



# SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH

8100 Chapman Avenue, Stanton CA 90680 | (714) 893-2766 | [www.stpolycarp.org](http://www.stpolycarp.org)

## CLERGY

### **PASTOR**

Rev. Viet Peter Ho

### **PAROCHIAL VICAR**

Rev. Nicolaus Duy Thai

Rev. Luis Segura

### **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/SPANISH)**

Sister Jessica Corral

### **FAITH FORMATION (VIETNAMESE)**

Sister Mary Anne Thiên

Hương Nguyễn

### **CONFIRMATION PROGRAM**

Sister Anna Anh Trâm Trần

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Kara Ford

### **YOUTH COORDINATOR**

Joseph Do

## 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

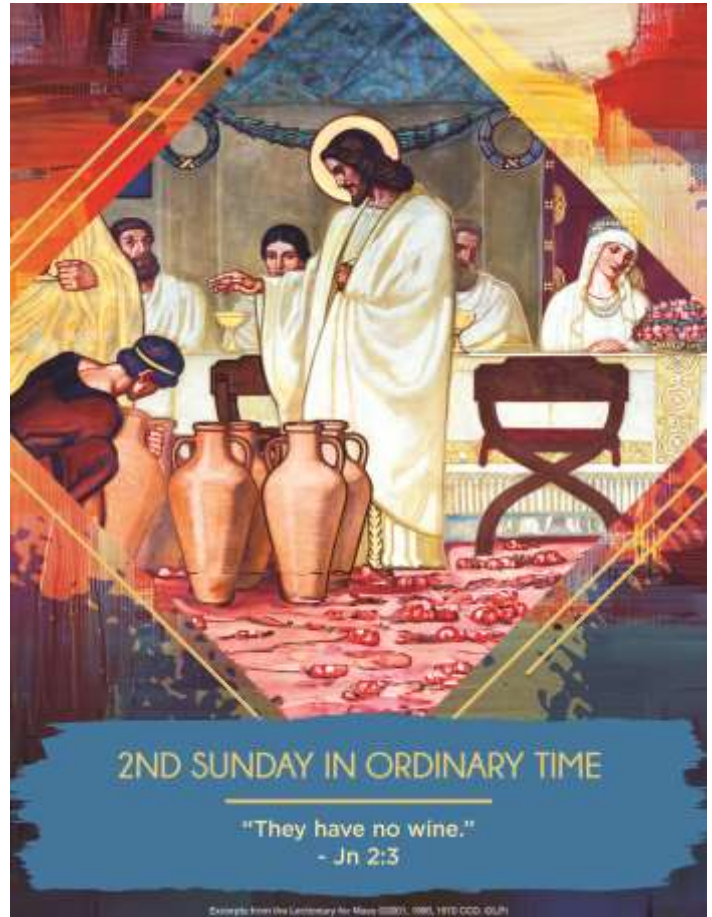
*Sunday*

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

[info@stpolycarp.org](mailto:info@stpolycarp.org)

[BULLETIN: editor@stpolycarp.org](mailto:BULLETIN: editor@stpolycarp.org)



## FAITH FORMATION OFFICE HOURS

### *English/Spanish Religious Education*

**(714) 892-3158**

Monday & Thursday 2 PM—6 PM

Saturday 9 AM—1 PM

### *Confirmation Programs*

**(714) 890-5200**

Tuesday & Friday 9:30 AM—5:30 PM

Sunday 9 AM—2 PM

### *Vietnamese Religious Education*

**(714) 620-7895**

Tuesday & Wednesday 1 PM—4 PM

Friday 1 PM—5 PM

**JANUARY 19, 2025**

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

**Saturday, January 18, 2025**

5:00 PM Teresa Tiffany Trang Nguyen†; Hal† & Shirley Beaty†  
7:00 PM Augustine Than Nguyen†

**Sunday, January 19, 2025**

7:30 AM Peter Trap Mai†  
9:00 AM Luis Francisco Reyes & Jenifer Noemie Reyes; All Priests and all deceased Priests†  
11:00 AM Suc Van Hoang†; Ramon Cendejas  
1:00 PM Jorge Sanchez Tapia†; Juanita Villanueva (health)  
4:00 PM Pray for our parishioners  
6:00 PM Celina & Francisco Navarro (30th anniversary)

