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

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

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)

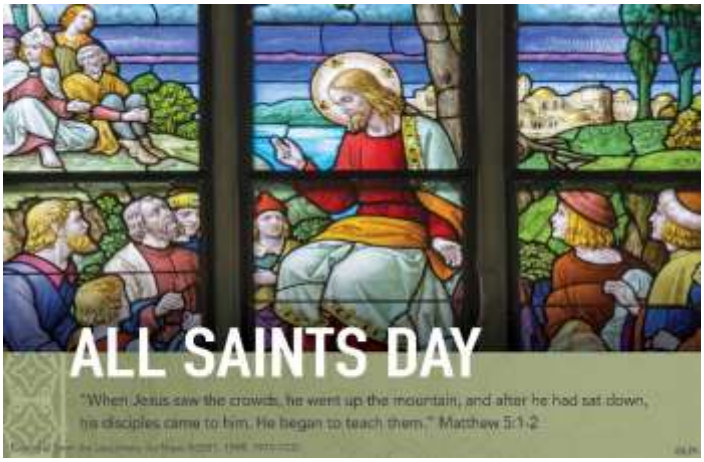
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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



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
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



POPE'S INTENTION – NOVEMBER

For the Proper Use of Wealth

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

NOVEMBER 1, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS/INTENCIONES DE MISA/ XIN Ý lễ CẦU NGUYỆN

Saturday, October 31, 2026

5:00 PM Special Intentions for Stacy Seo
7:00 PM Ana Truong Thu Van✞

Sunday, November 1, 2026

7:30 AM Peter Trap Mai✞ & All Ancestors✞; All Souls in Purgatory✞
9:00 AM Alejo Villegas✞; Familia Galvan Silva, Silva Alejandrez, Maria Luz Alejandrez (birthday)
11:00 AM Phero Bui Van Thu✞; Edward Acosta, Sr.
1:00 PM Celia Sanchez✞ & Enrique Anaya✞; Antelmo Avila✞
4:00 PM Joseph✞, Mary✞, Maria Tran✞ & All Ancestors✞
6:00 PM Familia Silva Alejandrez✞, Living and deceased✞ priests

Monday, November 2, 2026

6:30 AM Lentz Sy Go✞ & Cecilia Sumarinas✞; Mario Machitar✞ & Carolina Machitar✞
8:30 AM Legion of Mary Members & Ryan Vu (birthday)
4:00 PM All Souls
5:30 PM All Souls
6:00 PM All Souls
7:30 PM Kaelany de la Riva; All Souls in purgatory✞

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

6:30 AM Virginia✞ & Paul Rubio✞; All Souls✞
8:30 AM Augustino Than Nguyen✞ & Anna Ngan Pham✞

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

6:30 AM Nestor Bustos✞; Ray Eusebio
8:30 AM Ancestors✞ of Nguyen & Pham

Thursday, November 5, 2026

6:30 AM Yan Nguyen family gives thanks to the Lord
8:30 AM Ancestors of a family✞; Toma Thuyet Pham✞ & Maria Beo Pham✞

Friday, November 6, 2026

6:30 AM Laurel Hooper✞
8:30 AM Toma Lai Pham✞ & Giuse Tien Pham✞
6:30 PM Living and deceased✞ of the Vietnamese

Saturday, November 7, 2026

8:30 AM Maria Topete



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/ 1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a
Monday: Wis 4:7-14/Ps 25:6, and 7b, 17-18, 20-21/Rom 5:17-21/Mt 11:25-30
Tuesday: Phil 2:5-11/Ps 22:26b-27, 28-30ab, 30e, 31-32Lk 14:15-24
Wednesday: Phil 2:12-18/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/ Lk 14:25-33
Thursday: Phil 3:3-8a/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Lk 15:1-10
Friday: Phil 3:17-4:1/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/ Lk 16:1-8
Saturday: Phil 4:10-19/Ps 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a and 9/Lk 16:9-15
Sunday: Wis 6:12-16/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/ 1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/Mt 25:1-13





SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE

October 24/25 Masses	$ 18,681.50
October 24/25 Online	$ 1,755.03
Total collection:	**$ 20,436.53**

