

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



August 2, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:1-3 | Rom 8:35, 37-39 | Mt 14:13-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

In one of the best homilies I ever heard on today's Gospel, the homilist pointed out that the Lord had seemingly "over-multiplied" the loaves and fish. The crowds had eaten to the point of satisfaction, and yet there were twelve baskets of leftovers remaining. "Why so many leftovers? Did the Lord not know how to count?" He asked jokingly, of course. But the point the homilist went on to share that day was that with God, there is always abundance. God doesn't simply provide the bare minimum of what we need for *survival*; the Scriptures tell us that he provides "rich fare" that will "satisfy the desire of every living thing." As we reflect on today's readings, let us not question the Lord's ways, but trust in the abundant generosity of God that satisfies all our needs.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Moments in which God provides for our every need strengthen our faith in him. Yet when difficulties come, we know that God never abandons us. Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans speaks about the unshakable confidence Paul has in God's love for us, despite the difficulties (including shipwreck, beatings, and imprisonment) he endured: "What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?" "No," he says. Nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus." Take stock of times in your life when God's providence has carried you through difficult times. Consider ways you can share these moments with others as part of your testimony. When our faith rests on a deep awareness of God's faithful love in our lives, we will be able to bear a compelling witness of his goodness to others.

ACCOMPANIMENT

In the Gospel, God shows his loving care by providing for the needs of his people in practical ways. Consider one way you might be able to accompany others going through periods of challenge or trial by providing practical help. This might look like preparing a meal for a new mom in the throes of postpartum, helping with yardwork for a fellow parishioner recovering from surgery, or helping gather classroom supplies for a teacher serving in an impoverished district. In these simple yet concrete ways, we manifest the abundance of God's care and concern for each and every person.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention - August

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

Adoration & Divine Mercy - August 7

You are invited to the 8am Mass and Eucharistic Adoration every First Friday from 8:30am to 3:00pm, followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction. Though drop-ins are welcome, we encourage you to **sign up in church** to ensure that at least two adorers are present at all times.

Life-Giving Presence

In a meeting with Queen Camilla in London July 15, representatives of the women religious orders shared how Catholic Sisters worldwide protect vulnerable women and girls through their work against human trafficking, in conflict zones, and in communities affected by climate change.

Dr. Anabel Inge, interim chargé d'affaires at the British Embassy to the Holy See, praised the Sisters' courageous witness, "I have had the distinct impression that this work is often done very quietly, without fanfare, with great humility and in some of the world's most difficult places."

She pointed to the qualities that distinguish their ministry, "They are embedded in local communities... they will stick around even during conflicts, frequently putting themselves at great personal risk."

- *Vaticannews.va*

Collection for Church in Africa - Aug 9

Your donation to the Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa next Sunday will support the pastoral work and growth of the Church in Africa. Funded projects include outreach programs, schools, evangelization and education of clergy and lay ministers. Thank you for your generosity.

WEEKLY OFFERING - July 26

-Total: **\$5,229** (\$4,024 + online: \$1,205). Goal: \$7,000.

-YTD Sunday: \$21,716. Budget: \$28,000.

Fiscal year started July 1 with \$7,000 weekly goal.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 01	Sat	05 pm	Jerome T. Dao +
Aug 02	Sun	07 am	Ana Karen Sanchez (L)
		09 am	May Leong +
		11 am	Wai Ping Leung +
		05 pm	Gary Andrew Graves +
Aug 03	Mon	08 am	Thomas Dien & Monica Than Tran +
Aug 05	Wed	08 am	Ken & Jennifer McKeever (L)
Aug 07	Fri	08 am	The Wong Family
Aug 08	Sat	09 am	Henry Stolz +

At the 60th Anniversary of Ascension Parish, we gave thanks to the Lord for our faith community and we have since continued our journey in response to the call to deepen our faith and service.

**Pastoral
Plan at
Ascension**

These two years we have offered various activities and ministries to grow and serve the community, such as Advent Gatherings, Retreats, Sunrise with Jesus, Alpha Course, Divine Mercy, Ministry to the Homebound, Hospitality Team, Young Adults, Parish Leadership Team, Liturgy Team, etc.. Our Mass attendance increased 9.7% in the October 2025 count compared to 2024. These are encouraging signs.

In addition, we have been blessed with a successful Sowing the Seeds of Faith capital campaign, achieving 128% of our goal so far, and we are still raising funds for the Terrace Project, which has nearly reached \$30,000.

Missionary Disciples

Yet a parish is not solely about numbers. Genuine success is not just about increasing attendance, adding more activities, or achieving balanced budgets; it is about personal transformations and engaged discipleship. Pope Francis has challenged us to become **missionary disciples**, leading more people to Christ. We do not limit ourselves to the question, "What do our members seek or need?" but also explore, "How can we reach out to those who are not at the table of the Lord?" This is what the Spiritual Renewal in the Pastoral Plan of our Diocese is about: our renewed faith and mission.

Discipleship Pathway

To reach this goal, our parish establishes a discipleship pathway that integrates word, worship, and witness.

Word: To assist individuals in immersing themselves in the Gospel and experiencing the richness of our Catholic Faith.

Worship: To make Sunday Mass the highlight of the week, facilitating a personal encounter with Christ in the Eucharist and through prayer.

Witness: To inspire individuals to embody their faith in their daily lives, serving others and sharing the Good News.

This pathway engages all the faithful: youth, adults, parents, single individuals. This model of discipleship formation aligns with our Parish's pastoral goals: Worship, Family, and Youth and Young Adults.

Stay tuned for more details coming next week.