**Monday, January 20, 2025**

8:30 AM Matha Lai Nguyen†  
6:30 PM Quintin†, Julita† & Cynthia†; Patrocinia Martinez Bautista & Luis Reyes Parada

**Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

6:30 AM Hector Salazar† & Juan H. Ganas†  
8:30 AM Gustavo Montoya Soto†

**Wednesday, January 22, 2025**

6:30 AM Peter† & Teresa†; All Souls†  
8:30 AM Jose Romo (birthday); Vania Cruz (birthday)

**Thursday, January 23, 2025**

6:30 AM John† & Antonetta Colangelo  
8:30 AM Francisco Rodriguez†; Joseph Kotz (cancer)

**Friday, January 24, 2025**

6:30 AM Gertrude† & Raymond Reynolds  
8:30 AM All Souls†  
6:30 PM All Souls†; Thanksgiving

**Saturday, January 25, 2025**

8:30 AM Manuel & Silvia (30th anniversary); Peter Trap Mai†

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)/ 1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11  
**Monday:** Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 2:18-22  
**Tuesday:** Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c/ Mk 2:23-28  
**Wednesday:** Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 3:1-6  
**Thursday:** Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/ Mk 3:7-12  
**Friday:** Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14/ Mk 3:13-19  
**Saturday:** Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/ Mk 16:15-18  
**Sunday:** Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 (see Jn 6:63c)/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



Jan 11/12 Masses	\$ 20,963.00
Jan 11/12 Online Giving	\$ 1,838.51
<b>Total collection:</b>	<b>\$ 22,801.51</b>

**Churches in Africa, Asia, S. Amer —\$8,832.00**

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



**Pope's Intention -  
January**

*For the Right to an Education*

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

**PSA 2024 REPORT**

AS OF 12/20/2024

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 468 FAMILIES/INDIVIDUALS  
AMOUNT PLEDGED: \$219,832.00  
TOTAL PAID: \$215,176.00  
OUR 2024 PSA GOAL: \$98,000.00

*Thank You*

++ SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH  
www.opstpolarp.org

## Las lecturas de la semana del 19 de enero de 2025

- Domingo:** Is 62, 1-5/Sal 95, 1-2. 2-3. 7-8. 9-10 (3)/  
1 Co 12, 4-11/Jn 2, 1-11
- Lunes:** Heb 5, 1-10/Sal 109, 1. 2. 3. 4/Mc 2, 18-22
- Martes:** Heb 6, 10-20/Sal 110, 1-2. 4-5. 9 y 10/  
Mc 2, 23-28
- Miércoles:** Heb 7, 1-3. 15-17/Sal 109, 1. 2. 3. 4/Mc 3, 1-6
- Jueves:** Heb 7, 25—8, 6/Sal 39, 7-8. 8-9. 10. 17/  
Mc 3, 7-12
- Viernes:** Heb 8, 6-13/Sal 84, 8 y 10. 11-12. 13-14/  
Mc 3, 13-19
- Sábado:** Hch 22, 3-16 o Hch 9, 1-22/Sal 116, 1. 2/  
Mc 16, 15-18
- Domingo:** Neh 8, 2-4. 5-6. 8-10/Sal 18, 8. 9. 10.  
15 (ver Jn 6, 63)/1 Co 12, 12-30 o  
12, 12-14. 27/Lc 1, 1-4; 4, 14-21

## Las conmemoraciones del 19 de enero de 2025

- Domingo:** 2º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario
- Lunes:** San Fabián, papa y mártir; San Sebastián, mártir; Día de Martin Luther King
- Martes:** Santa Inés, virgen y mártir
- Miércoles:** Día de oración por la protección legal de los niños por nacer
- Jueves:** San Vicente, diácono y mártir;  
Santa Mariana Cope, virgen
- Viernes:** San Francisco de Sales, obispo y doctor de la Iglesia
- Sábado:** La conversión de San Pablo, el apóstol
- Domingo:** 3º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario;  
Semana de escuelas católicas

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

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini Reflexión:** A veces nos olvidamos, o incluso nos negamos, a llevar pequeñas preocupaciones e inconvenientes a Dios porque pensamos que deberíamos ser capaces de manejarlos por nuestra cuenta. Es actitud ridícula, como si pudiéramos manejar cualquier cosa por nuestra cuenta.

