



SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish."
- Jn 10:27-28a

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

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CLERGY

PASTOR

Rev. Viet Peter Ho

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Tuan Nguyen
Rev. Luis Segura

IN RESIDENCE

Msgr. Stephen Doktorczyk

INTERN

Seminarian Cole Buzon

DEACONS

Dcn. Ramiro Lopez,
Dcn. Larry Leone,
Dcn. Davis Tri Do

SUPPORT STAFF

BUSINESS MANAGER

Tom H. Ma
(714) 893-2766

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION (ENGLISH/SPANISH)

Sister Teresa Thu Hồng Đào
(714) 892-3158

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION (VIETNAMESE)

Sister MaryAnne
Thiên Hương Nguyễn
(714) 414-7437

CONFIRMATION COORDINATOR

Joseph Do
(714) 890-5200

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Kara Ford

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 only)
6:30 PM Vietnamese (Fri only)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

9:00 AM - 10 AM (Fri)
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (Sat)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

7:30 PM (Mon)
9:00 AM (Fri)
3:30 PM (Sat)

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](mailto:editor@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.

MAY 8, 2022

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

Saturday, May 7, 2022

5:00 PM Gloria Minjkives†
7:00 PM Joseph Huy Dang†

Sunday, May 8, 2022

7:30 AM Anna Hripko† & John Hripko
9:00 AM Pedro Hernandez† & Maria Sanchez
11:00 AM Parishioners of St. Polycarp
1:00 PM Enriqueta Lopez† & Juan Hernandez
4:00 PM Parishioners of St. Massachusetts & Collective Mass
6:00 PM Ana Lilia Medina† & Collective Mass

Monday, May 9, 2022

6:30 AM Maria†, Joseph†, & All Souls†
8:30 AM Paterno† & Salvador Gutang
6:00 PM Nacciso† & Maria Montano

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

6:30 AM Maria Bèo Pham†
8:30 AM Joji Ongyiu† & Tony Palanca

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

6:30 AM All Souls†
8:30 AM Tran Van Nguyen† & Nguyen Thi Meo

Thursday, May 12, 2022

6:30 AM Joseph†
8:30 AM Cenona† & Cecilio Roa

Friday, May 13, 2022

6:30 AM Family Member's Cancer & All Souls†
8:30 AM Nancy Acosta†
6:00 PM Joseph Vi Duc Nguyen†

Saturday, May 14, 2022

8:30 AM Paul McGeorge† & Christina DeFrancisco

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/
Jn 12:44-50
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/
Jn 13:16-20
Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/
Jn 14:1-6
Saturday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6,
7-8/Jn 15:9-17
Sunday: Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Rv 21:1-5a/
Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35



Apr 30/May 1 Masses	\$ 16,342.00
Apr 30/May 1 online giving	\$ 1,584.00
Total collection:	\$ 17,926.00
Budget:	\$ 18,500.00

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



PSA 2022 UPDATE REPORT **UPDATE**
PASTORAL SERVICE APPEAL

PSA 2022 GOAL: \$98,000.00

OF FAMILIES PLEDGES: 408

PLEDGES AMOUNT: \$168,008.00 71% (+)

PAID TO DATE AMOUNT: \$122,023.00 25% (+)

***PLEDGES ABOVE OUR PSA 2022 GOAL: \$70,008.00**

Thank you

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN OUR 2022 PASTORAL SERVICE APPEAL (PSA)

WWW.RCBO.ORG/PSA

From our family of St. Polycarp



Happy
Mother's
Day



Join us on Fridays
between 9-10 AM
and Saturdays
between 3:30-4:30
PM for Eucharistic
Adoration.

Tuesday night
adoration
May 10
May 17
May 24



**O COME,
LET US
ADORE HIM!**

SAINT POLYCARP
CATHOLIC CHURCH
www.stpolycarp.org

Welcome
Kara Ford
music director



Kara Ford, lifelong parishioner of St. Polycarp, has worked professionally in the film and television industry as a pianist, conductor, and composer, producing music for shows such as NBC's *The Good Place*, Netflix's *Untold* series, and Amazon's *Homecoming*. She received a BA in Film Scoring/Conducting from Boston's Berklee College of Music and holds a MA in Screen Scoring from the University of Southern California. Outside of St. Polycarp, Kara works as a soundtrack metadata cleanser for Disney Music Group, and she also conducts and assistant directs the Huntington Beach Concert Band.