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

Las lecturas de la semana del 1 de noviembre de 2026

Domingo:	Ap 7, 2-4. 9-14/Sal 23, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/ 1 Jn 3, 1-3/Mt 5, 1-12
Lunes:	Wis 4, 7-14/Sal 24, 6. y 7. 17-18. 20-21/ Rom 5, 17-21/Mt 11, 25-30
Martes:	Flp 2, 5-11/Sal 21, 26-27. 28-30. 30. 31-32/ Lc 14, 15-24
Miércoles:	Flp 2, 12-18/Sal 26, 1. 4. 13-14/Lc 14, 25-33
Jueves:	Flp 3, 3-8/Sal 104, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7/Lc 15, 1-10
Viernes:	Flp 3, 17-4, 1/Sal 121, 1-2. 3-4. 4-5/Lc 16, 1-8
Sábado:	Flp 4, 10-19/Sal 111, 1-2. 5-6. 8 y 9/Lc 16, 9-15
Domingo:	Wis 6, 12-16/Sal 62, 2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8/ 1 Tes 4, 13-18 o 4, 13-14/Mt 25, 1-13

Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 1 de noviembre de 2026

Domingo:	Día de Todos los Santos; Fin del horario de verano; Semana Nacional de Concientización sobre las Vocaciones
Lunes:	Conmemoración de Todos los Fieles Difuntos; Día de los Muertos
Martes:	San Martín de Porres, religioso; *Día Electoral*
Miércoles:	San Carlos Borromeo, obispo
Domingo:	32º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Los Sobrevivientes

"No soy una santa."

Escuchamos a la gente decir esto todo el tiempo, y lo que suele significar es esto: "He cometido errores." ¡Pues enhorabuena! Has dado ese primer paso crucial hacia la santidad. ¡Vas por buen camino!

Un santo no es una persona con menos errores de lo habitual. Un santo es una persona con una esperanza mayor que la promedia.

¿Qué es la esperanza? La esperanza es certeza en las promesas de Dios sobre los méritos del hombre. La esperanza es lo que hace que un cristiano se alegre cuando escucha la letanía de pruebas terrenales descritas en las Bienaventuranzas, porque la esperanza le hace ver no las pruebas, sino la gracia prometida a través de ellas.

La esperanza recuerda, siempre, que Dios está en el negocio de traer la vida de la muerte.

"Estos son los que han sobrevivido a tiempos de gran angustia." (Apocalipsis 7:14) Así es como escuchamos describir a los santos en el Libro del Apocalipsis. No escuchamos: "Estos son los que fueron perfectos. Estos son los que no tenían defectos. Estos son los que tomaron buenas decisiones."

No — estos son los que *sobrevivieron.*

Todos estamos enterrados en los escombros del pecado y la muerte. Muchos de nosotros desesperamos y lamentamos: "¡No podemos salir!" El santo es quien tiene la esperanza de responder: "Pero alguien viene. Espera." El santo es quien busca la rendija de luz, quien la busca incluso cuando todos los demás la descartan como una ilusión.

Sigue a los santos. Saben cómo sobrevivir.

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

"¿Quién subirá hasta el monte del Señor? ¿Quién podrá entrar en su recinto santo? El de corazón limpio y manos puras, y que no jura en falso" (Salmo 23). El salmo nos hace la pregunta y él mismo da la respuesta. El papa Francisco, durante su pontificado, nos recordaba constantemente que todos estamos llamados a la santidad. Por nuestro bautismo, estamos llamados a una profunda perfección en el amor. Los santos vivieron ese camino de amor. La gracia de los sacramentos, especialmente el de la Reconciliación y la Eucaristía, les bastaba para seguir las bienaventuranzas del Evangelio de hoy, viviendo un camino de santidad. No es fácil, por supuesto, pero sí es posible poniendo siempre su esperanza en el Señor.

