



“Whoever  
loves me  
will keep  
my word,  
says the  
Lord.”

(JN. 14:23)

### Church of the Ascension

ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939

Masses: (Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p

(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Confessions: (Sat) 4p – 4:45p

November 3, 2024

## Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dt 6:2-6 | Heb 7:23-28 | Mk 12:28b-34

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

It is not surprising that we hear both Moses and Jesus speak the same words in today's Scripture. After all, Truth and Good News bear repeating! The Lord our God is Lord alone! "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." In these words, Moses is instructing the people to fear the Lord and keep all his commandments and in turn God would give them "a land flowing with milk and honey" (Canaan). He is telling them the way to live. When Jesus repeats these words around 1,400 years later, the reason and message are the same, but he also adds to them: "love your neighbor as yourself." The two commandments are inseparable. He tells us the way to live, and *how* to live. It's not enough to *know* what God asks of us, we must *do* what God asks of us: love him and one another. When God is the source and reason for all our thoughts and actions, we too will not be "far from the kingdom of God."

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How do we put God first in our lives, ensuring he is that source and reason? When *he is everything*? Not a short order, right? He is everything when our heart, soul, mind, and strength are united with his - when Jesus is the lens through which we see the world. The psalm today reveals that it is the Lord, himself, who is our strength. When we surrender to Jesus, he gives us the strength to love him with everything within us. And when we truly love him, we cannot help acting on that love in how we care for and love our neighbor. How will we know he is first in our lives? Jesus' words in today's Scripture tell us how: by accepting God's love for us, by loving him back, his love will overflow to those around us. Think of those whom your life touches daily: your colleagues at work, the barista at the café, those who hit the gym the same time as you and yes, those who live right next door - your neighbors. In your prayers, ask Jesus, "how can I love and serve them better?"

**SERVE** This week, find a particular and concrete way to love someone who needs it, or who lacks what you have: be a listening ear for someone who has no one to talk to; help a neighbor with physical house or yard work; buy groceries for that person who just lost their job. The opportunities are endless, if we just look for them.

## Silly Love Songs?

Love is all you need. So say every generation's love songs since the biblical Song of Songs was put to papyrus. When asked to choose the primary commandment, Jesus chose love of God and neighbor. Love is clearly that fundamental. But it's far more than a feeling. The mandate to love doesn't dictate our emotions, but rather our priorities. How do we put God and neighbor first, in each decision, with every expenditure of time and resource? If love begins to routinely triumph over self-interest, how might worship, family, society, and world be transformed?

- *Preparetheword.com*

## See's Candies Fundraiser for Youth

Need a Christmas gift for someone? See's Candies gift cards are available for purchase: \$25 each (Cash, or Check payable to Church of the Ascension) after these Masses:

- Friday, Nov. 1 (8am Mass)
- Saturday, Nov. 2 (5pm Mass)
- Sunday, Nov. 3 (9am, 11am Masses).

All proceeds go towards our Ascension Youth Faith Formation. Thank you.

## National Vocation Awareness Week

It's a celebration of the Catholic Church in the US (Nov. 3-9) dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.



## Funeral at Ascension

Pray for **Douglas Weins**, whose funeral will be on November 9, at 11am. May he rest in peace.

## Upcoming Second Collections

Nov. 10: **Semi-annual Parish Building Fund.**

Your contribution helps our parish cope with the increasing costs and needs for facility maintenance.

Nov. 17: **Annual Campaign for Human Development.**

Your donation helps break the cycle of poverty by offering low-income people a hand up, not a hand out.

Thank you for your generosity.

## WEEKLY OFFERING - OCTOBER 27

-**\$4,928** (basket: \$3,505; online: \$1,422). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: **\$91,083**. Budget: \$110,500.

-World Mission: **\$3,183** (latest).

Thank you for your generosity.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 02	Sat	05 pm	Diane Brooks (L)
Nov 03	Sun	07 am	The Gerrard Family
		09 am	Allan Victor De La Vega +
		11 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento (L)
		05 pm	Jerry & LuRhe Streb (L)
Nov 04	Mon	08 am	Carol McLafferty (L)
Nov 05	Tue	08 am	Nicole McKeever (L)
Nov 06	Wed	08 am	Margaret Da Costa (L)
Nov 07	Thu	08 am	Anna Sze +
Nov 08	Fri	08 am	Michael Sze +
Nov 09	Sat	09 am	Men's Club Memorial Mass

## Communion of Saints

The longer we live here on earth the more we recognize our shortcomings and limitations. Sometimes we missed the mark in our sins, in our failing to do what is good, other times we lost sight of what should be so important in life: our relationship to God and to others.

During the month of November, we are called to remember all who have gone before us, not only those who are dear to us in our families and communities. They all are part of the Communion of Saints, whether they are being purified (in purgatory) or are blessed in their beatific vision (in heaven).

At every Mass every day, the pilgrim Church (on earth) commemorates all Saints and prays for all Souls. Yet, the feast of All Saints, the commemoration of All Souls, and the entire month of November, are opportunities for us to remember in a special way our close communion with them, whether we know their names and faces or not. They all are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

This remembrance hopefully will help us refocus on our bond with those who are still living, and our relationship with our God, the source and summit of our lives.

## Holy Father's November Intention

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

## Update on Ascension 60th Jubilee Book

We are collecting content - including pictures, artifacts, and stories - for the 60th Jubilee book.

- Pictures and artifacts: If you have photos or other materials related to Ascension (historic events, activities, or buildings, etc.), please send them to the parish (with a brief caption, your name, and your phone number).

- In your own words: Please write just a few words to express what you like about our Ascension Parish, either (1) on the newsprint paper in church, or (2) on "Ascension Jubilee Book" on [ascensionsaratoga.org](http://ascensionsaratoga.org). The comments that best define our community will be part of our 60th Jubilee Book.



## Men's Club

Meeting in-person in Worner Hall/Lounge Room  
Friday, Nov. 8, at 6:00pm.

## Artisan Faire

Featuring 70 vendors, local artisan gifts, jewelry, holiday items, and gourmet foods.

Friday, November 8, from 9am - 4pm.

Saturday, November 9, from 9am - 4pm.

Sacred Heart Parish, Saratoga

For details: visit [parish.sacredheartsaratoga.org](http://parish.sacredheartsaratoga.org).

## Prayer Before Elections

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- *US Conference of Catholic Bishops (usccb.org)*