Kara is overjoyed to be given the opportunity to serve as Music Director at her home church where she received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Back when an organist accompanied vocalists from the choir loft and Guiding Light's Youth Band sang at the 7:30pm Sunday Mass, a younger Kara sat in the front pew, mesmerized by the pianist's dancing fingers. Since then, Kara has volunteered as a musician for countless Masses and Confirmation Retreats under several music directors over the years, giving her a front-row seat to the evolution of St. Polycarp's English Music Ministry. Despite the constant changes, however – and even in the midst of a raging pandemic – St. Polycarp continues to be a place of indelible friendships and timeless memories for Kara and her family.

"My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music."
-Psalm 98:1-7

Faith Formation Office Hours

Elementary Faith Formation/RCIA (English/Español)

Sister Teresa Thu Hồng (714) 892-3158

Monday 10:30 AM—1:00 PM

*Spanish Speaking Hours: 1 PM - 7:30 PM

Tuesday 1:00 PM—3:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM—3:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Vietnamese Faith Formation (Giáo Lý Việt Ngữ)

Sister MaryAnne Thiên Hương Nguyễn (714) 414-7437

Monday 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Wednesday 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

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

Joseph Do (714) 723-4450

Monday 12:00 PM—6:00 PM

Tuesday 11:00 AM—5:00 PM

Wednesday 12:00 PM—6:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

MOTHER'S DAY ROSE SALE

After all Masses on May 7th and May 8th, the Knights of Columbus will be selling roses for \$5.

Proceeds from the rose sale will benefit a local life center.



BECOMING HOLY SPOUSES

Dating & Marriage Workshop

For ALL Single, Dating, & Married Young Adults ~
Learn how to apply Theology & Personal Experience to real Dating & Marriage Situations!

SPOTS ARE LIMITED ~ Invite friends! Early Bird Pricing: \$30. Lunch included. All remaining proceeds will be donated to Pro-Life Centers!

SATURDAY, MAY 28TH | 10 AM - 3 PM
ST. POLYCARP PARISH HALL | STANTON, CA



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:
~ EMELEE ORTIZ
~ FLORENCIA MOYNIHAN
~ TERRY & MARY STROUSE

SCAN TO REGISTER



SCAN TO REGISTER



Thông Báo

Trường Việt Ngữ xin thông báo đến quý phụ huynh. Những phụ huynh đã đóng tiền trực hồi đầu năm học mà chưa đi trực. Xin vui lòng liên lạc cô Châu, 714 922-5212.

Sau ngày 22 tháng 5 năm 2022, số tiền này sẽ được đưa vào quỹ của Giáo Xứ

Cảm ơn quý phụ huynh

Las lecturas de la semana del 8 de mayo de 2022

Lunes:	Hch 11, 1-18/Sal 41, 2-3; 43, 3. 4/ Jn 10, 1-10
Martes:	Hch 11, 19-26/Sal 86, 1-3. 4-5. 6-7/ Jn 10, 22-30
Miércoles:	Hch 12, 24—13, 5/Sal 66, 2-3. 5. 6 y 8/ Jn 12, 44-50
Jueves:	Hch 13, 13-25/Sal 88, 2-3. 21-22. 25 y 27/Jn 13, 16-20
Viernes:	Hch 13, 26-33/Sal 2, 6-7. 8-9. 10-11/ Jn 14, 1-6
Sábado:	Hch 1, 15-17. 20-26/Sal 112, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8/Jn 15, 9-17
Domingo:	Hch 14, 21-27/Sal 144, 8-9. 10-11. 12-13/Ap 21, 1-5/Jn 13, 31-33. 34-35

