



October 19, 2025

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 17:8-13 | 2 Tim 3:14—4:2 | Luke 18:1-8

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Studying Scripture is not a side dish on the plate of practicing the faith. It is an essential component of the virtuous life, and without it, our faith will surely falter. In his second letter to Timothy, Saint Paul reminds us that the Scriptures are the inspired Word of God and they train us in righteous living and equip us for every good work. There will undoubtedly be times when we feel ill-equipped – when we are fatigued, frustrated, or concerned. It is precisely in these moments that we’re invited to go quickly to the holy Word of God! Read it, pray with it, and invite the Spirit to speak to you through it. There you will find the wisdom needed to face every circumstance.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our faith journey was never meant to be a solitary endeavor! We see this in today’s first reading when Aaron and Hur stand beside Moses, holding his weary arms in the air as the battle rages on against the Amalekites. This image of the three men on the mountain – Moses with his arms raised high, Aaron and Hur on either side supporting them – is a powerful image of companionship in the Christian life. When you feel too weary to pray, look around – the Lord has likely given you companions who can support you precisely in the ways you need at this time. Pay attention, too, to who God might be inviting you to support in prayer. Our Gospel tells us that God always hears our prayer and calls us to be persistent in prayer. Certainly, God will “secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night.” God calls us to persist in prayer because it reveals our faith and trust in him that we constantly bring our needs before him.

REFLECT

Our readings offer helpful tools to turn to when discouragement or isolation may cloud our spiritual vision. Take some time this week to listen to the Lord’s voice in Scripture. Or, if you’re feeling weary, ask a few friends to pray with and for you. Remember that although God may seem distant, he always hears us. Be persistent in bringing your needs to him and wait with patience – surely, he will come swiftly to your aid.

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

Relics of Saint Thérèse de Lisieux

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of St. Thérèse's canonization, her relics are traveling across the US from Oct. 1 to Dec. 8. Her reliquary will arrive on Oct. 20, Monday, at Our Lady of La Vang Church in San Jose. The 4pm Mass will be presided by Bishop Cantu, followed by veneration till 6:45 pm. A reception will be held at 7 pm. The church is at 389 E Santa Clara St, San Jose. Parking is available at San José State University.



All Saints & All Souls Mass Schedule

Nov 1 (Saturday)

9am - All Saints Mass (*not obligatory this year*)

5pm - Anticipated All Souls Mass

Nov 2 (Sunday)

7am, 9am, 11am, 5pm: All Souls Masses.

Nominee for Saints in the City

Saints in the City is an annual event that honors young Catholics in the Diocese of San Jose. The nominee for this event from Ascension is **Nikhil Nair**, who is a lector, usher, acolyte and catechist assistant in our parish. He's nominated for the St. Francis of Assisi and Kecharitomene awards (Kecharitomene is a Greek word for "full of grace" (Luke (1:28). Please keep Nikhil in your prayers.



World Mission Collection - Oct 19

This collection will be taken this Sunday to support mission territories. Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Building Fund Collection - Oct 26

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 - Oct 12

-Total: **\$5,405** (\$4,104 + online: \$1,301). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: **\$88,478**. Budget: \$102,000.

-Youth Faith Formation Fund: **\$2,000** (YTD: \$3,628).

-Building Fund: **\$800**. Thank you for your support.

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 18	Sat	05 pm	Mercedes & Ricardo Fuenzalida +
Oct 19	Sun	09 am	John Sokol Sr +
		11 am	Richard Wong +
		05 pm	Nguyen Nguyen +
Oct 25	Sat	09 am	Thomas Dien & Monica Than Tran +

What Are the Top 3 Priorities for Ascension?



Worship: to deepen our connection with God and his people

Formation: to help form missionary disciples.

Outreach: to foster acts of charity, advocacy, justice, and evangelization.

Family: to support and strengthen families.

Youth and Young Adults: to accompany them and help them discover God's plan for them.

Structural Renewal: to reimagine how resources are better used and to secure the finances needed for the pastoral plan.

Ways to Achieve Priorities

Worship:

- Foster a welcoming worship environment
- Understand and appreciate the Eucharist
- Deliver homilies that inspire all to action
- Lift spirits with proper sacred music

Formation:

- Provide opportunities of spiritual growth
- Help accompany those joining the Catholic faith
- Offer retreats and small faith groups
- Help enrich faith formation programs

Outreach:

- Reach out to those not practicing the faith
- Increase social justice awareness, training
- Expand ministry in housing, mental health, etc.

Family:

- Support parents as primary teachers of the faith
- Minister to the divorced/remarried, LGBTQ+
- Develop programs for the entire family lifecycle
- Foster partnership between parishes & schools

Youth and Young Adults:

- Listen to their needs and desires
- Engage them in spiritual & service activities
- Inspire and cultivate young leaders

Structural Renewal:

- Identify essential parish ministries & needed staff
- Establish a just compensation model for staff
- Reorganize parishes to support church mission
- Secure the finances needed for the pastoral plan.

Priorities for Our Parish Renewal

From Oct. 26 to Nov. 4, we will be carrying out a survey, selecting the top three priorities for Ascension.

Meantime, **please learn more about the Pastoral Plan** for 53 parishes in our Diocese (scan QR code).

