

August 27, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 22:19-23 | Rom 11:33-36 | Mt 16:13-20

“

Upon this rock
I will build
my church.”

(Mt 16:18-19)



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

God is not looking for perfection when it comes to his leaders, he is looking for true and loving hearts. In the first reading, God is not impressed with the master of the palace as a father for the people of Jerusalem. Eliakim the servant has the heart God desires. God will give Eliakim whatever he needs to guide his people – the right clothes, authority, and a place of honor. And we learn in the Gospel that Peter has the heart of love Jesus knows is necessary to guide his followers after he is gone. There are more learned and powerful men, but they lack Peter's faith. Jesus knows Peter is not perfect and he has much to learn, but Peter has the right foundation for the Church. We don't need to be the smartest people or have money and influence to be God's leaders. We need hearts of love and faith, and God will give us the tools we need to do the work.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

There is much to be done in our parishes and God needs our hearts and faith to get to work. How can we use our gifts and talents to help make the parish a welcoming place? For some it might be liturgical ministry, but every church needs people to work behind the scenes. Dusting and cleaning the church is not a glamorous job, but caring for the house of God is a blessing in itself. Helping the parish office with special mailings or weekly tasks is welcome to the staff who have so many responsibilities. Why not use the eyes of the Father to look in our hearts and see how we can make our parish a foundation of faith for all our family? We can also use God's sight to look for people at Mass who need an invitation to be more active in the parish, sharing the reminder none of us have to be perfect people to participate. We just need hearts of love.

ACT Look over the bulletin this week and reflect on where your talents could make a difference in your parish. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom and guidance you need to find where God wants you to be and what he wants you to do. Extend an invitation to one person to join you in participating in a church ministry.

Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

www.ascensionsaratoga.org

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

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

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

Who Do You Say That I Am?

In the early days of civil rights legislation taking hold in the American South, an African American woman, Norah Jones, boarded a crowded bus, paid her fare, and found that the only free seat was next to a well-dressed white woman about her own age. That woman stiffened a bit with an insincere smile as she sat down but showed no other reaction.

Norah began to ask herself: "Who do you think you are sitting up here? I'm nothing but an old black woman. No money to speak of. Not much education. Norah, who do you think you are?" She closed her eyes and, as she often did, sank into prayer. She began to hear words from the Bible, like "you are the temple of the Holy Spirit." She sat a little straighter in her seat. "You are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you." She'd heard that the previous Sunday and sat a bit taller still.

Finally the voice inside said, "What we will later be we do not know, but we are God's children now." Positively bursting, she looked at her startled companion and with a joyful and loving smile and said, "You probably don't know who you're sitting next to, do you?" (*Preparetheword.com*)

Ascension Facilities Updates

-The repairs on the church rooftop continues, with a new coating (\$18,565), the roof drain clearing, the cross restoration (about \$2,000), etc.

-We have begun repairing potholes, cracks, root heaves, in the parking lots and driveways, and will pave the surfaces soon (about \$30,000+).

There will be more updates on other projects. We appreciate any donations to these repair projects, including a generous gift from a family in March.



Mission Co-op Appeal This Week

August 26-27

Foundation for Children in Need is a Catholic lay organization based in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Dr. Geetha Yeruva, founder and president of FCN visits our parish this weekend and shares with us about their mission work in villages of India. FCN provides free medical check-ups and medicine to thousands of people and children, including those born with cleft lips and cleft palate in the past nine years. Please support their mission work generously. To know more about their mission work, please visit: www.fcn-usa.org.

Sunday, September 10

@12 noon

Open BBQ on the lawn

Games & Prizes

Parish Ministry Fair

Tickets \$15 per person - Free for children 12 & under

Tickets can be purchased after Mass, and at Parish Office M-F, 10 am - 2 pm.

Catered BBQ

-Freshly grilled Ham/Cheese/Veggie Burgers

-Freshly grilled Chicken Drumsticks & Thighs

-Mac & Cheese special recipe

-Corn on the Cob

-Boston Baked Beans

-Potato/Cesar Salad

-Dessert: Sliced Watermelon

-Beverages: Bottled Water, Soft Drinks, Lemonade

(No alcoholic beverages permitted)



PARISH MINISTRY FAIR

Right at the Parish Picnic, September 10, 2023 (noon)

Enjoy fellowship and food at the Parish Picnic & Explore the call to serve at the Parish Ministry Fair.

Representatives will be on hand to provide information about ministries and groups at Ascension.

Prayerfully consider sharing your time and talent.

If not you, then who? If not now, then when?

Ascension counts on you!

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 26 Sat 05 pm Jerome & Lucia Maria D'Silva +

Aug 27 Sun 09 am Francisco Moreno +

Sun 11 am Angela Pava (L)

Aug 28 Mon 08 am Anthony Lau +

Aug 30 Wed 08 am Mia Park (L)

Sep 01 Fri 08 am Julieta Duerr (L)

Sep 02 Sat 09 am John Baptist Phung +

(Pray for All Parishioners at Masses without intentions)

WEEKLY OFFERING - AUG 20

-Total: **\$4,860** (baskets: \$3,289; online: \$1,571)

-Needed: \$6,500.

-YTD: \$44,792. Budget: \$52,000 (*Fiscal year 2024*).

Thank you for your generosity.