

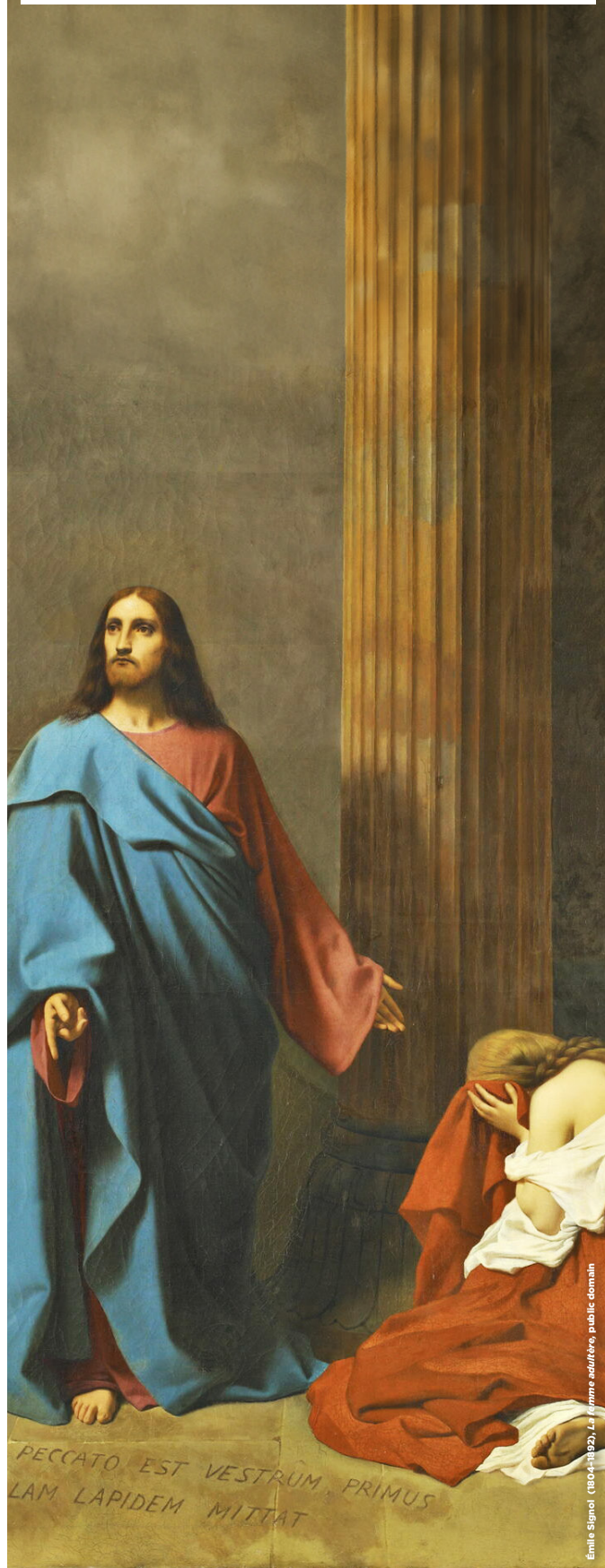
Church of the Ascension

ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939

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

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

Confessions: (Sat) 4p – 4:45p



April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Is 43:16-21 | Phil 3:8-14 | Jn 8:1-11

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Today's culture creates and sees constant change, innovation, and novelty at record speeds. But even more astounding than the technological advancements we observe around us is God's power to inspire interior transformation in each individual life. In today's Gospel, instead of condemning the woman caught in adultery whose punishment was certain death, Jesus speaks words of mercy, forgiveness, and life. Their encounter lifts the woman out of the shame of her sin, restores her dignity, and strengthens her to "Go, and from now on do not sin any more." This woman, whom others saw as hopeless, is transformed because Jesus' mercy has touched her soul. Long before, the prophet Isaiah had alluded to this time in which the Messiah would bring new life even in the most desolate places: "See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers." God constantly calls us to leave sin behind, to keep moving forward – and we can be confident that he is with us at each new step to lead us to himself.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How do we take these steps? How do we respond to God's call? In his Letter to the Philippians, Paul speaks of how he willingly gave up everything, even those things which made him righteous according to the laws of the Old Testament, and learned to depend on Jesus and the changing power of his resurrection. For us as for Saint Paul, each step along the path of transformation requires faith in God's ability and intention to heal us and draw us to himself. If we are willing to leave behind old identities and desires, we will see more clearly the true identity God created for us as we begin to live more like Jesus. Paul even describes being "taken possession of by Christ Jesus," because the change is so deep and powerful. For us as for God's chosen people in the readings from Isaiah, at first some parts of the path may look like an aimless desert, but the way will appear with each step of faith, and it is filled with mercy.