La santidad implica algo importante: ser sencillos y coherentes con el Evangelio, tratando todos los días de lograrlo. Las Bienaventuranzas encierran el secreto de un nuevo modo de ser y de vivir, y solo a base de oración y entrega se logra ese camino de santidad. El mundo de hoy indica un camino totalmente contrario al mensaje del Evangelio: riqueza, viajes, moda y confort, olvidando que todo eso es pasajero y se queda aquí. *"Los santos y los beatos son los testigos más autorizados de la esperanza cristiana, porque la han vivido plenamente en su existencia, entre alegrías y sufrimientos, poniendo en práctica las Bienaventuranzas que Jesús predicó y que hoy resuenan en la liturgia. Las Bienaventuranzas evangélicas son, en efecto, el camino de la santidad"* (Papa Francisco, 01-11-2020). ©LPi



Tháng cầu cho các Linh Hồn

TƯỞNG NHỚ · CẦU NGUYỆN · HY VỌNG PHỤC SINH

LỄ CÁC ĐẲNG LINH HỒN

Thứ Hai | 2/11/2026 | 4pm & 6pm

Kính mời cộng đoàn tham dự Thánh lễ và cầu nguyện cho những người thân yêu đã an nghỉ trong Chúa.

ƠN TOÀN XÁ THÁNG CẦU CHO CÁC LINH HỒN

Theo Sắc Lệnh của Tòa Ân Giải Tối Cao, trong tháng 11 cầu nguyện cho các tín hữu đã qua đời, các tín hữu có thể lãnh nhận **Ơn Toàn Xá** và **nhường lại cho các linh hồn** như sau:

1. Từ ngày 1 đến ngày 8 tháng 11:

Tín hữu thành tâm viếng nghĩa trang và cầu nguyện cho những người đã qua đời sẽ được lãnh nhận một Ơn Toàn Xá mỗi ngày, với ý chỉ nhường cho các linh hồn nơi Luyện Ngục.

2. Trong ngày Lễ Các Đẳng Linh Hồn (2 tháng 11):

Tín hữu viếng nhà thờ hoặc nhà nguyện, đọc một Kinh Lạy Cha và một Kinh Tin Kính, sẽ được lãnh nhận một Ơn Toàn Xá, và chỉ nhường cho các linh hồn nơi Luyện Ngục.

Để được hưởng Ơn Toàn Xá, tín hữu cần chu toàn các điều kiện thông thường: Xưng tội; Rước lễ; Cầu nguyện theo ý Đức Giáo Hoàng; Dứt bỏ mọi quyến luyến đối với tội lỗi, kể cả tội nhẹ.

Trong tâm tình hiệp thông của Hội Thánh, kính mời cộng đoàn siêng năng cầu nguyện, hy sinh và lãnh nhận Ơn Toàn Xá để trợ giúp các linh hồn đã qua đời, đặc biệt những người thân yêu của chúng ta.

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

Trong tâm tình hiệp thông và tưởng nhớ những người đã an nghỉ trong Chúa tại Giáo Xứ trong năm qua, Giáo Xứ sẽ cử hành Thánh Lễ vào lúc:

8:30 sáng | Thứ Bảy | 7/11/2026

✠ Thánh Lễ sẽ được cử hành bằng ba ngôn ngữ: Anh, Việt và Tây Ban Nha.

Kính mời cộng đoàn cùng tham dự và hiệp ý cầu nguyện cho những người thân yêu đã qua đời, xin Thiên Chúa cho các ngài được nghỉ yên muôn đời trong bình an và ánh sáng vinh quang của Ngài.

GIỜ LẦN CHUỖI MÂN CÔI CẦU CHO CÁC LINH HỒN

Trong tháng 11, tháng Giáo Hội đặc biệt tưởng nhớ và cầu nguyện cho các tín hữu đã qua đời, Cộng Đoàn có **Giờ Lần Chuỗi Mân Côi** cầu nguyện cách đặc biệt cho các linh hồn.

Kính mời quý cộng đoàn và các hội đoàn cùng tham dự để hiệp ý cầu nguyện cho những người thân yêu đã an nghỉ trong Chúa vào **mỗi tối Thứ Sáu trong tháng 11, bắt đầu sau Thánh Lễ lúc 6:30 chiều.**

✠ Quý vị có ý chỉ cầu nguyện riêng, xin vui lòng gửi đến Ban Bàn Thánh để được hiệp thông cầu nguyện.

