

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

May 25, 2025

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 | Rev 21:10-14, 22-23 | Jn 14:23-29

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

A quip on a church marquee has stuck with me for years: *If you feel distant from God, guess who moved?* In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus told his disciples that he would be with them "only a little while longer." Of course, we know the full story: Jesus did not abandon his followers. Today we hear of his parting gift to them and to us. Although Jesus would soon return to the Father, he was sending someone to minister to the disciples and to encourage them in their mission: "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." Often in our lives, when we feel distant from God, we may wonder if the Lord has departed from us. In these seasons, remember that Jesus – who has *never* broken a promise – did, indeed, send the Holy Spirit to be with us. Take heart in moments of trial and call upon the Spirit, the Advocate, whose name in Latin means "he who is called to one's side." He will come close, reminding you of the goodness of God and encouraging you on the path to heaven.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's second reading narrates St. John the Apostle's vision of the heavenly Jerusalem. John describes the radiant splendor of this place "like that of a precious stone." Though the vision is resplendent, John observes: "The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb." God himself is the source of light which illumines heaven. But he is likewise present among us and his reign is meant to extend on earth as well. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can, therefore, prepare for heaven while also striving to bring God's glory to earth by living for him each day. So many times we have prayed the words of the Lord's Prayer: "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, *on earth as it is in heaven.*" Allow the glory of God to illumine your everyday life. Call upon God's grace and the Holy Spirit to witness to his truth, beauty, and goodness.

REFLECT

Inviting the Holy Spirit to act as our Advocate, how do we reveal the glory of God in our daily activities? As you begin your work, study, or household tasks, offer him your undertakings (and your heart) and ask him to transform the mundane into the sacred.

*Come and celebrate our parish feast
of the Lord's Ascension next week!*

Church Is More Than a Building

For centuries Christians have built places of worship. From the most ornate cathedrals to the simplest meeting houses, faith communities have recognized the need for a space in which to come together to feel close to God. It's good to remember, though, that church is more than a building. Jesus said he would be present where two or three gather in his name—regardless of where they were; Saint Peter in his first letter called Christ a living stone and told believers to be “like living stones . . . built into a spiritual house”: The emphasis is less on the bricks and more on the living stones—the people who assemble. It's wonderful to have beautiful places to worship God. But don't let the building do all the work. You belong to a church of living, breathing people who in this season of Easter follow their risen Lord. - *Takefiveforfaith.com*

FORMED.ORG on the Lord's Ascension

Check out FORMED.org.

Free for Ascension parishioners.

To sign up, go to formed.org/signup, using the name “Ascension” or our parish zip code.

Pope Leo XIV Appeals for Gaza

In his first General Audience on May 21, Pope Leo appealed for “dignified humanitarian aid” to enter Gaza, calling for a cessation of hostilities “whose price is paid by children, the elderly, and the sick.”

Holy Father's Prayer Intention - June

Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

Parish Office Closed

Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

WEEKLY OFFERING - MAY 18

-Total: **\$5,495** (\$3,958 + online: \$1,537).

-YTD Sunday: \$289,469. Budget: \$292,50.

-Priest Retirement Fund (to date): **\$3,626**. Thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS

May 24	Sat	05 pm	Crislucia Borromeo +
May 25	Sun	07 am	Josephine Gembala +
		09 am	Rogelio Vicencio +
		11 am	Neufito Fernandes & Family
		05 pm	Jessica Fedeli +
May 26	Mon	08 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento +
May 27	Tue	08 am	Joan Braddi (L)
May 28	Wed	08 am	Henry & Lenora Stolz +
May 29	Thu	08 am	Louise Harpham (L)
May 30	Fri	08 am	Bruno Dlima +
May 31	Sat	09 am	Alex Herrera +

Pope Leo on 3 Pillars - Part II

Turning then to the second word, *justice*, Pope Leo reflected on the memory of Pope Leo XIII and the Church's rich tradition of social teaching. With the world facing ever deepening global inequalities, Pope Leo urged leaders to invest in the family and to uphold the dignity of every human person. He then shared a brief reflection on his own identity as the child of immigrants, and called for greater solidarity, rooted in the shared human dignity of all people, regardless of circumstance or nationality. Truth

Speaking then of the third and final word, *truth*, Pope Leo XIV described the essential need for authentic communication and peaceful relations. In a world where reality is often distorted, especially online, the Pope insisted on the Church's duty to speak truth with charity, even when difficult or misunderstood.

“Truth,” he said, “is not an abstract principle but an encounter with the person of Christ”. It is this truth, he continued, that allows humanity to face its most urgent challenges, such as migration, technology or the environment, with unity and shared purpose.

- *Pope Leo's address to the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See, May 16, 2025.*

Prayer on Memorial Day

God of power and mercy,

you destroy war and put down earthly pride.

Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears, that we may all deserve to be called your sons and daughters.

Keep in your mercy those men and women

who have died in the cause of freedom and bring

them safely into your kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Coffee & Donuts - Ascension Sunday

June 1 - After the 9am Mass.

On the Lord's Ascension

- “While in heaven he is also with us; and we while on earth are with him. He is here with us by his divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love.” - *St. Augustine of Hippo*

Youth Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Ascension Faith Formation will host a one-day VBS Saturday, June 14, 2025.

VBS is free for those younger than 6 years of age accompanied by parent/guardian.

Cost for others will be \$50 total (\$25 non-refundable deposit).

To register, use the form in church, or scan QR code >>>