### Hagan lo que Él les Diga

Una vez me quedé sin pizza en la fiesta de cumpleaños de mi hijo.

Todos me dijeron que no era gran cosa, pero vamos. Fue un desastre. Había invitado a toda esta gente. Se presentaron con regalos y cantaron "Feliz Cumpleaños" y se quedaron pacientemente mientras mi hijo revisaba su alijo de regalos. Lo mínimo que esperaban era que se les alimentara lo suficiente.

Te diré una cosa, por seguro que podría haber usado a la

Santísima Virgen esa noche.

Me encanta la historia de las bodas de Caná porque es un pequeño milagro tan inocente. No quiero ser irrespetuosa, por supuesto que es un momento increíblemente importante en la vida pública de Cristo. Pero no es curar a un leproso. No se trata de resucitar a los muertos. Ni siquiera es caminar sobre el agua. Es salvar a una joven pareja de la vergüenza.

Creo que a veces nos olvidamos, o incluso nos negamos, a llevar pequeñas preocupaciones e inconvenientes a Dios porque pensamos que deberíamos ser capaces de manejarlos por nuestra cuenta. Qué actitud tan ridícula es esa, como si pudiéramos manejar cualquier cosa por nuestra cuenta. Es muy apropiado que María, siempre la Madre observante, sea la que llame la atención de Jesús sobre el asunto. Él le pregunta qué tiene que ver este problema con él. Ella no le responde, porque, entre tú y yo, no creo que él le esté preguntando a ella. Creo que nos lo está preguntando a nosotros. Todo lo que hace es decirles a los sirvientes lo que considero el mejor consejo de toda la Escritura: "Hagan lo que él les diga."

Soy tan rápida para levantar las manos y sentir lástima por mí misma cuando me encuentro con una barrera en mi vida. Lo que debería estar haciendo es llevar el asunto a Dios, y luego hacer lo que Él me diga.

## MEDITACIÓN EVANGÉLICO - ALENTAR ENTENDIMIENTO MÁS PROFUNDO DE LA ESCRITURA

Estemos listos o no lo estemos, hemos llegado al Tiempo Ordinario. Se ha terminado la Navidad. Ahora, el Evangelio de cada domingo nos va ir presentando la imagen de Jesús en su vida pública. Jesús nos presenta el Reino de Dios con una fiesta, una boda. Y con esto cambia el sentido de lo puritano y se rompen algunos protocolos de la Ley. Las tinajas llenas de agua esperaban, sin saberlo, convertirse en el primer milagro de Jesús de transformar el agua en vino. La nota de alegría, de festejar y disfrutar es una noticia alegre. Jesús, nos muestra que, a pesar de lo duro de la vida, del sufrimiento y los fracasos, existe una esperanza. ¿Cómo podemos ponerle una chispa de alegría a nuestra fe? ¿Se te ocurre algo para disfrutar con Jesús en la fiesta de su Reino?

Asimismo, existe la otra enseñanza, la de María, la Madre de Jesús, que estuvo atenta en aquella fiesta y se dio cuenta que no había vino. Ella supo poner el problema en manos de Aquel que lo resolvería. Y dio la siguiente instrucción: "*Hagan lo que él les diga*" (Juan 2:5); e inmediatamente, desapareció totalmente de la escena, dejando en Jesús todo el protagonismo. ¿Qué debo aprender de María? Que ella nos lleva a Jesús y que cada vez que haga una buena acción, las personas le reconozcan a Él y yo desaparezca. ©LPI



# Mừng Xuân Ất Tỵ



## Các Mặt Hàng Bán Tết Năm Ất Tỵ 2025

Bánh Chung	\$28/ cái
Bánh Tét	\$28/ cái
Dưa Món	\$10/ chai
Chà Bông hộp nhỏ	\$13/ hộp
Chà Bông hộp lớn	\$26/ hộp
Giò Thụ cây lớn	\$25/ cây 2 lbs
Giò Lụa cây lớn	\$18/ cây 2 lbs
Bánh Quế	\$12/ hộp
Nem Chua (Bò)	\$16/ cây
Khô Gà Sate Lá Chanh	\$15/ hộp
Đậu Phộng Sate Tỏi	\$12/ hộp
Kẹo Đậu Phộng Gương	\$15/ hộp
Cơm Cháy	\$13/ hộp

## Ưu Tiên Cho Các Cộng Đoàn/ Hội Đoàn:

Số lượng đặt hàng trong một lần từ 100 cái bánh Chung/ bánh Tét trở lên sẽ được giảm giá còn \$25/ cái.

