

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 - 4:45pm

June 8, 2025

Pentecost Sunday

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Acts 2:1-11 | 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 | Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

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

In today's first reading, we join the Apostles in the Upper Room. These individuals had accompanied Jesus to his death and been witnesses to his resurrection and ascension. Can you imagine the throes of emotion accompanying each experience? Now, they gather together, perhaps discussing what to do next. They wonder where they should go, and who they should listen to, since Jesus was no longer there: "And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind." In a moment swelling with grace, tongues of fire descended upon each person present, "and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." What might this moment have sounded like? Looked like? Felt like? The Apostles were weary and grieving, but Jesus made a promise he intended to keep — that he would send an advocate in his name to teach them everything. That same Spirit now waits to guide and empower us if we are willing to receive him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Jesus' death left his followers grieving and disoriented. They had left everything to follow him. And now, he was gone. What would become of them? Jesus said: "I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you." On this feast of Pentecost, Jesus' promise is fulfilled. When the Father sent down the Spirit, it was not just for a singular, grand moment in time; the Spirit came for good. In the same way the Apostles were strengthened by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, so were we strengthened at our confirmation. We were commissioned, as were they, to live out our faith in the world. When we need strength in this mission, let us remember that the word advocate comes from the Latin word *advocatus*, which means "one who draws near." *Come, Holy Spirit, come!*

REFLECT

Read the *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* ("Come, Holy Spirit") prayer that we heard before the Gospel today. Each line, laden with powerful imagery, invites us to understand the Spirit more intimately. Reflect on where you experience the Holy Spirit in your life today, and where you long for a greater outpouring of his fire.



Embody Your Faith

Being church is a different identity than simply going to church. If we are truly the Body of Christ, then we embrace this identity with a sense of purpose. Saint Paul describes the church as a body with many parts that function for the sake of the whole. Some of us have obvious gifts like preaching, teaching, or offering a healing presence. Others may benefit from prayer, spiritual direction, faith sharing, or a discernment retreat to come to an awareness of the particular service to which we're called. Joy is in the discovery of the Spirit's personal invitation to you. - *Takefiveforfaith.com*

Celebrate Mass with Newly Ordained

Fr. Thanh Ho, recently ordained a priest on May 24, will celebrate the **9am Mass, June 15, at Ascension**. We invite you to join him in giving praise to God, and enjoy some **coffee and donuts** afterwards.

ADA 2205 Latest Report

-Pledged: \$88,132 from 141 donors (115.40% of goal).
-Pledged over goal: \$11,694..
The rebate will be earmarked for the Terrace project. You can still make a pledge to the ADA. Thank you for your support.

Collection for Parish Building Fund

June 8

This semi-annual collection is designated for the continuous upkeep of our parish facilities. Your generosity will assist us in managing maintenance expenses as they continue to increase. Thank you.

WEEKLY OFFERING - MAY 25

-Total: **\$4,321** (\$3,585 + online: \$736).
-YTD Sunday: \$293,755. Budget: \$299,000.
Thank you for your support.

WEEKLY OFFERING - JUNE 1

-Total: **\$5,597** (\$4,309 + online: \$1,288).
-YTD Sunday: \$299,353. Budget: \$305,500.
Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Jun 07	Sat	05 pm	Rose & Alex Lenarduzzi +
Jun 08	Sun	07 am	Dorothy Miller +
		09 am	Noel Frulla +
		11 am	David Wong (L)
		05 pm	Muriel Rodriguez +
June 09	Mon	08 am	Anthony Lau +
June 10	Tue	08 am	Elaine Ellorin (L)
June 11	Wed	08 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento +
June 12	Thu	08 am	Joan Braddi (L)
June 13	Fri	08 am	Henry Pereira (L)
June 14	Sat	09 am	Walter & June Whelan +

Quotes from Pope Leo XIV Before His Papacy

- "We are often preoccupied with teaching doctrine ... but we risk forgetting that our first task is to teach what it means to know Jesus Christ."

- "My vocation, like that of every Christian, is to be a missionary, to proclaim the Gospel wherever one is."

- "The bishop is not supposed to be a little prince sitting in his kingdom, but rather called authentically to be humble, to be close to the people he serves, to walk with them, to suffer with them, and to look for ways that he can better live the Gospel message in the midst of his people." - *Vaticannews.va*



Pope Leo: Always Keep Jesus at Center

Pope Leo XIV on Friday encouraged leaders of lay associations and charismatic movements to "always keep the Lord Jesus at the centre" of their journeys.

The Holy Father addressed his remarks to leaders and delegates of ecclesial associations recognized or established by the Holy See, who are in Rome for an annual meeting organized by the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life.

In his address, Pope Leo distinguished between institutional groups founded "to carry on some common apostolic, charitable, or liturgical project, or to support Christian witness in specific social settings", and groups originating "with a charismatic inspiration... that gave rise to a new form of spirituality and of evangelization."

Both institutional and charismatic foundations, he said, must be understood in relation to grace: "The institution exists so that grace may always be offered, and charisms are given so that this grace may be received and bear fruit." - *Vaticannews.va*

Quo Vadis Retreat

June 18-20, 2025

St. Maria Goretti Parish

Vietnamese Martyrs Chapel

A junior high and high school retreat for young Catholic men seeking to deepen their faith and listen to God's call in their lives.

- Are you a Catholic young man in 9th – 12th grade?
- Are you open to following Jesus Christ and interested in what that might mean in your own life?
- Are you willing to spend a few days with other teen guys, college men, seminarians, and priests, playing games, and growing deeper in your faith?

If you answered yes to all 3, then we invite you to sign up (QR code).



Farmer's Market at a Nearby Church

Every Tuesday from 4pm - 8pm (Starting June 10)
At St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish
10110 N De Anza Blvd, Cupertino.