



Church of the Ascension

ascensionsaratoga.org

408-725-3939

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

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

Confessions: (Sat) 5p

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January 18, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 49:3, 5-6 | 1 Cor 1:1-3 | Jn 1:29-34

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

I have struggled when doing work that feels unseen. Has anyone noticed that the floors were mopped today? Do my students care about the feedback I provide on their writing? Does my supervisor notice the extra time I put into my work? In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist announcing Jesus as "the Lamb of God." John has been preparing for the coming of Christ and now that Jesus has arrived, his role is to step aside and encourage his followers to move their gaze toward Christ, the Messiah. Although we know John's name and his faithfulness, it would have been easy for him to assume that his work would have been forgotten — overshadowed by the signs and wonders of Christ himself. But in his humility, this is exactly what John seemingly wanted. His life and words were focused solely on proclaiming the coming of Christ. While I may have been tempted to say, "Please don't forget about what I did," John responded faithfully to God's call to preach and prepare for Christ's coming, without worry of receiving credit for his actions. And in our lives, too, what matters is not whether our work is appreciated or noticed, but whether our actions are in response to God's call to holiness.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Despite not knowing whether his work would extend for years or decades, John the Baptist continued to lead others toward repentance. He did not know the full scope of his role in the plan of salvation, but he trusted in the voice of God. Like John, we are called to persevere in faithfulness to the work that God has called us to do, right where we are. When we persevere in our faith, living according to the teachings of Christ and our vocation, we give witness to the truth that the God who called us is worthy of our trust.

WITNESS

Consider the countless men and women who have gone before us who remained faithful to God's call. Their lives bear witness to their trust in God, in big and in small ways, sometimes visible, but often hidden. What simple acts of faithfulness are you being called to persevere in today? Recommit to practicing faithfulness in the big — as well as mundane — aspects of daily living.

Power to the People

The word *righteousness* may sound a little quaint these days, but the concept behind the word is central to an understanding of what God asks of us. The Hebrew word it corresponds to appears more than 500 times in the Old Testament, and the Greek word it corresponds to more than 200 times in the New Testament. Righteousness is chiefly concerned with ethical conduct: It implies faithfully keeping promises, treating people justly, and adhering to a high moral code. With justice of righteousness, "faith, hope, and charity are poured into our hearts," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "and obedience to the divine will is granted us." We have the power to be obedient to God's will; why not use it?

Takefiveforfaith.com

Anointing of the Sick

Feb 7, Saturday, World Day of the Sick

Masses with the Anointing of the Sick & Blessing of Caregivers

-9:00am: Church of the Ascension

-11:00am: St. Joseph Cathedral (10:30am: Rosary)

Unity Quotes

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity." - Psalm 133:1

"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together." - *Desmond Tutu*

"The point in history at which we stand is full of promise and danger. The world will either move forward toward unity and widely shared prosperity - or it will move apart." - *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

"By faithfulness we are collected and wound up into unity within ourselves, whereas we had been scattered abroad in multiplicity.." - *Saint Augustine*

"We must all learn to live together as brothers, or we will all perish together as fools." - *Martin Luther King*

Parish Office Closed

Our Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Special Collection for Faith Formation

Jan. 18

This semi-annual collection is for our Youth Faith Formation Fund. Thank you for your support.

WEEKLY OFFERING - *Jan. 11*

-Total: **\$6,351** (\$3,407+ online: \$2,944). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: **\$181,636**. Budget: \$190,400.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

| | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|
| Jan 17 | Sat | 05p | Terry Lynch + |
| Jan 18 | Sun | 07a | Ana Karen Sanchez (L) |
| | | 09a | Sr. Eloise Rosenblatt + |
| | | 11a | Robert Firato (L) |
| | | 05p | Joseph & Rosaria Fiorentino + |

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Jan. 18 -25

Theme: One Body, One Spirit, One Hope (cf. Eph 4:4)

This week of prayer has a history of over 100 years, in which Christians around the world have taken part in an octave of prayer for visible Christian unity. By observing this week of prayer, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one" (cf. Jn 17:21).

Prayer

Almighty ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered, look kindly on the flock of your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity. Through Christ our Lord.

Spiritual Renewal

Parish Mission

with Fr. Michael Moore, SPS

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Not Only With Us But Also Within Us

1/31 & 2/1 (Sat & Sun Masses)

Introducing Mission

2/2 - 2/5 (Mon-Thu) 9:00 am & repeated at 7:00 pm

Mission

Monday: "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

Tuesday: That is why Jesus, the Son of God was born as one of us.

Wednesday: That is also why Jesus gave us the Eucharist.

Thursday: How can we even try to understand the next life while still in this life?



Walk for Life West Coast

Please join with Bishop Cantú on January 24, 2026, at St. Lucy's Church, Campbell, for the 8:00 am Diocesan Mass - before the 22nd Annual Walk for Life West Coast - as we walk for Hope, for Love, and for Life.

Revs vs Sems Basketball Challenge

(Priests vs Seminarians)

January 25 @ 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Santa Clara University, Leavey Center

Doors open: 5:00pm | Tip-off: 6:30pm

\$10 General Admission

Free: Children under 9, Altar servers
(must bring photos of them wearing liturgical albs).

\$10 Raffle Tickets

Tickets available after Sat/Sun Masses or online.

Scan QR code for details.