**XIN LIÊN LẠC CÁC THÀNH VIÊN  
TRONG BAN THƯỜNG VỤ  
ĐỂ ĐẶT MUA HÀNG**

Anh Nguyễn Phước Thắng (714) 553-6065  
Chị Phùng Thụy Ái Đơn (714) 260-4798  
Chị Đỗ Thanh Hòa (714) 702-3171  
Chị Trần Thảo Katie (714) 452-4684

**Ban Tổ Chức Tết Ất Tỵ 2025**

**KÍNH MỜI**

**Giờ Mở Cửa Gian Hàng Tết 2025 Từ ngày 10 đến 26 tháng 1**

\* Thứ Hai đến Thứ Sáu 9AM - 4PM và 6PM - 9PM

\* Thứ Bảy 9AM - 8:30PM và \* Chúa Nhật 9AM - 5:30PM



**CỘNG ĐOÀN ĐỨC MARIA MẸ THIÊN CHÚA  
GIÁO XỨ THÁNH POLYCARP**

**Lịch Phụng Vụ Xuân Ất Tỵ 2025**



**Thứ Ba 28/01/2025 - 29 TẾT**

**6:30PM - Thánh Lễ Giao Thừa**

Sau Thánh Lễ sẽ phát Lộc Xuân  
và đốt pháo đón Giao Thừa.



**Thứ Tư 29/01/2025 - MỪNG 1 TẾT**

**6:30PM - Thánh Lễ Cầu Bình An Cho Năm Mới**

**Thứ Năm 30/01/2025 - MỪNG 2 TẾT**

**6:30PM - Thánh Lễ Kính Nhớ Ông Bà Tổ Tiên**

**Thứ Sáu 31/01/2025 - MỪNG 3 TẾT**

**6:30PM - Thánh Lễ Thánh Hóa Công Ăn Việc Làm**

**Chúa Nhật 09/02/2025**

**4:00PM - Thánh Lễ Chúa Nhật V Thường Niên**

**Tiệc Mừng Tân Niên** tại Hội Trường sau Thánh Lễ

**Chúc  
mừng  
năm  
mới**

Buổi họp HĐMV thường niên  
Vào Chúa Nhật ngày 19/01/2025  
Lúc 1:00 PM tại Phòng St. Polycarp  
xin các Hội Đoàn có mặt đầy đủ và đúng giờ.





**SPECIAL COLLECTION  
FOR THE  
FIRE VICTIMS IN  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

**1/18/2025 & 1/19/2025**

We have all seen the devastation brought by the recent fires in Los Angeles County. At Bishop Vann's request, we will have a special collection at the end of each Mass on the weekend of 1/18/2025 & 1/19/2025, to help the victims of the fire and their families.

**Your generous financial support is appreciated.**



**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.*

**Part-time Office Clerk  
is now open!**

Able to communicate well both verbally and in writing.  
Spanish/English speaking.

Duties include: greeting parishioners, answering phones, updating records, making appointments, offering advice and program information, maintaining the premises clean and organized, and solving various problems.

Other duties as assigned.

\$16.00/hour (may work on weekends as required)

**Submit your resume to [tma@st.polycarp.org](mailto:tma@st.polycarp.org)**

St. Polycarp Catholic Church  
Stanton, CA 90680  
[www.stpolycarp.org](http://www.stpolycarp.org)



**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
HOLIDAY  
MONDAY, JANUARY 20**



The parish office will be closed.

There will be no 6:30 AM Mass and there will not be evening confessions available.

The 8:30 AM and the 6:30 PM Masses will be celebrated as normal.



**Prayer for Jubilee 2025**

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and  
the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.  
Amen



**ADULT**  
**Saturday, January 25, 2025**  
**8:30AM To 4:30PM**

St. John Neumann Catholic Church  
5101 Alton Parkway Irvine CA 92604  
Training is free, 2 hour online prework required

Mental Health First Aid - Mental health First Aid USA is an evidence-based training that teaches participants how to identify, understand and respond to someone who is experiencing a mental health or substance-use challenge.

Why is Mental Health Literacy Important? What people in a parish know and believe about mental illness will have a direct impact on a parish's ability to minister. Adult Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among our communities and ministries.