KINH MÂN CÔI LIÊN KẾT

Kính mời cộng đoàn tiếp tục duy trì việc đọc **Kinh Mân Côi Liên Kết** hằng ngày, trong tâm tình của Tháng Các Linh Hồn, để cầu nguyện cho những người thân yêu đã an nghỉ và cho các linh hồn nơi luyện tội.

Nguyện xin Đức Maria, Mẹ đầy lòng từ ái, chuyển cầu cùng Chúa cho các linh hồn sớm được hưởng nhan thánh Chúa.

THÔNG BÁO CỦA BTTVLC

Ban Thừa Tác Viên Lời Chúa
sẽ có phiên họp vào lúc
12:45 trưa - Chúa Nhật, 8/11/2026
tại phòng Thánh Polycarp,
để ghi danh cho năm sinh hoạt kế tiếp.
Xin tham dự đông đủ và đúng giờ

NHẮC HỌP HỘI ĐỒNG MỤC VỤ

Hội Đồng Mục Vụ có buổi họp vào lúc
1:00 trưa - Chúa Nhật, 15/11/2026
tại phòng St. Polycarp,
Kính mời quý thành viên đến đúng giờ và hiện diện đông đủ.

THÁNH LỄ CẦU NGUYỆN CHO QUÝ CỤ CAO NIÊN

Trong tâm tình hiếu kính và biết ơn, 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), những người đã âm thầm gìn giữ, nuôi dưỡng và truyền lại gia sản đức tin quý báu qua nhiều thế hệ.

Thánh Lễ sẽ được cử hành vào lúc 4 giờ chiều - Chúa Nhật 15/11/2026

Để việc đón tiếp và tổ chức được chu đáo, trang trọng và thuận tiện cho quý Cụ, kính mời gia đình hoặc thân nhân ghi danh sớm sau các Thánh Lễ vào các ngày:

31/10 và 01/11/2026 - 7/11 và 8/11/2026

Pray for the Sick

Jenny Shawver
Laura Ronwro
Connie Ontiveros
Pope Leo XIV
Ricarda Hernandez
Leonila Martinez
Candelario Medrano
Maria Santos

Funerals

Nguyen Quang Dung (Nov 7 @ 12 PM)
Margie Salazar (Nov 10 @ 10 AM)



PARISH REGISTRATION OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Registracíon a la Parroquia o Cambio de Domicilio
Mẫu đăng ký giáo xứ hoặc thay đổi địa chỉ

First & Last Name / Nombre Completo / Họ và tên:

Envelope # / # de sobre / Phong bì #:

Mailing Address / Domicilio / địa chỉ:

Telephone # / # de Teléfono / Số điện thoại:

Email / Correo Electrónico / Email:

Please return the completed form to the parish office or email the information to info@stpolycarp.org.
Por favor de regresar esta forma llena completamente a la oficina parroquial o por correo electrónico a info@stpolycarp.org.
Vui lòng gửi lại mẫu đơn đã hoàn thành cho văn phòng giáo xứ hoặc gửi thông tin qua email đến địa chỉ sau info@stpolycarp.org.







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.

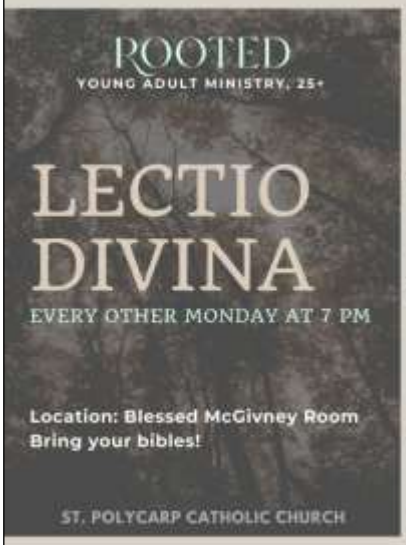
Location: St. Polycarp Catholic School, Room 14
8182 Chapman Ave., Stanton, CA 90680

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!





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 Monday 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 jdo@stpolycarp.org.





