



September 22, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 2:12, 17-20 | Jas 3:16—4:3 | Mk 9:30-37

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

How often does ambition get in the way of holiness? In today's Gospel, Jesus foretells his death, and the Apostles respond by arguing over who among them is most important. But the Apostles' aspirations and motivation stand in stark contrast to the humility necessary for discipleship; their lack of understanding signals a need for instruction. "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all," Jesus explains. Those who follow him are to be humble peacemakers who serve others instead of seeking power and accolades. We are to model Jesus, who humbled himself to the point of death on a cross! (Cf., Phil 2:8) Having goals and ambitions is not a bad thing, but they must grow from the seeds of virtue (humility, charity, faith, and hope) rather than as spores of sin (pride, opportunism, and greed). As James wrote in our second reading, "Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits." Seeking to serve, rather than be served, then, is the hallmark of faith well-lived.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me." The path of humility Jesus models for us is not just one of compassion and kindness, but one which allows us to grow in relationship with the Lord. As we serve and attend to each other, we embrace God who dwells within each of us and in whose image we are made. We become more like him in following his example. If we cultivate the virtues of humility, charity, faith, and hope in ourselves by practicing them with our families and friends, we will become souls steeped in God's peace. Furthermore, our peace will be unshakeable because it will not be based on our emotions but on our faith in God's love. "Behold, God is my helper," our responsorial psalm declares. "The Lord sustains my life." If I am convinced that God sustains my life, what do I have to fear?

### 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

**PRAY** We can't live in peace if we don't turn to God to guide us in peace. This week take 15 minutes every day to pray for peace – in your life, in your family, in our nation, and in the world. When you hear news of war and conflict, take a minute to recite a prayer for peace in the hearts of all those involved.

## Let the Good News Resound

Religion is often reduced to its most visible aspect: Sunday worship. But the church's ministry includes service, evangelization, healing, and teaching. On Catechetical Sunday (celebrated 9/29 in our parish) we celebrate our call to educate and instruct. "Catechize" means to echo or resound. Saint Paul once modeled for the Corinthians this task of "re-sounding" the Good News when he wrote: "I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you." Does your Catholic faith steer you when making decisions and weighing values? Does it bring consolation? Does it challenge you to sacrifice? Echo these riches to those you love. - *Preparetheword.com*

## Blessing of Catechists

Sept. 29 at 9am Mass

This year our parish celebrates Catechetical Sunday on Sept. 29. It is a day to recognize the our catechists' contribution and also to

recommit ourselves to the mission of handing on the faith to the next generation.

This year's theme is: "Lord, when did we see you hungry" (Mt 25:37). Our theme reflects our call to missionary discipleship. As St John Paul II reminded us: Every member of the faithful is called to holiness and to mission. We are called to be eucharist people by word and action to our brothers and sisters in Christ.



## Youth Faith Formation Needs You!

Youth Faith Formation began last Sunday. It's not too late to enroll your child/ren, please complete the

**Registration Form** (click "Youth Faith Formation" on our parish website [ascensionsaratoga.org](http://ascensionsaratoga.org)).

We are still looking for **volunteers** to help (teaching, free lending library, setup/clean-up, special projects, events). It's a unique way to serve, while also growing in your faith! Please contact **Sharlene** at 408-725-3939 or [Sharlene.Pereira@dsj.org](mailto:Sharlene.Pereira@dsj.org).

## Faith Formation Special Collection

Sept. 28 - 29



This semi-annual collection will benefit our Youth Faith Formation.

For online giving, scan the QR code, click the "Welcome" box, then the drop down menu. Thank you.

## WEEKLY OFFERING - SEPTEMBER 15

-\$6,237 (basket: \$5,072; online: \$1,165). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: \$60,087. Budget: \$71,500.

Thank you for your generosity.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sept 21	Sat	05 pm	Fr. Rey Sarmiento (L)
Sept 22	Sun	09 am	The Maraschin Family
Sept 23	Mon	08 am	Dina Rendic & Cesar Munita +
Sept 24	Tue	08 am	The Gerrard Family

## Good Stewards - Part III

Stewards of God's gifts are not passive beneficiaries. We cooperate with God in our own redemption and in the redemption of others. We are also obliged to be stewards of the Church—collaborators and cooperators in continuing the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, which is the Church's essential mission. This mission—proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying—is our task. It is the personal responsibility of each one of us as stewards of the Church. All members of the Church have their own roles to play in carrying out its mission. - *USCCB.org*

## Stewards in Action

Ascension needs your Time and Talent. Please consider serving our parish. Take home a pamphlet from the church's pews, or download it from [ascensionsaratoga.org](http://ascensionsaratoga.org).

## Photo Sessions for Parish Jubilee Book

We plan to publish the Parish Jubilee Book. Please sign up for the photo sessions on **Oct. 5** (Saturday) or **Oct. 13** (Sunday) from **10am to 2pm** in the hall classrooms.

**Sign up on our website [ascensionsaratoga.org](http://ascensionsaratoga.org).**

**Costs:** \$25 per individual photo, \$35 per photo with two persons or more. You will receive a 5"x7" photo print on-site, and a Jubilee Book for \$10 (50% discount) when it's finished.

## Parish Jubilee Book

- Be a **Hospitality volunteer** at the photo sessions on Oct. 5 (Saturday) or Oct. 13 (Sunday) from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Details are in the QR code on the side >

- **Help with editing, layout, coordination**, etc.

*Sign up in church at the table near the main entrance.*



## Towards a Marriage Catechumenate

Join Marriage and Family Ministry leaders from parishes and movements in our Diocese for a day of fellowship, learning, and collaboration with special guest and founder of Witness to Love, Ryan Verret. Ryan will share reflections on building evangelizing spouses and guiding us towards what a marriage catechumenate would look like. If you are interested, please let Fr. Hao know the sooner the better.

Event date: Saturday, October 19, 2024

Time: 8:30am-1:30pm

Lunch will be provided.

## Elections 2024

"We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true. Good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that [leaders] can govern."

— Pope Francis

### ELECTION RESOURCES

- California Catholic Conference.
- US Conference of Catholic Bishops.



## Root Causes of Migration

Sept. 24 - World Day for Migrants and Refugees

On the occasion of the World Day for Migrants and Refugees, Bishop Mark J. Seitz, chairman of the US Bishops Committee on Migration, invites viewers to think about the root causes of migration. Resources and information may be found at [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).