Las conmemoraciones de la semana de 8 de mayo de 2022

Martes:	San Damián de Veuster, sacerdote
Jueves:	Santos Nero y Aquileo, mártires; San Pancracio, mártir
Viernes:	Nuestra Señora de Fátima
Sábado:	San Matías, apóstol
Domingo:	5º Domingo de Pascua; San Isidoro

VIVIR LA LITURGIA - INSPIRACIÓN DE LA SEMANA

¿Oímos y seguimos? Antes de que podamos recibir a Jesús como el Buen Pastor, tenemos que escuchar su voz. La voz de Dios irrumpe en el diálogo de nuestra vida de mil maneras, pero tenemos que estar atentos y receptivos para escucharla. Viene a través de la belleza de la creación, el calor y la energía del amor, el don de la compasión tanto recibido como dado, el milagro sagrado de la vida y el diseño ordenado y con propósito de las cosas y en la verdad que se encuentra en los mandamientos de Dios. Una vez que vemos la sabiduría detrás de los mandamientos y las enseñanzas que Dios pone ante nosotros y estamos atentos a escuchar Su dirección, podemos comenzar a dar los pasos necesarios y seguirlo. Nos engañamos fácilmente y hay muchos "pastores" convincentes. Solo uno es bueno. Solo el Buen Pastor puede llevarnos al bien y alejarnos de los males que pueden herirnos. Puede que no siempre nos guste el lugar donde Dios nos pide que vayamos, y puede que no sea el camino que otros prefieren tomar. Pero tenemos que seguirlo porque confiamos en que nuestro noble Pastor nos mantendrá a salvo.

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Announcement: We are beginning to review our database and will be contacting you for your assistance. Our first priority is to update all the households that have more than one envelope number. Please inform us if this person no longer lived in your household and/or moved.

A memo is being sent to you to correct this issue. Thank you for your assistance always.

SUY NIỆM LỜI CHÚA CHÚA NHẬT IV PHỤC SINH C CHÚA CHIÊN LÀNH

DẪN NHẬP

Trong bài Tin Mừng hôm nay, Chúa Giêsu, Chúa Chiên Lành, nói với chúng ta: "Chiên của tôi thì nghe tiếng tôi; tôi biết chúng và chúng theo tôi." Chúng ta hãy suy niệm về việc chúng ta đã không đáp ứng lại tình yêu và sự quan tâm của Chúa Giêsu, Chúa Chiên Lành.

ĐỀ TÀI CÁC BÀI ĐỌC

Bài Đọc 1: Công Vụ Tông Đồ 13, 14, 43-52 : Lúc đầu, hai ông Phaolô và Barnaba rao giảng Tin Mừng cho người Do Thái, nhưng họ đã khước từ; sau đó, hai ông rao giảng Tin Mừng cho dân ngoại, và họ đã vui mừng đón nhận.

Bài Đọc 2: Khải Huyền 7, 9, 14-17 : Bài đọc này chứa đựng một viễn cảnh đối với những người biết vượt qua thời kỳ cấm cách, để được chia sẻ vinh quang của Đức Kitô trong Nước Trời.

Tin Mừng: Gioan 10, 27-30 : Chúa Giêsu sẽ không để cho bất cứ ai ở ngoài sự quan tâm chăm sóc, mà Chúa Cha đã giao phó cho Người.

CHÚ THÍCH THÁNH KINH

Bài đọc từ sách Công Vụ Tông Đồ cho thấy rằng lúc đầu, chính sách của ông Phaolô là rao giảng cho người Do Thái, bởi vì họ là dân được chọn. Nhưng khi họ khước từ thông điệp của ông, thì ông đã quay sang dân ngoại. Bằng cách này, lời tiên báo rằng ánh sáng ơn cứu độ sẽ được loan truyền đến tận cùng trái đất đã được nên trọn (Is 49:6).

Chúa Giêsu là Chúa Chiên Lành, và Người sẽ không để cho bất cứ ai ở ngoài sự quan tâm chăm sóc, mà Chúa Cha đã giao phó cho Người. Người sẽ ban cho họ sự sống đời đời. Để thuộc về Người, đòi hỏi điều gì? Điều này đòi hỏi phải biết lắng nghe tiếng gọi của Người và đi theo Người.



