

“It is the hour
now for you
to awake
from sleep.”

(Rom 13:11)



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

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5 | Rom 13:11-14 | Mt 24:37-44

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

For many in the upper latitudes of the northern hemisphere, this is the darkest time of the year, the time when the duration of daylight is at its lowest. It's providential, then, that our first reading calls us to "walk in the light of the Lord!" Paul tells us that we do this by "throw[ing] off the works of darkness" and "put[ing] on the armor of light." While we might not struggle with the vices listed in Paul's Letter to the Romans, each of us has our own struggles against sin. As we begin this Advent season, let us take time to do a thorough examination of conscience to discern areas of weakness and sin – those "works of darkness" Paul talks about – in our own lives. Then, consider taking up practices that help you to foster the opposing virtues to arm yourself against these temptations. As you grow in these virtues, you'll certainly be on your way up the mountain of the Lord and walking in his light!

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's Gospel calls us to vigilance. Jesus tells us, "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." While he is speaking about our need to be ready to meet the Lord when he comes at the end of our lives, it's also an invitation for us to always be ready to share our faith with others whenever the opportunity presents itself. As Scripture says, we should "always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you a reason for your hope." (1 Pet 3:15) We never know the moment when someone will come to us in need of prayer, a word of encouragement, or with questions related to their own spiritual hunger. We must always be ready to meet them where they are and offer a word of hope.

PRAY

Take a moment to pray this week for those "divine appointments" – those individuals who might come your way – seeking encouragement or insight into the spiritual questions in their lives. Ask for the grace to be "awake" so that you're ready to meet them when they come. We can't always predict when these encounters will happen, but we can prepare ourselves to receive these persons as Christ and offer them our full attention and love.

*"Stay awake, ...
be prepared..."
Happy Advent!*

Expect the Unexpected

It may seem strange to talk about Christ's Second Coming when we're just starting to prepare for the celebration of his first. But that's exactly what the scripture readings for the first two Sundays of Advent do; it's not until the third and fourth Sundays that we get to the Incarnation part. "You . . . must be prepared," we hear, "for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." What gives? Why speak of the End at the Beginning? Because in both cases Jesus becomes present to the world. Our task is to be ready to receive that presence, at the beginning and the end and all the time in between.

-Takefiveforfaith.com

Pope's Prayer Intention for December

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Divine Mercy Devotion - Dec. 5

Chaplet and Rosary start at 3:00pm, along with Confessions during the Exposition, then Benediction.

Concerts at Church of the Ascension

Dec. 6, Saturday

1:30pm - 3:30pm:

Ching Ching Chorus Concert



Dec. 13, Saturday

7:30pm - 9:30pm:

Nova Vista Concert

WEEKLY OFFERING - Nov. 23

-Total: \$4,890 (\$3,584 + online: \$1,306). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: \$124,623. Budget: \$142,800.

-Thanksgiving: \$150.

Consider a year-end gift to Ascension.

Thank you for your generosity.

"God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7)

MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 29	Sat	05 pm	For all the faithful departed in our parish
Nov 30	Sun	07 am	Ana Karen Sanchez (L)
		09 am	For all the faithful departed in our parish
		11 am	For all the faithful departed in our parish
		05 pm	Gabrielle Mancuso (L)
Dec 01	Mon	08 am	Jerry Streb +
Dec 02	Tue	08 am	Joseph Fiorentino, Junior (L)
Dec 03	Wed	08 am	Eric Boulanger (L)
Dec 04	Thu	08 am	Marie Firato (L)
Dec 05	Fri	08 am	Theresa Stolz +
Dec 06	Sat	09 am	Joseph Stolz (L)

Advent Gathering with Saint Joseph



Sunday, December 7, 2025 in Worner Hall

9:30 am Mass in Church (**no 9 am & 11 am Masses**)

10:15 am Seating & Welcoming & Blessing of Food

10:25 am Advent Talk #1, followed by short Reflection

10:45 am Table Discussion

11:00 am Break

11:10 am Advent Talk #2, followed by short Reflection

11:30 am Table Discussion

11:45 am Closing Prayer

Families, Spouses, Parents, Young Adults:

This all-parish gathering follows the 9:30 AM Mass (**No 9 am & 11 am Masses on Dec. 7**)

in Worner Hall with a continental breakfast.

Let us gather together as a parish family to hear **how Saint Joseph can help us prepare the way for the coming of Jesus!**

+ Crisis, Compassion, Prudence, Justice.

+ Faithful Protector, Head of Household.

Saint Joseph, Head of the Holy Family, pray for us!

Please sign up using the QR code to help us prepare enough food for the light breakfast.



Dec. 7 Sunday Mass Schedule

7:00 am; 9:30 am (**no 9:00 am & 11:00 am**); **5:00 pm**

Dec. 8 Mass (*Immaculate Conception*)

8:00 am; 7:00 pm.

Advent Reconciliation

Saturday, Dec. 13, from 9:30am to 11am.

In this season of preparation for Christ's coming, come celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our Giving Tree

-**Catholic Charities** relies on your generosity to provide support for families and individuals on their journeys to self-sufficiency. Gift cards make the holidays brighter for Catholic Charities clients.

-The **Layette Program** welcomes infant clothing and other needed items and supplies. This program has been in existence for 70 years in our Diocese! (The Help One Child program is not seeking gifts this season). **Please stop by the Giving Tree** and consider giving a gift. Thank you.

New Altar Server Training

Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9:30am to 11am.

Encourage your child to serve at the altar.