LEO XIV

GENERAL AUDIENCE

St. Peter's Basilica

Wednesday, 5 August 2026

Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council. III. Constitution Sacrosanctum Concilium. 5. *The prayer of the Church*

Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

In this catechism, we will resume our reflection on the Conciliar Constitution on the liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (*SC*). Today we will look at the ecclesial dimension of liturgical prayer.

As the Apostle Paul suggests, it is the Holy Spirit who teaches us to pray. From the day of Pentecost, the Spirit dwells in the Church, inspiring every one of her activities and, in particular, prayer. The life of the first community, born in Jerusalem after the Pasch of Jesus, is life in the Spirit given by the risen Lord. "From that time onwards the Church has never failed to come together to celebrate the paschal mystery: reading those things 'which were in all the scriptures concerning him' (*Lk* 24:27), celebrating the Eucharist in which 'the victory and triumph of his death are again made present', and at the same time giving thanks 'to God for his unspeakable gift' (*2 Cor* 9:15) in Christ Jesus, 'in praise of his glory' (*Eph*. 1:12), through the power of the Holy Spirit" (*SC*, 6).

In our time, in contexts dominated by an efficiency-driven and consumerist mindset, prayer may seem pointless and trivial. In a world where science and technology claim to provide all the answers, praying may appear to be a form of escapism. Furthermore, even in many Christian families, the tradition of prayer is no longer passed on, whilst many people risk confusing it with just another technique, of a psychological nature aimed at personal well-being. Prayer, however, as a fundamental dimension of our humanity, is worth rediscovering in its true form.

The Constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium* took this need seriously. This greatly pleased Pope Saint Paul VI, who, on promulgating this first document approved by the Second Vatican Council, stated: "God comes first; prayer is our primary duty; the liturgy is the primary source of the divine life communicated to us, the primary school of our spiritual life" (*Address,* Saint Peter's Basilica, 4 December 1963).

Indeed, in the Constitution, the term "prayer" designates the liturgy as a whole. This perspective is decisive, for it guided the liturgical reform, making the active participation of the faithful its central pillar. The liturgy is presented first and foremost as the place of encounter, of God's initiative in drawing near to humanity in his Son, "the Word made flesh, anointed by the Holy Spirit" (*SC*, 5), to whom we may respond "through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit", that is to say, thanks to "the very prayer which Christ Himself, together with His Body, addresses to the Father" (*SC*, 84).

For this reason, Saint Paul VI ardently desired that the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church's daily public prayer, inseparable from the Eucharist, might deeply permeate, enliven, guide and express all Christian prayer, and effectively nourish the spiritual life of the People of God (cf. Apostolic Constitution *Laudis canticum*).

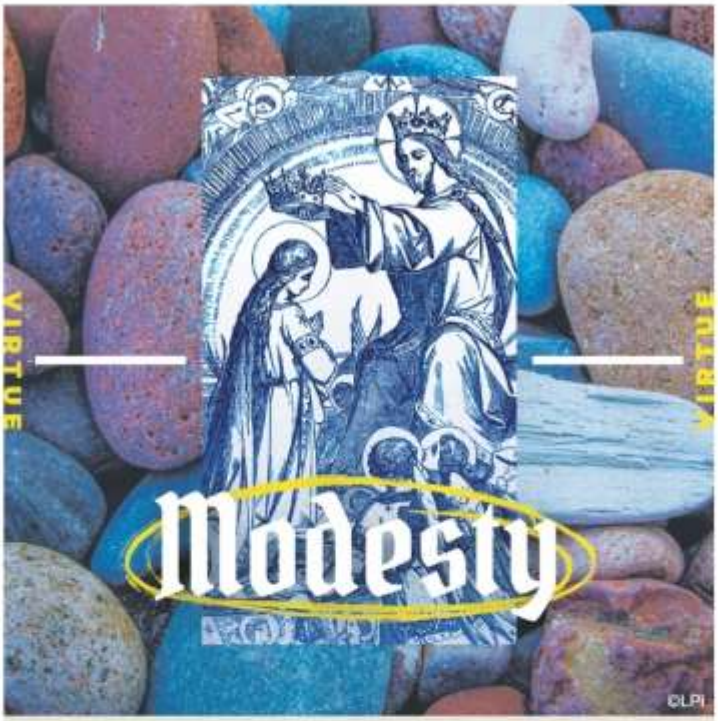
For this desire to be fulfilled, the Liturgy of the Hours needs to be more fully embraced and lived out in the daily lives of the baptized and of the communities. To the many people who wish to learn to pray, especially catechumens, it can offer the path and the school of Christian prayer.