Pope's Intention - May

Faith-Filled Young People

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

EASTER CANDLE

What is the significance of the Easter (Paschal) Candle, and how far back in history can we trace its origin?

The "paschal candle" is a column of wax of exceptional size, usually fixed in a great candle stick specially designed for that purpose in the Easter Vigil celebration. Usually it is decorated with a cross, the Greek letters alpha and omega, and the year of our Lord. Before it is blessed, it is ornamented with five grains of incense, and then lighted with the newly blessed fire. The deacon carries it into the church in procession, singing "Lumen Christi" (Light of Christ) three times each time at a higher note. The paschal candle typified Jesus Christ, "the true light which enlightens every man that come into this world" surrounded by his baptized disciples, each holding a smaller light. The various parts of the candle took on symbols representing Christ: the virgin wax symbolizes the body of Christ derived from his blessed Mother, the wick the human soul of Christ, and the flame the divinity of Jesus, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. In addition, the five grains of incense represents the five wounds retained in Christ's glorified body.

The practice of using the paschal candle at the Easter Vigil dates back to the very early time of the Church. St. Augustine, St. Ambrose, and as far back as St. Justin Martyr have mentioned it.

NẾN PHỤC SINH

Ý nghĩa của Nến Phục Sinh (Nến Vượt Qua), và lần theo lịch sử chúng ta truy nguyên được tới đâu nguồn gốc của Nến Phục Sinh?

"Nến Vượt Qua" (tức Nến Phục Sinh) là một cột sáp lớn đặt trên một chân trụ đặc biệt chuẩn bị cho nghi thức đêm Vọng Phục Sinh. Trên trụ nến trang trí một thánh giá, có hai âm ngữ Hy Lạp alpha và omega, và dương kim niên đại (theo niên lịch Đức Ki-tô). Trước khi làm phép, nến được trang trí bằng năm hạt trầm hương, và được thắp lên với ngọn lửa vừa được làm phép. Thầy phó tế rước nến vào nhà thờ, trên đường dừng lại ba lần, hát lớn "Lumen Christi" (Ánh sáng Chúa Ki-tô), mỗi lần hát cao giọng hơn. Nến vượt qua tượng trưng cho Chúa Giê-su Ki-tô, "ánh sáng chân lý chiếu soi mọi người trên cõi thế gian này" quây quần bởi các môn sinh đã chịu phép rửa của Người, trên tay cầm những cây nến nhỏ. Từng phần của cây nến là tượng trưng biểu hiện Đức Ki-tô: chất nến tinh sạch tượng trưng cho thân thể Chúa Ki-tô xuất phát từ Mẹ thánh của Người, tim nến là linh hồn trong nhân tính của Đức Giê-su, Ngôi Hai của Ba Ngôi Thiên Chúa. Thêm vào đó, năm hạt trầm hương tượng trưng cho năm dấu vết trên thân xác vinh quang của Đức Ki-tô.

Tục lệ dùng nến vượt qua trong Đêm Vọng Phục Sinh bắt nguồn từ những ngày đầu của Giáo Hội. Thánh Au-gu-ti-nô, Thánh Am-brô-xiô, và còn xa hơn nữa vào thời Thánh Giu-ti-nô Tử Đạo cũng đã nhắc đến nến vượt qua.



Eggs Roll

Beef Noodles Soup



FOOD SALE

MAY 21 & MAY 22, 2022

IN THE PARISH HALL

ST. POLYCARP CHURCH

Hosted by the Vietnamese Community



Soft drinks

Morning of Recollection

2nd in a 4-part series
Rediscover
the Joy of Being
God's Beloved Child



Presented by
Dr. Christina Y. Chan, OCDS

Saturday
May 14, 2022
from 10am to noon
In the Church



SAINT HEDWIG
TRUTH | GOODNESS | BEAUTY
11482 Los Alamitos Blvd.
Los Alamitos CA 90720

**OC CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
TEACHER
RECRUITMENT FAIRS**

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022
9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
OUR LADY QUEEN OF
ANGELS SCHOOL

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022
4:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION,
PLEASE EMAIL:
NANCI DE LA ROSA - RICCO
(NRICCO@RCBO.ORG)



