



September 14, 2025

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Num 21:4b-9 | Phil 2:6-11 | Jn 3:13-17

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Although God had freed our ancestors in faith from their slavery in Egypt, today we find them grumbling against the Lord as they wander in the desert. Even after we've glimpsed so much of God's goodness, we, too, can begin to grumble in challenging moments of our lives. It's precisely then that we need to cling to faith. After serpents appeared and began to bite those who had grumbled against God, those who had been bitten only had to look at the serpent mounted on a pole and put their faith in God once again to be healed. Similarly, when we find ourselves in the trials of life, we need only look at the cross of Jesus with faith. "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." Amid the storms of our lives, we are called to put our trust in his cross, for through it we are saved and set free.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul tells us that God the Father "greatly exalted" Jesus for his humility in embracing the cross, and that ultimately, all creation will join the Father in glorifying Christ. We who know the gift of what Jesus did for us on the cross are called to praise him with our voices and our lives. We praise and glorify Christ first through our example. How might our day-to-day interactions give others a glimpse of the humble and self-emptying love of Jesus? Finally, think of the ways that knowing Christ's love has made a difference in your life. Has it made you more patient? Has it made you more hopeful? Think of ways that you could share this in conversation. Telling others about what God has done for you or the difference that he has made in your life is one way of exalting Christ.

PRAISE

Today, spend some time thanking and praising God for the gift of the cross and our salvation in Christ. You might wish to use this traditional prayer frequently used during the stations of the cross in Lent: "We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. Because, by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world."

**Masses: (Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p
(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a
Confessions: (Sat) 4p - 4:45p**

Church of the Ascension
ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939

Understanding Cross Culture

It's not always easy to face the things that hurt us or our loved ones. So why would we lift up the cross, honoring that which symbolizes pain and the death of Jesus? As Christians we choose to face the cross. In doing so we confront not only the reality of suffering and death but also the hope and belief in new life, in that "something more" of salvation. And somehow in facing our pain, instead of pretending it isn't there or whitewashing the reality, there is acknowledgement of our vulnerability. We become open to healing. The exaltation of the cross is not only a reminder of Jesus' death but of his Resurrection. It is an invitation to lift up our own pain and find in it a path to healing and wholeness. - *Takefiveforfaith.com*

40 Days for Life Campaign Kick-Off

You are invited to the 40 Days for Life Prayer Campaign kick-off Mass with Bishop Cantú, Sept. 27, 5:00 pm at St. Frances Cabrini Church, 15333 Woodard Rd. San Jose.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the Men's Club, Pastoral Council, Hospitality Team, and all the volunteers who helped at the **Parish Picnic** with setup, grilling, serving, games, and cleanup. Guests enjoyed tasty barbecue and good company while children had a good time with games.

Our parish is also appreciative of all volunteers who serve the community in numerous ways. On Saturday, August 30, they enjoyed an **Ice Cream Social** in the sunny weather. We extend our thanks to the Finance Council for putting this event together.

Collection for Catholic Education

Sept. 13-14

Your gift mainly supports the school leadership development, tuition assistance, and lay ecclesial ministry formation in our Diocese. The rest will benefit the Catholic University of America. Thank you.

WEEKLY OFFERING - Sept. 7

-Total: **\$6,745** (\$4,298 +online: \$2,447). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: **\$60,462**. Budget: \$68,000.

-Humanitarian relief for Gaza YTD: **6,244**.

Thank you for your support.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sept 13	Sat	05 pm	Ariana Rivera (L)
Sept 14	Sun	07 am	Edward Gembala +
		09 am	Joseph Stolz (L)
		11 am	Joe Jackan +
		05 pm	Marie Firato & Family
Sept 19	Fri	08 am	Paul & Cecilia Phung +
Sept 20	Sat	09 am	Gabrielle Mancuso (L)

What Is God Saying to the Church?

Fr **James Mallon**, Bishop **Robert Barron**, and Reverend **Nicky Gumbel** discuss "What is God saying to the Church" in these challenging times and explore how we can move forward together. Scan the QR code for the **video**.



Parish Facilities Update

As part of our regular facility maintenance, we have recently repaired and applied a seal coat to the **small parking areas** near the solar panels and the parish office, along with the **walkways**. We also installed two dozen **wheel stops** in the main parking lots to prevent cars from doing 'donuts.' The total expenditure for this work was \$22,552.

Additionally, we found a considerable number of **termite swarms in the office building**, particularly in the exterior and sub-area framing at the vents. It is recommended that we proceed with a full tenting of the building.

We are grateful for your donations to the bi-annual Building Fund, with the next one set for October 26.

Preparing for a Kairos Retreat 6 of 15

First, at each institution where Kairos Prison Ministry serves, a volunteer Advisory Council is formed. This group guides the ministry at that location. They arrange with the prison administration to conduct Kairos activities there. They also act as the main contact for the institution through an Institutional Liaison. A key part of their work is raising money to cover weekend costs (approaching \$10,000 at some California prisons). The Advisory Council also trains volunteers for leadership and chooses the Leader for each Kairos Weekend Retreat.

Next, the Leader for a weekend forms a team. This "Inside Team" includes 28 men and clergy, plus a "Support Team" of 6 women and 1 man. They are chosen from our list of current volunteers and new volunteers who want to help. Since getting seven ordained clergy for each team is challenging, it is common to have about 3 ordained clergy on the team. Experienced volunteers step in to serve as clergy at the other tables. These tables welcome 42 candidates and 21 volunteers.

The prison Chaplain or Sponsor for Kairos at that institution then selects the 42 candidates who will attend the Weekend Retreat. If there isn't a sponsoring chaplain, the Advisory Council helps train and guide past graduates to form an "Inside Kairos Council" and recruit candidates for the Kairos Weekend.

Diapers Needed!

The Diocesan Layette Program is in urgent need of diapers – Newborn & Size 1 only. A large quantity is needed. To learn more, visit dsj.org/layette-program.