



May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7 | 1 Pt 2:4-9 | Jn 14:1-12

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

When the needs of ministry became overwhelming, the Apostles did not say they would sleep less or pray less in order to have more time to serve others. Instead, they appointed leaders from the community to help so they could continue to devote themselves to prayer and preaching. This reminds me of a story I read about Saint Teresa of Calcutta, in which the sisters of the Missionaries of Charity asked to be excused from the mandatory daily Holy Hour because the needs of the poor were so overwhelming. Saint Teresa is said to have responded that the sisters should then spend not one, but two hours in prayer each day. She knew that the foundation of a life of service was a life of prayer. We are asked in all that we do to rely not on our own abilities, but to humbly recognize that all we have to give comes from God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The cornerstone of our lives – the piece that gives strength to everything else that grows within us – is our relationship with God. The works of our vocation are meant to flow from that relationship. And so coming to know Jesus through prayer is at the core of serving others. In my vocation as a wife and mother, I sometimes get consumed in completing tasks and only realize at the end of the day that I have not prayed. But even Christ, the Son of God, tells us in the Gospel that “the Father who dwells in me is doing his works.” Life in the Trinity means that the love of the Father flows through the Son. If Jesus does not rely on his own being to preach and serve, I certainly cannot respond to God’s call to love my family apart from him. As we complete the daily tasks of our vocations, we must remember that the ultimate call of a life of holiness is to allow God’s love to flow forth through us.

PRAY

This week, consider how you can develop or strengthen a habit of prayer as the first act of your day. You might be able to pray in silence, or you might choose to incorporate prayer into the activity of your morning. However you are able to establish this routine, be intentional about how you recognize prayer as the cornerstone of all that you do.

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

Appointed to the Task

We see them in some of our parishes standing near the presider at Mass: men dressed sort of like priests but with a diagonal or odd-looking stole. What are deacons for, we may wonder? Deacons assist priests in visiting the sick and provide service in the parish community. They can preach, witness marriages, perform Baptisms, and preside at funeral services outside of Mass. While they're ordained clergy, they may also be married and serve without pay. The permanent diaconate is a special call for those "filled with the Spirit and wisdom."

-*Takefiveforfaith.com*

Pray for...

-Baby **Aidan Alexander Le Laguisma** who was baptized on Saturday, April 25.

-**Clara** and **Isabel** who receive their First Holy Communion this Sunday at the 9:00am Mass.

Charity Quotes

"If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble." - *Bob Hope*

"A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog, when you are just as hungry as the dog." - *Jack London*

That Everyone Might Have Food

Pope Leo's prayer intention for this month is "That Everyone Might Have Food." He urges Catholics to pray for a culture of solidarity and a responsible lifestyle. The Pope emphasizes the need to transform selfish consumption into a culture of sharing and caring for the earth's gifts.

Special Collections

- **Catholic Charities Appeal** (May 10) supports over 30 programs, including emergency relief, food, housing, and immigration services for thousands of children, families, and seniors.

- **Ascension's Building Fund** (May 17) helps defray the expenses of an overdue maintenance work: repainting the exterior of our church and hall (estimated cost: approximately **\$10,000**).

WEEKLY OFFERING - April 26

-Total: **\$5,028** (\$3,672 + online: \$1,356). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: **\$294,555**. Budget: \$285,600.

-Diocesan Retired Priests: **\$3,790**.

Thank you for your generosity.

Consider an **IRA or QCD Contribution**.

MASS INTENTIONS

May 02	Sat	05 pm	Maxine Stice +
May 03	Sun	07 am	Agatha Pao +
		09 am	Geronimo Lapena +
		11 am	Brendan Manley +
		05 pm	Isabella Fiorentino (L)
May 08	Fri	08 am	Carol McLafferty (L)
May 09	Sat	09 am	Lisa Carsteas (L)



Renewed at the Table | of the Lord

In his recent letter, Bishop Cantú recommends some ideas that can help us celebrate the Mass actively and consciously:

Arrive a few minutes early. We do this to quiet our heart. Look at the faces around you and remember this is the Body of Christ.

Bring what is real. We do not come to Mass as blank slates or as fully achieved saints. Come with whatever is true for you this week: joy, exhaustion, anger, grief. Bring it to the Lord in gratitude and petition. The liturgy has room for all of it. Christ is waiting precisely for that.

Lift your voice. God does not ask for professional singers. He asks for prayerful ones. Your voice, however humble, belongs in the song of the Church.

Read the liturgical materials your parish shares. The parish bulletin articles on various parts of the Mass, the diocesan website, and the teachings after Mass, these are your companions on this journey. Let them open the liturgy for you in new ways.

Liturgical Renewal Materials

Weekly articles on different parts of the Mass are available in flyers in church. You can read these articles through the QR code here.



Eucharist Quote

"The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world." - *St. John Paul II*

ADA Is Part of the Campaign This Year

The ADA takes place each February and supports the operations of shared ministries and services that no single parish can sustain on its own. For 2026 only, the ADA is part of the Capital Campaign.

We invite you to discern a sacrificial gift to the Sowing Seeds of Faith campaign. Your gift to this campaign supports the ministries typically funded by the ADA while also helping our parish and diocese bring the Pastoral Plan to life.

Campaign materials are available in church.

Capital Campaign & ADA Report

Pledged to date: **\$473,063 (83% of goal)**.

Thank you to our generous donors!

The **ADA 2026** is part of the "Sowing Seeds of Faith" **Capital Campaign** this year.

We have met the ADA 2026 goal (\$74,000), and currently, **\$199,531**, or 50% of what we have raised so far for the Campaign, returns to Ascension.

The Capital Campaign supports the Pastoral Plan at Ascension and all parishes.