



November 23, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

2 Sm 5:1-3 | Col 1:12-20 | Lk 23:35-43

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

Since the birth of my oldest child, I have seen and heard many things about what I *should* do as a mother. I have heard everything from which products I should purchase to how I should help my child develop a healthy sleep routine. But my identity as a mother is not dependent upon any of these things; instead, it rests on my relationship with God as his beloved daughter and who he has called me to be as a mother. Those living at the time of Jesus were also trying to understand his identity as king according to their own expectations of what a king was meant to be. They certainly did not expect their king to be crucified by the Romans as we read about in our Gospel today. But Jesus did not come to rule as an earthly king. He *is* king because of his identity as the beloved Son of God, whose mission it was to offer his life for the salvation of all. Jesus did not allow society's understanding of a king to dictate how he lived his mission. Likewise, we must act confidently in accordance with the particular call that God has entrusted to us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I find it interesting that when David was anointed king of Israel, he is designated as a commander whose vocation it was to *shepherd* the tribes of Israel. Of course, now we also readily associate the term *shepherd* with Christ, the Good Shepherd who cares for his sheep. The notion of kingship and shepherding, therefore, seem to be intertwined. In the sacrament of baptism, each of us is invited to participate in Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king. To join Christ in his mission as king, we must also lead lives of service in which we allow the love of God to generously flow through us by caring for others. Let us strive to be shepherds for those in our communities who are seeking to know Christ more intimately; let us participate in Christ's mission as king through humble service to others.

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

Blessed Thanksgiving!

A Real Power Move

Power seems cool to possess—from a distance. You can do anything with enough of it: Order people around; get your way; make money, squander it, and get more. Those with worldly power are seemingly invincible—every comfort, security, and cure is theirs for the taking. That's why the crowds around the cross mock Jesus as a phony. If he really had juice, why is he hanging up there? What they failed to appreciate is the divine use of authority: not for self-preservation, but poured out for the sake of others. Think differently. Think love. *-Takefiveforfaith.com*

Children and Adolescents Are Vulnerable to A.I. Manipulation

Pope Leo XIV warns that young people and children could easily be manipulated by artificial intelligence and insists that 'safeguarding minors' dignity cannot be reduced to policies' and requires 'digital education' when addressing participants in the "The Dignity of Children and Adolescents in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" Conference on Nov. 13 in the Vatican. Artificial intelligence is transforming many aspects of our daily lives, including education, entertainment and the safety of minors. *-Vaticannews.va*

Our Giving Tree

-**Catholic Charities** relies on your generosity to provide support for families and individuals on their journeys to self-sufficiency. Gift cards make the holidays brighter for Catholic Charities clients.
-The **Layette Program** welcomes infant clothing and other needed items and supplies. This program has been in existence throughout the years and we now are celebrating our 70th year anniversary. (The Help One Child program is not seeking gifts this season). **Please stop by the Giving Tree** and consider giving a gift. Thank you.



Kairos Prison Ministry

For the complete series of 15 short articles on Kairos Prison Ministry, scan the QR code.



MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 22	Sat	05 pm	Maxine Stice +
Nov 23	Sun	07 am	Agatha Pao +
		09 am	Alfredo Mari Bito +
		11 am	The Lau Family
		05 pm	Robert Burke +
Nov 27	Thu	09 am	(Thanksgiving Day)
Nov 28	Fri	09 am	(Post-Thanksgiving Day)
Nov 29	Sat	09 am	The Weeks Family

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His love endures forever" (Psalm 136:1)

May the Lord bless you and yours this Thanksgiving and every day.
Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving Week



MASS SCHEDULE

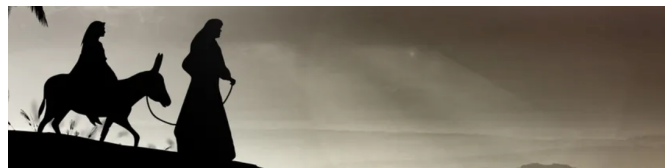
-Thursday, Nov. 27: Mass at **9am** (instead of 8am)
-Friday, Nov. 28: Mass at **9am** (instead of 8am).
Come and give thanks to God.

BLESSING OF BREAD

On Nov. 27 we will pray for God's blessing on the bread you will share at table later in the day.

PARISH OFFICE SCHEDULE

Our Office will be closed on Nov. 27 and Nov. 28.
Happy Thanksgiving!



Advent Gathering with Saint Joseph

Sunday, December 7, 2025 in Worner Hall

9:30 am Mass in Church (**no 9 am & 11 am Masses**)
10:15 am Seating & Welcoming & Blessing of Food
10:25 am Advent Talk #1, followed by short Reflection
10:45 am Table Discussion
11:00 am Break
11:10 am Advent Talk #2, followed by short Reflection
11:30 am Table Discussion
11:45 am Closing Prayer

Families, Spouses, Parents, Young Adults:

This all-parish gathering follows the 9:30 AM Mass (**No 9 am & 11 am Masses on Dec. 7**) in Worner Hall with a continental breakfast.

Let us gather together as a parish family to hear **how Saint Joseph can help us prepare the way for the coming of Jesus!**

+ Crisis, Compassion, Prudence, Justice.
+ Faithful Protector, Head of Household.

Saint Joseph, Head of the Holy Family, pray for us!

Please sign up using the QR code to help us prepare enough food for the light breakfast.



WEEKLY OFFERING - Nov. 16

-Total: **\$6,764** (\$4,744 + online: \$2,019). Goal: \$6,800.
-YTD Sunday: **\$119,733**. Budget: \$136,000.
-Campaign for Human Development: **\$1,924**.
-Archdiocese for Military Services: **\$100** (YTD: \$2,180).
Thank you for your generosity.