Every week and every day, the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours are the breath of the life of the Church, which makes the Holy Spirit circulate through her Body. In this prayer, Christ "joins the entire community of mankind to Himself, associating it with His own singing of this canticle of divine praise" (*SC*, 83). In this way, day by day, we are ever more united with the Paschal Mystery and conformed to him.

Saint Augustine affirms that "When we speak to God in prayer for mercy, we do not separate the Son from Him; and when the Body of the Son prays, it separates not its Head from itself: and it is one Saviour of His Body, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who both prays for us, and prays in us, and is prayed to by us. He prays for us, as our Priest; He prays in us, as our Head; He is prayed to by us, as our God. Let us therefore recognize in Him our words, and His words in us" (*Enarr. in psalmum LXXXVI: PL* 37, 1081).

Bound to the Eucharist, whose light it prolongs, the Liturgy of the Hours sanctifies the time of our daily lives: in the morning, we begin the day with faith and gratitude; at midday, we ask for the strength to remain faithful amidst our labours; in the evening, once our work is done, Vespers accompany the moment of sunset; at night, we fall asleep entrusting ourselves to God's peace. Each Hour is an act of hope: during our earthly pilgrimage, we keep watch, awaiting with the whole Church the glorious return of the Lord.

Weekly Scripture



Virtues, *Explained!*

One of the 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit is modesty, related to the cardinal virtue of temperance, or moderation of passions. It means "refusing to unveil what should remain hidden" and in doing so "protects the intimate center of the person" (CCC 2521). This virtue is a guide for how we interact with others in a way that honors their inherent dignity.

Christ notably said that those who look upon others with lust commit adultery in their heart (Matthew 5:28), indicating that modesty is concerned not just with action but with thoughts and interior disposition. Parents are obliged to instruct their children in the ways of modesty as part of teaching respect for others.

"The forms taken by modesty vary from one culture to another," we read in the Catechism. "Everywhere, however, modesty exists as an intuition of the spiritual dignity proper to man. It is born with the awakening consciousness of being a subject" (CCC 2524).

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

"Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving,
honor, power, and might
be to our God forever and ever. Amen." (Rv 9:12)

Psalm

Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face. (Ps 24)

Second Reading

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God. (1 Jn 3:1)

Gospel

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. (Mt 5:10)

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Live The Liturgy

Inspiration of the Week

Got a broken heart? Rejoice! An empty bank account? Rejoice! Are you undervalued, overlooked? Rejoice! In the Beatitudes, Jesus offers more than just sweet sayings. He offers a challenge, one we can only meet if he is at our side: rejoice!

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

In today's Gospel reading, we hear Jesus proclaim the Beatitudes, promising the reward of Heaven to those who persevere in virtue.

The Survivors

"I'm no saint."

We hear people say this all the time, and what they usually mean is this: "I've made mistakes." Well, congratulations! You have taken that first crucial step to sainthood. You're well on your way!

A saint is not a person with fewer-than-average mistakes. A saint is a person with greater-than-average hope.

What is hope? Hope is certainty in the promises of God over the merits of man. Hope is what makes a Christian rejoice when he hears the litany of earthly trials described in the Beatitudes, because hope makes him see not the trials but the grace promised through them.

Hope remembers, always, that God is in the business of bringing life from death.

"These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress." (Rev. 7:14) This is how we hear the saints described in the Book of Revelation. We do not hear: "These are the ones who were perfect. These are the ones who had no faults. These are the ones who made good choices."

No — these are the ones who *survived*.

We are all buried in the rubble heap of sin and death. Many of us despair and cry, "We cannot climb out!" The saint is the one who has the hope to answer, "But Someone is coming. Just wait." The saint is the one who looks for the sliver of light, who reaches for it even when everyone else dismisses it as illusion.

Follow the saints. They know how to survive.

– *Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*



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