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OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
DIOCESE of ORANGE

PRÁCTICA PARA SALMISTAS: INSTRUCCIÓN Y PREPARACIÓN

Este es un taller de dos partes que cubrirá lo siguiente:

- La clase estará limitada a 15 candidatos por grupo.
- Es fundamental que cada participante venga preparado para cantar en cada clase.
- Se espera que todos tengan una habilidad básica para cantar.
- La clase enseñará los gestos físicos para el salmista y pozos como la dicción y los estilos musicales.
- El taller se centrará en las configuraciones de los salmos que se encuentran en Responde y Aclama de OCP.
- **Será necesario que el participante tenga su propia copia de Responde y Aclama o compre una de la editorial.**

Fechas:
Grupo A: Lunes 2 de mayo, 2022
Lunes 9 de mayo, 2022

Grupo B: Lunes 16 de mayo, 2022
Lunes 23 de mayo, 2022

Horario: 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
(7:00 p.m. registraci3n)

Pastoral Center
13280 Chapman Avenue
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Instructor: Dr. Ricardo Soto

Costo: \$30.00 por persona/por las dos secciones

Grupo A: Por favor, inscribese antes de: 29 de Abril
Grupo B: Por favor, inscribese antes de: 9 de Mayo

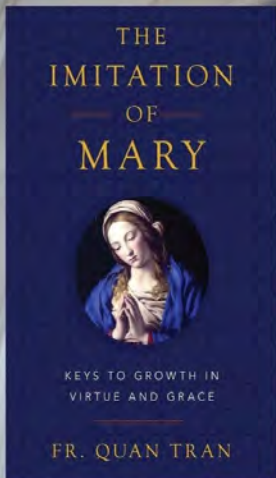
INSCRIPCIÓN POR INTERNET:
Grupo A: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=ulky85icab&ocid=407e15mva0z2b2f1c2>
Grupo B: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=ulky85icab&ocid=407e15mva0z45470133>

Para los que desean inscribirse por correo, favor de mandar la parte de abajo con su informaci3n y
PAGO COMPLETO
OFFICE FOR WORSHIP, 13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840.
"PRÁCTICA PARA SALMISTAS. INSTRUCCIÓN Y PREPARACIÓN

Nombre: _____
Número de tel3fono: _____
Correo electr3nico: _____
Parroquia: _____

Contacto: Ismael Arbizo - iarbiz@rcbo.org o (714)282-3040

Monthly Potluck Book Study



PRESENTED BY AUTHOR
FR. QUAN TRAN

Ch 12:
Sacraments
(The Last Chapter!)

May 20, 2022
IN QUINN HALL

- Doors open 6:00 PM
- Potluck 6:30 PM
- Discussion 7:15 PM



11482 Los Alamitos Blvd.
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

For so the Lord has commanded us,
"I have made you a light to the Gentiles,
that you may be an instrument of salvation
to the ends of the earth." (Act 13:47)

PSALM:

We are his people, the sheep of his flock. (Ps 100)
Or Alleluia.

SECOND READING:

For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne
will shepherd them
and lead them to springs of life-giving water. (Rev 7:17)

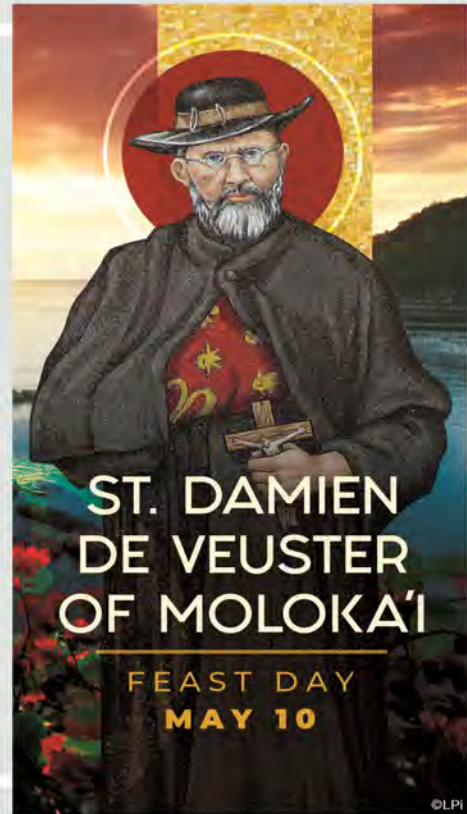
GOSPEL:

