



Daylight Saving Time  
returns next Sunday

## Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

[www.ascensionsaratoga.org](http://www.ascensionsaratoga.org)

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

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

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

March 3, 2024

# Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17 | 1 Cor 1:22-25 | Jn 2:13-25

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

When I was a kid, my older siblings used to tell me what to do (no surprise there!) and often backed up their, ahem, “commands,” by saying, “Mom and Dad said so.” Interestingly, sometimes that statement was not true (!), and I would get the right information – what to do and the correct way to do it – directly from my parents. My experience is not unlike that of the Israelites in today’s first reading. As they escaped from bondage in Egypt and followed the Lord through the guidance of Moses, they developed their own ways of doing things, listened to the wrong people and acted as if they were indeed conveying truth. But the Lord steps in to correct them, and in “a direct, unmediated communication” of truth to them, gives them commandments to follow. (USCCB commentary) These instructions for how to live a moral life in relationship with God and with one another are the basis of the covenant they made there with the Lord. They are the foundation of the new covenant in which we partake through Jesus Christ, who came into our history as the perfect, unmediated communication of God.

### GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How do you envision Jesus? It’s easy to think of him as kind and easy-going – the type of person who never lets his feathers get ruffled, no matter how many times the Pharisees question and challenge him. However, we see a different side of Jesus today – one in which he is flipping over tables and brandishing a whip. He is driving out those who are using his Father’s house as a place to make money rather than as a place to worship. In the drama of that scene, let’s not overlook what comes next in the reading. The people there at the temple, obviously taken aback by what they have seen, ask for a sign to justify what authority Jesus has to drive people out of the temple. Jesus says, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” That confused people then, but we know today that the true temple is Jesus and that his rising from the dead would be the sign they sought. Just as the commandments of God have authority, so does Jesus who came as perfect obedience to those commandments to help us follow them ourselves.

**PRAY** It’s easy for us to think we’re doing a good job keeping the Lord’s commandments, but at the same time the line between right and wrong can seem blurred at times and we may relax a bit on some of their finer points. Try this week to dig deep within ourselves and turn to prayer for the strength to do what is right, seeking the wisdom of God rather than relying on human wisdom.

## Balancing Act

Saint Paul lived in that perilous posture you see in cartoon characters whose feet are on opposite supports that are swiftly gliding apart. As a privileged Roman citizen of Cilicia (modern Turkey), Paul had one foot firmly planted in the reality of Greco-Roman culture. Yet the other was just as securely fixed in his Jewish faith. It was a tough posture to maintain. Then Paul encountered the Risen Lord and understood in the gospel the most excellent way to unite Jews and Greeks in an elegantly reconciling Christian message. Christianity is for uniting, not dividing.

- *Takefiveforfaith.com*

## Pope's March 2024 Prayer Intention

*For the new martyrs* - We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

## Lenten Reconciliation & Adoration

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and pray in Adoration, **Saturday, March 16, at 9:30 am** (after the 9:00 am Mass).

## Weekly Lenten Reflection

by Fr. Hao

**Journeying with Jesus**  
During the **8:00 am Mass every Wednesday**.

## Paschal Mystery: Dying and Rising

by Fr. Maurice & Fr. Hao

During the **5pm Saturday Mass on March 6, 13, 19**.

## Parish New Photo Directory

It is time for our new pictorial church directory. The current directory was published in 2014, marking the Parish Golden Jubilee. We need a coordinator of the project. Please let Fr. Hao know if you are interested or someone else may have the talents and skills for this project.

## Ascension 60th Jubilee Closing Reception

**May 18, 2024**

Our Parish 60th Jubilee will close on May 18, 2024, at the 5:00 pm Mass, presided by Bishop Oscar Cantú, followed by a Reception.

**Help us plan the Closing Reception.** Please sign up to (1) join the Reception Committee, or (2) be volunteers at the Reception. Sign-up sheets are near the main entrance to the church. Thank you.

## Retirement Visualization Seminar

Are you financially ready for your retirement years? We invite you to a seminar to discuss about the retirement planning and general guidance. The conversation covers:

- Retirement Age vs Life Expectancy Estimate
- General source of income and expenses in retirement
- Retirement Vision and Planning Framework.

Date & Time: March 9, 2024, from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Place: Classrooms in the Worner Hall.

Presenter: David Fung (parishioner),

*Investment Adviser Representative, NEXT Financial Group*

## Men's Club

Men's Club Meeting In-Person

Worner Hall/Lounge Room

Friday, March 8 at 6:00pm

## Seasons of Hope - Grief Discussion

March 13 - April 17 on Wednesdays from 1pm - 2:30pm

Sacred Heart Parish Center, Saratoga

Grief and sorrow are meant to be shared. Seasons of Hope provides a place to share grief and sorrow for the loss of a loved one. To sign up, contact Carolyn Orasin,

408-867-3634 or [c.orsin@sacredheartsaratoga.org](mailto:c.orsin@sacredheartsaratoga.org).

Or call Nancy Crowley at 408-209-6118. Please include your name, phone number, and email.

## Diocese's Pastoral Plan

One of the six main goals of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan is **Worship**. It's central to our faith, our spiritual life, and our mission. The Eucharist in particular is the source and summit of our Christian life.

**Watch Bishop Cantú's message** (first QR code)



**Diocese's Pastoral Plan** (second QR code)



## ADA Week 4 Report

**Number of pledges to date: 72**

**Total amount pledged: \$54,090**

**Percent of goal: 72%**

Thank you to those who made their pledges. Please help us reach our goal soon!

## Collection for Catholic Relief Services

March 10

Funds from this collection support the work of Catholic organizations that aid victims of war and natural disasters, help build peace in places of conflict, and minister to migrants and others with specific pastoral needs.

## WEEKLY OFFERING - FEB 25

-\$7,700 (baskets: \$6,624, including two annual contributions totaling \$3,000; online: \$1,076). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: **\$215,265**. Budget: \$227,500. Shortfall: \$12,235.

Thank you for your generous support.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 02	Sat	05 pm	Tomas Alvarez (L)
Mar 03	Sun	09 am	Carol McLafferty (L)
		11 am	Tiburcio Jun Edano +
		05 pm	Brandon Biala +
Mar 04	Mon	08 am	Sophornia Ko +
Mar 05	Tue	08 am	Arturo Zabala +
Mar 06	Wed	08 am	Mercedes & Ricardo Fuenzalida+
Mar 07	Thu	08 am	Walter Whelan (L)
Mar 08	Fri	08 am	Javier Munita +