Questions?  
Contact: Rebecca Freeman  
Pastoral Care Ministry Coordinator  
[rfreem@stpcba.org](mailto:rfreem@stpcba.org) (714) 282-0059



REGISTER BY  
JANUARY 10, 2025!

SCAN ME







# HOPE & HEALING

Post-Abortion Pastoral Care

*We are here to listen.*

📞 1.800.722.4356

*All calls are CONFIDENTIAL.*

✉️ [hopeandhealing@rcbo.org](mailto:hopeandhealing@rcbo.org)



For more information, scan the QR code.



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## SOLIDARITY WALK & PRAYER VIGIL

February 4 at 6:55 p.m.  
In the Church

Stand against human trafficking by uniting with others as a sign of solidarity for all affected by this heinous crime and as a symbol of our dedication to honoring the victims and survivors.

The evening begins with prayer followed by a candlelit procession in the church as we raise awareness of how human trafficking affects every community.

BODY MIND SPIRIT

Health Ministry  
ST IRENAEUS CHURCH  
5201 Evergreen Ave, Cypress  
[sticypress.org](http://sticypress.org)



*Save The Date*

# WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS

Presided by  
The Most Reverend Timothy E. Freyer, D.D.  
Auxiliary Bishop of Orange

SPONSORED BY THE ORDER OF MALTA

## Saturday, February 8, 2025


10:00 AM

Christ Cathedral:  
13280 Chapman Avenue  
Garden Grove CA 92840

INCLUDING THE SACRAMENTAL RITE OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

**HOW SICK DOES ONE NEED TO BE TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT?**

Anointing of the sick is a Sacrament of the Church and is offered to one who is dangerous ill due to sickness, injury or old age. The Sacrament is for serious mental or emotional illness as well. While we should not be excessively concerned about the degree of seriousness of the condition, the casual participation in the sacrament must be avoided in good conscience.

 **ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF ORANGE**

*Marriage:*  
SOURCE OF HOPE SPRING OF RENEWAL  
PURSUE A LASTING LOVE!



National Marriage Week USA  
MARRIAGE IS WORTH IT! - EVERY FEB 7-16

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE    @foryourmarriage 

*Pray*

# FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE UNBORN



©LPI





worldwide  
marriage  
encounter

**Reminder**

Give your spouse the gift of time.  
Register for a  
Worldwide Marriage Encounter  
Experience today!

Let's do it! I'm on it!

February 15-16, 2025  
St. Thomas More Catholic Church  
Irvine  
wwme.org  
714-873-5136




**Mary's Sanctuary**

Are you alone, ashamed and afraid, struggling financially, having a pregnancy crisis, or wondering what's the right choice to make? Take a deep breath. Sisters from Lovers of the Holy Cross are here to help and guide you. For more information about Respect Life Services, please scan the QR code. You are blessed and beloved, and not forgotten.



ST. POLYCARP  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
www.stpoly.org


**Thank You**

*To All of Our Volunteers for Your Time  
and Talents to Support Our  
Parish Family*

“As the family goes,  
so goes the nation,  
and so goes the  
whole world  
in which  
we live.”

ST. JOHN PAUL II

Day of Prayer  
for the Legal  
Protection of  
Unborn Children



“  
WE MUST ACCEPT FINITE  
DISAPPOINTMENT, BUT  
NEVER LOSE INFINITE HOPE.  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.





# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

As a young man marries a virgin,  
your Builder shall marry you;  
and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride  
so shall your God rejoice in you. (Is 62:5)

### Psalm:

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations. (Ps 96)

### Second Reading:

But one and the same Spirit produces all of these,  
distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.  
(1 Cor 12:11)

### Gospel:

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee  
and so revealed his glory,  
and his disciples began to believe in him. (Jn 2:11)