"My sheep hear my voice;
I know them, and they follow me.
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish."
(Jn 10:27-28)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 8, 2022

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Easter;
World Day of Prayer for Vocations; Mother's Day
Tuesday: St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
Thursday: Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr
Friday: Our Lady of Fatima
Saturday: St. Matthias, Apostle
Next Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter; St. Isidore



Saint of the Week

People may be familiar with leprosy from Biblical times, but not so much in the 1800s. However, St. Damien de Veuster of Moloka'i (January 3, 1840 – April 15, 1889) would eventually shed a light on the effects of this devastating disease and allow people to see those afflicted with it with more compassion and love.

Born Joseph de Veuster in Tremelo, Belgium, he quit school at 13 so he could work on the family farm. Feeling called for more, however, he entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary six years later, where he took the name of a fourth-century physician and martyr. His brother, a priest from the same congregation, fell ill and was unable to go to his assigned location. Damien quickly volunteered in his place and found himself on the Hawaiian Islands in 1864. Two months after arriving, he was ordained a priest of Honolulu and assigned to the Island of Hawaii.

In 1873, he visited the Hawaiian government's leper colony on the island of Moloka'i, where he petitioned to stay permanently to care for their physical, medical, and spiritual needs. After years of working to improve their location and those who lived there, he contracted Hansen's disease and died of its complications. St. Damien was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 11, 2009.

RELUCTANT SHEEP

Sheep get an awfully bad rap, linguistically. Some are quick to label people as “sheep” if we think they haven’t sufficiently questioned authority or if they’re too willing to go along with someone else’s plan. We say someone has “the wool over their eyes” if they aren’t willing to see what we think is very obvious. “A wolf in sheep’s clothing” is what we call someone looking to take advantage of those too gullible to identify a real threat.

Taking all this into account and considering how often we are referred to as sheep in Scripture, you’ve really got to wonder if God trying to tell us something about ourselves.

If you look at the phraseology associated with sheep, it’s no wonder that nobody wants to be one. Sheep are innocent. Sheep can’t protect themselves. They’re vulnerable and easily misled.

We want to see ourselves as the opposite of all that. We like to think we’re shrewd, with plenty of common sense. We want to believe that we don’t have to rely on anybody for anything. We would sooner identify with the wolf than with the sheep — at least the wolf can take care of himself.

We do this because we often resist the need to rest in the greatness of God. Like a child walking to school alone for the first time (forgetting his mom is following watchfully in the car), we want to think we can handle it all by ourselves.

The truth is that God is trying to tell us something by comparing us to sheep: You don’t have to do this on your own.

Every time I look at an obstacle and think that there is no way around it, I am forgetting that I have a shepherd who knows the location of the gate.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

I HAVE A FRIEND WHO SAYS SHE DOESN'T NEED TO ATTEND MASS BECAUSE SHE PRAYS TO GOD EVERY DAY. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS JUSTIFICATION?

If the only reason for going to church were to talk to God, your friend might be right. Prayer is not something limited to a physical place or even a holy place. If the sole purpose of the Church were prayer, it would be a narrow purpose indeed. The Church is a community of believers, formed by “one Lord, one faith, one Baptism.” It is an outward sign of our faith in God instituted by Christ, and the purpose of the Church is to give us grace, that is, a share in God’s life.

Coming to Mass is not really for God’s sake, but for ours. If we believe that Jesus is truly present in the holy Eucharist, then we will want to be in his presence. We will want to be fed by him. Our daily prayer and good works are strengthened by our authentic encounter with our Lord. For Catholics, it is at Mass that we celebrate the source and summit of our faith. If this is true, why would we ever stay away?

We are
the **sheep**
of **His flock.**
PSALM 100



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