PRAY

Transformation doesn't happen all at once. Reflect on your Lenten prayers, fasting, and almsgiving and consider how they've helped to conform your will to God's. How will you be found changed on Easter Sunday? Is there something you can improve upon during these final two weeks of Lent? It's not too late to offer a loving sacrifice to God!

We Feel Your Pain

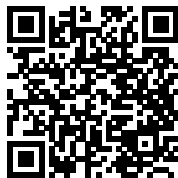
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once observed: "If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility." While we cannot always know or understand the circumstances of our enemies' lives, we are nevertheless called to forgive them, as Jesus forgave the woman caught in adultery—and every other sinner he encountered. To know the secret lives of others is really God's purview. Yet, because God forgives everyone (ourselves included!), who are we to hold a grudge? *Takefiveforfaith.com*

Gospel at 9am Mass This Week

This Sunday at the 9am Mass we hear the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (year A gospel for the Rite of Scrutiny). This event shows Jesus leading us to an abundant, eternal life. Pray for the elect and candidates for the Easter sacraments, that they hold fast to the promise of eternal life.

Invited Podcast of San Jose Diocese

Episode 3 - Join host Father Ryan Mau, parochial vicar at Saint Lawrence, Bishop Cantú and guests: the Very Rev. Father Samer Youssef and Maria Segal of the Orthodox Church of the Redeemer for a conversation about the Church in the Middle East and the hope for Christian unity. Learn about Bishop Cantú's visits to the Holy Land and the Middle East during his time as Chair of the Commission for Justice and Peace. Father Samer shares a miraculous story linking his church in Los Altos to Ground Zero in New York. Scan the QR code to listen to the podcast.



Men's Club Meeting In-Person

Worner Hall/Lounge Room
Friday, Apr 11, at 6:00pm

WEEKLY OFFERING - MARCH 30

-Total **\$5,352** (\$4,721 + online: \$630). Goal: \$6,500.
-YTD: \$248,652. Budget: \$253,500.
-Building Fund: **\$496**.
-Catholic Relief Services: **\$2,439**. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS

Apr 05	Sat	05 pm	Maxine Stice +
Apr 06	Sun	07 am	Gary S. H. Chang +
		09 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento +
		11 am	Rogelio Vicencio +
		05 pm	Kay Lynch +
Apr 07	Mon	08 am	Gary Auclair +
Apr 08	Tue	08 am	Arturo C. Martinez, Sr. +
Apr 09	Wed	08 am	The Mandal Family
Apr 10	Thu	08 am	Herman & Mary Ramthun +
Apr 11	Fri	08 am	The Gerrard Family
Apr 12	Sat	09 am	Enrique M. Orlina +



Holy Week Schedule

Passion/Palm Sunday

(Sat) 5pm (Sun) 7am, 9am, 11am, 5pm

Holy Thursday

7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
followed by Altar of Repose in Worner Hall til 10pm

Good Friday

12:00pm Passion of the Lord Service
1:30pm Stations of the Cross
7:30pm Passion of the Lord Service

Holy Saturday

8:30pm Easter Vigil with Initiation Sacraments

Easter Sunday

7am, 9am, 11am, 5pm.

Easter Sacraments at Ascension

Did you know that at the Easter Vigil this year, our Ascension Parish will welcome 5 people to the Catholic Church?

Initiation through Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist

- Isabella Ramirez
- Lin Takahashi

Reception into the Catholic Church (through Confirmation and Eucharist)

- Gen Takahashi

Children Baptism

- Ema Takahashi
- Hana Takahashi.

Let us pray for them and support them.

Jubilee Yearbook Available

The Jubilee yearbook will be available again for purchase at church this weekend. It will be **\$10 each for those who had their portraits taken** for the book and **\$20 for others**. Please place your payments in the **wooden boxes** located near the main entrance of the church. **If you had your photo taken, kindly mark your family name on the list** displayed in the church. You may choose to **contribute more than \$10 per copy** to help cover the actual costs. Any excess funds generated from the Jubilee book will be allocated to our Youth Faith Formation. Thank you for being a part of this Jubilee commemorative yearbook project.

ADA Report - Week 9

-Number of Pledges: 114

-Percentage: **105%**

We just surpassed our goal with a \$3,919 rebate!

Have you made your pledge?
Thank you for your support.

