



October 4, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 5:1-7 | Phil 4:6-9 | Mt 21:33-43

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

I enjoy thinking about what it would have been like to hear Jesus' teachings as a first-century Jew. When Jesus calls out the current tenants of the vineyard as being unfaithful, disobedient servants, however, it may have left the crowd feeling a bit anxious. And really, Jesus could say this to each of us at times because, like the wild grapes in the vineyard, when left to our own devices we also have a tendency to fall into sin and produce unsavory fruit. But we also know that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and he wants our lives in his vineyard to be characterized by that peace. Christ is not condemning, but he is the Son sent to call the tenants back into communion with the Father. He does the same with us too. In acts of great mercy, Christ continues to call us again and again – even after we reject him and turn away from him. Through the Church, the sacraments, the intercession of the saints, and the holy men and women who proclaim the Gospel today, God continues to seek us out so we might know the peace of fruitful service in his vineyard.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Christ longs to give us peace that surpasses all of our fears and anxieties, and he does so by inviting us to be good stewards of his created world and the community of believers. He invites us to work in the vineyard – to offer our gifts and talents to bring forth the fruits of love and joy that overflow from the work of the Holy Spirit within us. We do so with the assurance that salvation is not dependent on us. Our Father has sown the seeds and has prepared the vineyard; we are simply called to reap and preserve what he has brought into being. And so we trust in the overwhelming mercy of God and humbly accept the love and communion that we do not deserve.

REFLECT

Just as the landowner sent messengers to the tenants of the vineyard, God sends people to us to proclaim the Gospel. Who are those people in your life who are calling you to a deeper relationship with God? How can you open your heart to hear the message of love and peace that they are proclaiming?

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

Rosary for Peace with Pope Leo

Pope Leo prayed the Rosary with hundreds of children and their families at the Lourdes grotto in the Vatican Gardens on Oct. 1 after he invited Catholics to pray the Rosary in October for peace in the world. "Across the globe, one million children are praying with us," Pope Leo told the children.

Pray the Rosary with Us at Ascension

You are invited to join our youth and their families praying the Rosary for Peace on **October 18 after the 9:00am Mass at the Marian shrine.**

We also pray the Rosary every week in the Chapel right **after the 9:00am Saturday Mass.**

October: Respect Life Month

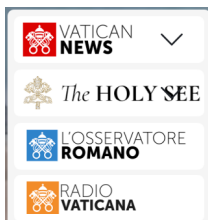
During this month, we reflect on the gift of every human life and how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death. The theme this year for Respect Life Month is *Mary, Mother of Life*.

Holy Father's October Prayer Intention

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

Vatican New Video Widget

Pope Leo XIV invites bishops to embed Vatican News' new video widget in the web pages of dioceses, parishes, etc, which will be updated with latest news and videos. Our website ascensionsaratoga.org now has the Vatican News video widget.



Men's Club

Meeting in-person: Worner Hall/Lounge Room
Friday, October 9 at 6:00pm.

May She Rest in Peace

Yvonne Poncini passed away 9/29. Her funeral services will be Friday, 10/9, at St Leo's, San Jose, starting with 9:30am Rosary. May she rest in peace.

Delayed Sunday Envelopes

There may be a delay in the offering envelope packet delivery. Thank you for your patience.

WEEKLY OFFERING Sept 27

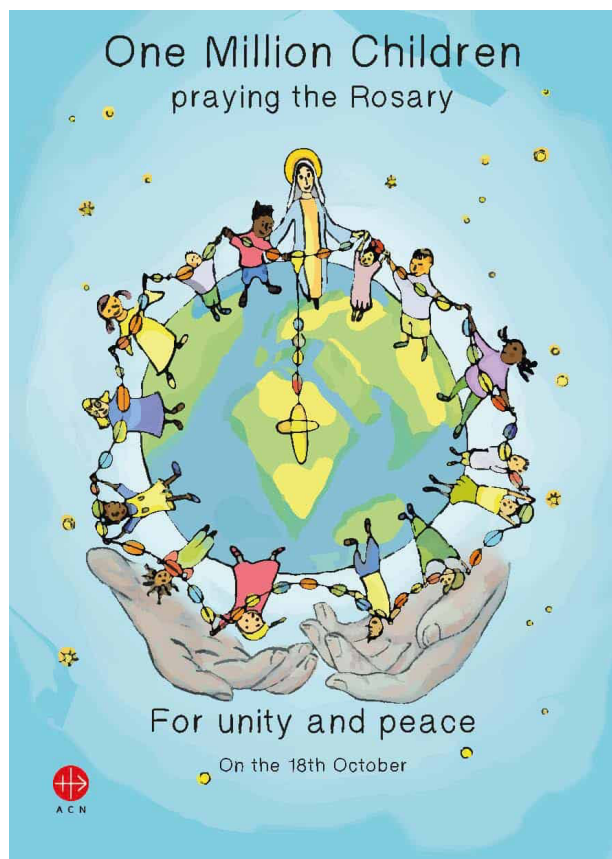
-Total: **\$5,449** (\$4,655 + online: \$794). Goal: \$7,000.

-YTD Sunday: \$72,986. Budget: \$91000.

-Faith Formation: **\$1,215**. Thank you for your support.

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 03	Sat	05 pm	Margot Lenarduzzi (L)
Oct 04	Sun	07 am	Bill Costley +
		09 am	The Weeks Family
		11 am	Anthony Lau +
		05 pm	Ana Karen Sanchez (L)
Oct 10	Sat	09 am	Henry Stolz +



Prayer for the Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi

Saint Francis, our brother,
you who eight hundred years ago
went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace,
intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of
San Damiano, teach us to seek in Him,
the source of all reconciliation
that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines
of war and misunderstanding,
give us the courage to build bridges
where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division,
intercede for us so that we may become
peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses
of the peace that comes from Christ. Amen.

Pope Leo XIV, January 2026

Pope Leo: The Church Needs Artists

Art can become "a form of cultural and spiritual regeneration," when it "resists homogenization, slows the gaze, and compels us to pause before that which refuses to be consumed," Pope Leo said at a meeting on "The Art of Possibility: Weaving Together."