

## 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



April 13, 2025

## Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Is 50:4-7 | Phil 2:6-11 | Lk 22:14—23:56

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

More than any other time of year, we are able to follow the actual events of Jesus' life this week according to the sequence in which they occurred. Today's procession with palms honors his entry into Jerusalem, where he would prepare to celebrate the Passover with his disciples. We can imagine Jesus spending the subsequent days preaching in the Temple and the nights conversing with his Father in prayer. Then, on Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper will inaugurate the Triduum, the time which commemorates Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. The Church places these events before our eyes each year as an invitation to enter as fully as possible into Jesus' mind and heart during Holy Week. Even if we regret not being more faithful to the goals we established at the beginning of Lent, we can still seize the opportunity of this week to accompany Jesus as he prepares to die for love of us.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

The crowds of followers who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem triumphantly today will be silent by Friday. Among his closest disciples, all will fall asleep during his prayer of agony on the Mount of Olives. Peter himself, who says on Holy Thursday, "I am prepared to go to prison and to die with you," will deny three times that he knew Jesus. The chief priests and scribes (who, one would think, should have recognized the Messiah) will deliver him to Pilate to be crucified. In each of these examples, love for Jesus (or, in the case of the priests and scribes, fidelity to God) is tested and found wanting during Holy Week. Of course, we know that Jesus still proceeded to die so that salvation would be available to *all* of these people. He likewise made it possible for every future generation – including our own – to return to him in moments when we find our own love wanting. We do this by turning away from sin and seeking his forgiveness, especially in the sacrament of confession. Therefore, let us, who have acclaimed Jesus as king today, keep him as king of our hearts – not only this week, but every day of our lives.

### **WORSHIP**

Rich in solemnity and symbolism, the Triduum liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday allow us to accompany Jesus during these difficult days and express to him our love. Try to attend as many of these liturgies as your schedule allows and enter fully into Jesus' experience of Holy Week this year.

## His Kingdom Is Not of This World

Luke's Passion story doesn't mention palms. Instead, it talks about the crowd spreading their cloaks. Only John's gospel refers to palms. Mark and Matthew speak of branches. What's going on? Laying down a cloak—the most valuable piece of clothing a person in the ancient world owned—was an act of homage, treatment for a king. Branches recall the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple described in the Books of Maccabees, treatment for a messiah. Jesus was a king and messiah but to walk with him toward his Passion is to embrace the fact that his Kingdom is a place of humility and sacrifice. *Takefiveforfaith.com*

## The Nicene Creed:

### *an Expression of Christian Identity*

On May 20, the Christian world will commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the opening of the first ecumenical council, held in Nicea in 325, which has gone down in history primarily on account of the Creed, which brings together, defines, and proclaims the faith in salvation in Jesus Christ and in the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Later completed by the Council of Constantinople in 381, the Nicene Creed became in practice the identity card of the professed faith of the Church (VaticanNews.va). This Holy Week, let us contemplate Christ Jesus, *"For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures."*

## Soup Supper on Good Friday

You are invited to a Soup Supper on Good Friday, April 18, at 6pm in the Hall Classrooms. Two soups and a side pasta dish will be served. We ask those who attend the soup supper to bring a few portions of bread. Any monetary donations will be sent to our local Loaves & Fishes Kitchen, an organization that feeds hungry and homeless families and individuals throughout our Bay Area.

### WEEKLY OFFERING - APRIL 6

-Total **\$6,939** (\$3,964 + online: \$2,975). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: \$255,591. Budget: \$260,000.

-Special donation: **\$2,000**.

Thank you for your generosity.

### MASS INTENTIONS

|        |     |       |                                 |
|--------|-----|-------|---------------------------------|
| Apr 12 | Sat | 05 pm | Crislucia Borromeo +            |
| Apr 13 | Sun | 07 am | The Gerrard Family              |
|        |     | 09 am | Fr. Rey Sarmiento +             |
|        |     | 11 am | Raymund Zulueta +               |
|        |     | 05 pm | Mercedes & Ricardo Fuenzalida + |
| Apr 14 | Mon | 08 am | Viet Nguyen +                   |
| Apr 15 | Tue | 08 am | Rose Whelan +                   |
| Apr 16 | Wed | 08 am | Fr. Hao Dinh (L)                |

## Holy Week Schedule

### Passion/Palm Sunday

(Sat) 5pm (Sun) 7am, 9am, 11am, 5pm

### Holy Thursday

7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Altar of Repose in Worner Hall til 10pm

### Good Friday

12:00pm Passion of the Lord Service

1:30pm Stations of the Cross

7:30pm Passion of the Lord Service

### Holy Saturday

8:30pm Easter Vigil with Initiation Sacraments (no Confessions, no other Masses)

### Easter Sunday

7am, 9am, 11am, 5pm.

## Easter Vigil Celebration

### Initiation through Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist

- Isabella Ramirez - Lin Takashima

### Reception into the Catholic Church

(through Confirmation and Eucharist)

- Gen Takashima

### Children Baptism

- Ema Takashima - Hana Takashima.

Let us pray for them and support them in their journey of faith, and pray for our community as well.

## Faces of the Gospels:

### The Good Thief

To celebrate Easter, Vatican News is re-introducing an 18-episode series.

Released originally at Easter in 2022, it features Pope Francis narrating and reflecting on key encounters in Jesus' life: Matthew, Simon, Judas, etc.



## Formed.org for Holy Week

Take a meaningful journey through Scripture from Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday. Discover the significance of Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the story behind him cursing a fig tree, the

deep meaning of the "blood and water" that flowed from Christ's side, and so much more. The Formed website is operated by the Augustine Institute. For free access, enter: ascension (or 95070)



## Easter Egg Hunt with Coffee & Donuts

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

at 10 am (after the 9am Mass)

on the lawn in front of the church.

Sponsored by the Fil-Am organization.

The egg has long been a symbol of renewal and rebirth during pre-Christian spring celebrations. When it comes to the Easter egg, early Christians redefined its meaning, associating it with the Resurrection of Jesus. They saw the egg as a representation of the tomb from which Christ emerged, marking a powerful symbol of new life.

