into a moment of guided prayer and reflection based on a scene in the film, a practice combining *Viola & Cinema Divina*.

HOSTED BY
SR. CINTHYA VELASCO
LOVERS OF THE HOLY CROSS

LOCATION
12211 MAGNOLIA ST.
GARDEN GROVE, CA, 9284
BLDG.: HOUSE OF HOPE

MOVIES
OCT. 24: INSIDE OUT 2
OCT. 31: TOY STORY 5
NOV. 7: SOUL

SCHEDULE
6pm: check-in & refreshments
6:50pm-8:35pm: Movie (lbr. 40 minutes)
8:35pm-8:45pm: discussion groups
8:45pm-9pm: guided prayer (*Viola & Cinema Divina*)
9pm: depart

ATTENDING THE EVENT
While the event is free, registering will help us prepare for your arrival. We also ask that you bring your own beach chair, mats, or blankets. Scan the QR Code to let us know you and your family are attending.




This event is being facilitated by Sr. Cynthia Velasco as part of her capstone project for her Master's in Franciscan and Culture—a program offered by the Catholic University of America in partnership with the Word as Fire Institute.

JOIN US FOR A
ROSARY WALK
AT CHRIST CATHEDRAL
PRAYER • FAMILY • VETERANS • COMMUNITY

"Walking together in prayer for those who serve, those who have served, and their families."

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026
CHRIST CATHEDRAL | GARDEN GROVE, CA

8:00 AM HOLY MASS
Presider: Fr. Kevin Sweeney
Former CCS Navy Chaplain (23 years)

9:00 AM ROSARY WALK
A guided walking Rosary around the Christ Cathedral campus led by clergy who are military veterans.

ALL ARE WELCOME
Families, children, veterans, active duty, military families, parish groups and friends are invited!

FAITH FAMILIES VETERANS COMMUNITY
BRING YOUR FAMILY AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE
Praying for our active duty service members, veterans, military families, and all who have sacrificed for our freedom.

PROJECT ROSARY
Strength in Faith. Unity in Christ.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus hands down the "greatest commandment" — to love God with all your heart, soul and mind.

Love God First

When the iconic Notre-Dame Cathedral of Paris burned in 2019, some made the argument that the money necessary to rebuild it would be better spent by the Church on providing services to the poor.

"After all," I heard someone argue. "History is important, but humanitarianism is our religion."

Close, but — as my father likes to say — no cigar.

Humanitarianism is actually not our religion, and you should never let anyone tell you it is. It's a small mistake, but it can become a big one, fast. Humanitarianism is wonderful — it describes a set of principles animated by an underlying belief in the value of human life. But this is not sufficient. We can't start with loving people and work our way up to God.

Why? Because I promise you, we will never end up reaching God.

If you have any doubt about this, you can consult literally any history book. Every war, every famine, every political disaster since the dawn of time

has resulted from an attempt to put people first. "We're putting our people first," governments say — always right before they do something really, really heinous.

For what it's worth, the Church hasn't owned the Notre-Dame de Paris since the French Revolution. It was seized and rededicated to the Cult of Reason — the atheistic state religion that, it assured everyone, put people first (and put those people who disagreed to death at the guillotine).

We can't start with love of people, because we will always displace *some of the other people*. Only by starting with love of God — heart, soul, and mind — can we enter the narrow gate of correctly loving other people.

—Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



Liturgical Life



Why Do We Do That?

Catholic Life Explained

Question

Is Halloween a pagan holiday or a Catholic one?

Answer

The short answer: nowadays, a little bit of both. But it wasn't always that way. Halloween and All Saints' Day are closely connected. In the 800s, the Catholic Church began celebrating All Saints' Day. It was originally called All Hallows' Day or Hallowmas. The celebration began early on All Hallows' Eve. But if Halloween is really about the saints in all their victorious glory, where do we get haunted houses, costumes, and pranks?

All Saints' Day became associated with the other deceased rather quickly. November 2nd is All Souls Day, where we pray for the souls in purgatory. Throughout the European world, especially with the Celtic and Germanic peoples, the dead were honored in the autumn months. The Celtic pagan celebration of Samhain had its own folk rituals and occurred around the same time as these Catholic feast days.

Within the last few hundred years, this included dressing in disguise and going door to door, asking for food in exchange for a rhyme or poem. Some people masqueraded as "dark" spirits and pulled pranks on others. Today's celebration of Halloween tends to take on these later practices, rather than the original meaning of celebrating the saints. But remember ... this feast was Catholic first!

Catholic Trivia

Other than Sundays, what are the names of the days on which Catholics are required to attend Mass?

Answer: Holy Days of Obligation

One of them, a scholar of the law, tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."
- Mt 22:35-37

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



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