

## 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

July 12, 2026

## Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:10-11 | Rom 8:18-23 | Mt 13:1-23

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

If you're anything like me, you probably hear today's Gospel and immediately try to identify yourself with one type of seed Jesus talks about: the seed that fell on the path, the seed that fell on rocky ground, the seed among thorns, or the seed in good soil. But have you ever stopped to wonder why the sower is throwing seeds so haphazardly? This is worth meditating on, too. I believe it says to us that God is generously offering his grace and his mercy to everyone equally, in all places, at all times. But we aren't all in a place where we are open to receive that gift. In those moments when we feel as though we're not bearing the fruit that we hope to, perhaps it's time to examine our spiritual surroundings and see if there is something we can change that might help us to be more receptive to God's grace. Perhaps it's as simple as checking out a faith-sharing group that can help us tend our spiritual soil so it is ready to receive what God is doing out.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Our first reading from Isaiah speaks of the power and efficacy of God's word, comparing it to the rain and snow that come down and water the earth, making the soil fertile, helping the seed to grow into a bountiful harvest that can be made into bread that nourishes. What we grasp from all of this is that God's word bears fruit *over time*. As evangelizers, it's important to consider that we often won't see fruit right away when sharing God's word with others. That word must take root, grow, and be cultivated. This process will take time, but the long-term fruit is worth our sustained and patient effort as we nurture relationships of accompaniment with others.

### **PRAY**

There's a certain patience we must exercise when sharing God's word with others. When I find myself struggling with impatience – with myself or with others' slow progress – I often find solace in the prayer "Trust in the Slow Work of God" from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ, particularly these lines: *Above all, trust in the slow work of God / We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay / We should like to skip the intermediate stages / And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability – and that it may take a very long time.*



## America's Founding Mother



Celebrating its 250-year milestone, America honors its Founding Fathers and the Declaration of Independence. Rob Judge, the director of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, stated that "Perhaps Catholics should be bold enough to recover another phrase: Founding Mother."



The founding mother referred to is **Elizabeth Ann Seton**, who was raised in an Episcopalian family. Following the death of her husband, she became Catholic and founded the Sisters of Charity, the first American religious order that significantly influenced charitable and educational movements in the history of the US. They educated girls at a time when such opportunities were scarce. They offered care to those in need when public assistance was rare. She accomplished all this despite anti-Catholic prejudice. She proved that one could be both Catholic and American.

Born in 1774, she was growing up "inside the uncertainty, ambition, optimism, and instability of the early republic. She moved among the social circles of the young nation's elite and witnessed firsthand the creation of a new country still struggling to define itself," wrote Judge. She illustrated how Catholicism contributed to the American experiment through education, discipline, service, sacrifice, and a commitment to the common good. She showed that true patriotism required responsibility.

Rob Judge believes that Mother Seton "deserves to be remembered not only as America's first native-born saint, but as one of its founding mothers."

### May She Rest in Peace

The funeral for **Dorothy Thomas** will be celebrated on July 16 at 10:30am. May she rest in peace.

### July Offering Envelopes Delayed

The Cathedral Corporation is experiencing difficulties with paper supplies. As a result, the July offertory envelopes are delayed. Please use alternative envelopes while waiting for the August envelopes. Thank you for your patience.

### WEEKLY OFFERING - July 05

-Total: **\$6,692** (\$4,539 + online: \$2,153). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: \$346,507. Budget: \$346,800.

Thank you for your generosity.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Jul 11	Sat	05 pm	Dina Rendic & Cesar Munita +
Jul 12	Sun	11 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento +
		05 pm	Joseph Tierney +
Jul 13	Mon	08 am	Joseph Stolz (L)

## Bishop Cantú on Venezuela Earthquakes

Jun 25, 2026

Our hearts are saddened by the catastrophic earthquakes that have caused horrific loss of life, injuries, devastation, and property damage in Venezuela last night. Our hearts go out to the people of Venezuela at this time. (...)

Our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has already sent emergency aid and is in close contact with the local Church. Let us follow his lead. There are two trusted ways we can help:

- The USCCB Fund for Latin America
- Catholic Relief Services has opened an emergency fund for this earthquake: [www.crs.org/donate/venezuela-earthquake](http://www.crs.org/donate/venezuela-earthquake)

Please pray for the dead, for the injured, and for the rescuers who have not slept. And please give what you can.

Our Lady of Coromoto, patroness of Venezuela — comfort and embrace your people suffering in Venezuela.

### Vocation Soccer Cup

July 26 at St. Francis High School  
Doors Open 3:00 PM. Kickoff 4:30pm.  
New this year is the St. Carlo Acutis & St. Maria Goretti Cup, played by Altar Servers ages 13-17 with Priests and Seminarians will compete in a second soccer game for the St. Joseph Cup.

General Admission \$10

Free for children under 9 years old

Raffle Tickets \$10

For more info and ticket sale, scan QR



## Updates on Donations to Campaign & Terrace Project

### Capital Campaign by June 30

Parish Goal:	\$569,000
Total Pledge:	\$696,070 (122% of goal)
Total Gifts:	103
Total Paid:	\$242,543 (by June 17)
Parish Share:	\$310,382 (by June 17)

### Terrace Project by July 5

Estimated Cost	\$375,000
Total Pledge:	\$29,668 (*)
Total Gifts:	40

(\*) The greater the contributions to the Terrace Project, the less we will depend on the Capital Campaign's Parish Share, which funds both our Pastoral Goals and the Terrace Project.

### Benevity Matching Gift

Your company may match your donations through Benevity. Donate via Benevity and look up "Church of the Ascension" using our Tax ID 94-2734503.