



April 28, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-31 | 1 Jn 3:18-24 | Jn 15:1-8

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

“Where do they get their energy!” Maybe you’ve said that about your children as they run around the yard while you’re trying to wrangle them inside for bedtime. Jokes abound about how sugar and caffeine are what keep most adults going, but we know it’s proper nutrition, exercise, and rest that enable us to do well whatever it is we do. That is all relevant to us physically. What about spiritually? Bishop Barron, writing on the Gospel, says, “Jesus declares that he is the vine and we are the branches. He is the power and energy source in which we live.” (*Word on Fire Bible*, 548) Just as we see the effects of sugar and caffeine on people, we see the supernatural effects of Jesus’ love on, and in, people. As he nurtures us with his perfect love, and that flows into us who are grafted onto him, it changes us. It transforms us and converts us away from sin and toward God. We fill up on that spiritual fuel in the sacramental life of the Church and become a witness to it in how we go about our days – loving one another.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” These words from John in our second reading provide the perfect bridge between the ministry of Paul, about whom we heard in the first reading, and Christ’s message in the Gospel. With Jesus as “the power and energy source in which we live,” we not only can profess the truth, but live it. We not only give our own account of Christ working in us, as Paul did, who came to them speaking out “boldly in the name of the Lord,” but we stand beside one another, as Barnabas did, vouching for Paul to the Apostles. We are united in baptism, in love, in profession of faith, and in communion with one another. When we consistently act in a Christian manner toward others and keep God’s commandments, John says, we “remain in him, and he in [us], and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.” In other words, those who remain in Christ “will bear much fruit” – a tangible sign that easily answers the question, “where does he/she get her energy?”

PRAY Is there anything in your life that is an obstacle to Jesus being the power and energy source in which you live? Are your days fueled more by anger, frustration, or ambition than his love? Pray this week in thanksgiving to God for where he has given you conversion of heart, and ask him for the grace to see where improvement is needed and the will to make it happen.

Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

www.ascensionsaratoga.org

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

(Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p
(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Confessions (Sat) 4:00-4:45pm

Living the Truth

Saul of Tarsus, formerly waging a war against Christianity, seeks to join the ranks of the enemy in whole-souled conversion to Christ. What made this transformation possible? Paul himself, frankly. His witness to Christ went from a matter of words to deeds. He testified not with his lips but with the sacrifice of his life that he meant what he said when he proclaimed: "Jesus is Lord." The evangelist John exhorts his community to move in the same direction, not simply to talk a good game but to live what they profess. It remains the ideal of Christian life to demonstrate the reality of our love and not simply to mouth the words in church. *Preparetheword.com*

Pray for Our First Communicants

First Communion Mass: April 28 at the 9:00 am Mass.

Lord, may this day be the step toward a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship. May their hands, extended in anticipation of your body and blood, inspire all of us to cherish this sacred Sacrament. Amen.

Marian Devotions in May

- **May 4, Saturday, 9:30am** (after the 9am Mass)

Rosary Prayer in Church, followed by a Procession to the Marian Shrine. We also pray the Rosary every Saturday after the 9:00am Mass.

- **May 5, Sunday, 10:00am** (follows the 9:00am Mass)

Crowning of Mary and praying the Rosary with children at the Marian Shrine.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

April 28

This appeal supports 85 Latin and Eastern Catholic dioceses in the US. It funds evangelization, faith formation, the maintenance of mission parishes, the training of seminarians and laity, etc.

ADA Continues

Although we surpassed our goal a few weeks ago at 114% thanks to 121 pledges, the appeal continues.

Additional funds will return to Ascension and be earmarked for the **Terrace**

Project in front of the church. Thank you!



WEEKLY OFFERING - APRIL 21

-\$8,234 (baskets: \$5,999 - including a \$3,000 gift; online: \$2,235). Goal: \$6,500.

-Diocesan Retired Priests: **\$2,916**.

-Easter (latest): **\$10,333**.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Apr 27	Sat	05 pm	George & Josephine Chrisman +
Apr 28	Sun	09 am	The O'Neal Family
		05 pm	Mary Lucas (L)
Apr 30	Tue	08 am	The McKeever Family
May 02	Thu	08 am	Walter Whelan (L)
May 03	Fri	08 am	Maria Socorro Gimarino +
May 04	Sat	09 am	Faith Legaspi Summers +

Catechists Needed....

Why you?

*In catechetical ministry, you will grow in your own faith, explore the treasures of the Scripture and church teachings, and deepen your relationship with Jesus.

*Children and teens in today's world, more than ever, need to know and believe in Jesus who is the Good News.

*You'll be helping our young Church deepen their relationship with Jesus.

*It's our job since our baptism. Jesus sent us to "go and teach all nations" before he ascended into heaven (the name of our parish: Church of the Ascension).

If not you, then who?

Come and explore the catechetical ministry (faith formation) on **Saturday, June 8 from 9:30-10:30 am** in church.

**Our Youth
Need
You!**



60 Years & Counting...

You are invited to join us for the **Closing Mass** of Our Parish **60th Jubilee Year** with the **Confirmation Rite** for youths from neighboring parishes on **Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 5:00 pm**.

Bishop Cantú is presiding, with three former pastors and other priests concelebrating.

Social Hour in Worner Hall with appetizers and beverages

to follow after Mass.

Tickets are free. After May 3rd, the cost is \$5 per ticket.

This enables us to buy additional food and beverages.

You must present your ticket at the door. If you are later unable to join us, please give your ticket to a parishioner who can attend.



Welcome & Hospitality: A Way of Life

Our Church of the Ascension is a small but welcoming community. We should continue this tradition. Moreover, the welcome and hospitality should be more than a friendly greeting or smile.

It should be shown before, during, and after the liturgical celebration - in the parking lot, in other settings and circumstances.

It should be shown to strangers who come to us. "Hospitality" derives from the Latin *hospes*, meaning "host", "guest", or "stranger". *Hospes* is formed from *hostis*, which means "stranger" or "enemy" (the latter being where terms like "hostile" derive) (Source: Wikipedia.com).

Hospitality should be our Way of Life.

Hospitality is even part of our Evangelization mission:

"Clearly, the foundation to any evangelizing efforts needs to be creating more welcoming parish communities."

Our Diocese is assisting parishes in offering welcome and hospitality as part of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Stay tuned.