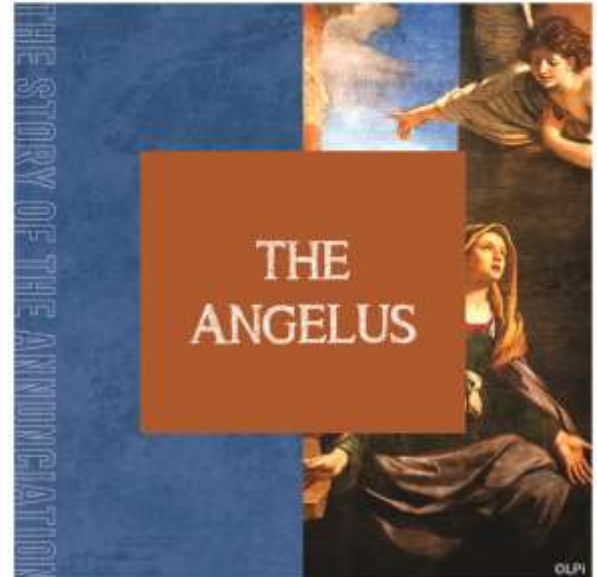
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,  
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We are all the servants at Cana. Each of us,  
at various times, finds ourselves confused  
and unsure, empty where we should be full,  
unprepared where we should be ready. When  
we falter, Mary's words give us direction: "Do  
whatever he tells you."

## Observances for the week of January 19, 2025

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr;  
Martin Luther King Day
- Tuesday:** St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
- Wednesday:** Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of  
Unborn Children
- Thursday:** St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr;  
St. Marianne Cope, Virgin
- Friday:** St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
- Saturday:** The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
- Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
Celebrate Catholic Schools Week



## Devotions, Explained!

The Angelus is an ancient devotion whose practice developed over the course of several centuries. It is composed of three antiphons that tell the story of the annunciation, each followed by a Hail Mary. It is usually said daily at noon.

## Prayer for the Miraculous

Oh God,  
Oh God beyond my  
understanding,  
Bring Your soul-stirring power  
into my life today.  
In the places where people are  
saying, "It can't be done" or  
"There's no solution," act in such  
a way that responds: "There is a  
way, and there is a God, and He  
loves me."

Amen.



## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** Sometimes we forget, or even refuse, to bring small concerns and inconveniences to God because we think we should be able to handle them on our own. What a ridiculous attitude that is — as if we could handle anything on our own.

### **Do Whatever He Tells You**

I once ran out of pizza at my kid's birthday party.

Everyone told me it wasn't a big deal but come on. It was a disaster. I had invited all these people over. They showed up with presents and sang "Happy Birthday" and stood around patiently while my kid ripped through his cache of gifts. The very least they were expecting was to be fed sufficiently.

I'll tell you what, I sure could have used the Blessed Mother that night.

I love the story of the wedding at Cana because it's such a silly little miracle. I don't mean to be disrespectful — of course it's an incredibly important moment in Christ's public life. But it's not healing a leper. It's not raising the dead. It's not even walking on water. It's saving a young couple from embarrassment.

I think sometimes we forget, or even refuse, to bring small concerns and inconveniences to God because we think we should be able to handle them on our own. What a ridiculous attitude that is — as if we could handle anything on our own. It's so fitting that Mary, ever the observant Mother, is the one to bring the matter to Jesus' attention. He asks her what this problem has to do with him. She doesn't answer him, because, between you and me, I don't think he's asking her. I think he's asking us. All she does is tell the waiters what I consider to be the best piece of advice in all of Scripture: "Do whatever he tells you."

I'm so quick to throw up my hands and feel sorry for myself when I encounter a barrier in my life. What I should be doing is taking the matter to God, and then doing whatever He tells me.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## **Why do we do that?**

### **Catholic Life Explained**

#### **Question:**

Why do some dioceses move holy days, or not even celebrate them at all. Doesn't everyone do the same thing?

#### **Answer:**

The short answer is no, not everyone does the same thing. Although the Church is universal, there are many local customs and saints that each country, sometimes just a region, will honor. For example, feast days and patronal days may not be major feast days on the Church's universal calendar, but are celebrated as such in one place. Holy days of obligation are the same way. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has a certain amount of discretion in choosing days which best reflect the local church's experience and history.

Another reason certain feasts are moved is a practical one. With limited clergy, or a great difficulty for people to get to Mass, the feast day may be transferred to a Sunday. The rationale is that if a significant feast should be part of the Church's celebration, then better to do so on a Sunday when people and clergy are available, rather than try to fit it on a day when one or both cannot be there.

Christmas and the Immaculate Conception are always observed as days of obligation. In the USA we celebrate six holy days of obligation. There are also other special days and they are ranked, in order of importance as solemnity, feast, memorial and optional memorial.





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