



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

October 13, 2024

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 7:7-11 | Heb 4:12-13 | Mk 10:17-30

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

All this talk about wisdom in today's readings ... why should we care? Born of a familiarity with the heart of God, wisdom is a virtue that grants us discernment to know right from wrong and to follow God's plan. It is so important to the life of the disciple that it is a gift given to us by the Holy Spirit. In our first reading from – notice – the *Book of Wisdom*, the author, likely expressing the sentiments of King Solomon, praises and esteems wisdom above everything else. Prized over money, health, or beauty, wisdom brings together “all good things.” If wisdom is so valuable, we must follow Solomon's lead and seek it. Where do we find wisdom? In the second reading from Hebrews, we learn that we can seek wisdom in the word of God. God's word penetrates “between soul and spirit” and is “able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.” Therefore, immersing ourselves in God's word allows us to discern between right and wrong and choose the path most pleasing to God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We become familiar with God's word by reading Scripture and by turning to him in prayer. Prayer, Scripture, and the sacraments are living encounters with Jesus through which we get to know the wisdom of his heart. Still, we are faced with many distractions along the way. What distracts us? Like the rich man in our Gospel, are we distracted by wealth? Or does our desire for health or beauty keep us from the wisdom of God? Although countless temptations in our world can draw us away from pursuing God's wisdom, if we remain close to God, we invite him to help us in our weakness. As Jesus assures his disciples in the Gospel, we can be confident in God's help: “For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God.” If we seek him and place our trust in him, our lives will begin to reflect his wisdom and communicate it to the world.

ACT Like Solomon, we, too, can pray for wisdom. Read Scripture prayerfully, asking God to help you understand his Word and grant you the gift of wisdom. When you come across Scripture verses that are especially meaningful to you, write them out and put them in prominent places in your home. This will help you keep God's word ever before you.

Wisdom for All Ages

In parts, the Book of Wisdom is written as if King Solomon is the speaker, although his name appears nowhere in the text, and in fact, the book was written only about 50 years before the birth of Jesus. Wisdom belongs to the Apocrypha, which are seven Old Testament books that are accepted by Catholics but not Protestants. While it may seem ironic that there's some fuzziness about Wisdom, the writing itself provides poetic clarity by personifying wisdom with characteristics of God, reminding us who is the final arbiter. Dip into this wise book for a few moments today. - Preparetheword.com

Our Catechists' Service Milestones

Ms. Ann Liebmann - 45 years
Ms. Sharlene Pereira - 20 years
Ms. Purita Belmonte - 15 years
Ms. Arlene Hernandez Quioque - 10 years
Mr. George Tony Moreno - 10 years.

God bless them for their ministry to our youth or adults.

Novena for Mental Health - Oct. 10-16

This novena, starting on Oct. 10, World Mental Health Day, is part of the US National Catholic Mental Health Campaign. Though the novena already began, you can pray for them any day, using the novena at uscbb.org/mental-health-novena.

Wedding at Ascension

Congratulations to Vivian & Ben Nguyen, who celebrated their wedding at Ascension Church on Oct. 5. May the Lord continue to bless and guide them in their journey together.

R.I.P.

Let us keep in our prayer Heather Opperman, who passed away on Aug. 25. Her Memorial Mass was on Saturday, Oct. 12, at Ascension. May she rest in peace.

Young Adult Assembly

On Sept. 21, 2024, at Archbishop Mitty High School, nearly 200 young adults across the Diocese of San José came together for a day of listening and reflection. Guided by Bishop Cantú and diocesan leaders, the assembly sought to listen to and engage young adults in order to draw them more fully into the heart of the Church. It was a memorable day with palpable energy.

Collection for World Mission - Oct. 20

In 1926 Pope Pius XI instituted Mission Sunday for the whole Church with the first World Mission collection in October 1927. World Mission is celebrated as the feast of catholicity and solidarity, and helps us recognize our common responsibility with regard to the evangelization of the world.

WEEKLY OFFERING - OCTOBER 6

-\$5,719 (basket: \$2,901; online: \$2,818). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: \$75,550. Budget: \$91,000.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 12	Sat	05 pm	Fr. Rey Sarmiento (L)
Oct 13	Sun	05 pm	Richard Firato +
Oct 14	Mon	08 am	Natalie McKeever (L)
Oct 15	Tue	08 am	Evan & Lauren Weeks (L)
Oct 16	Wed	08 am	The Gerrard Family
Oct 17	Thu	08 am	Carol McLafferty (L)
Oct 18	Fri	08 am	The Firato Family
Oct 19	Sat	09 am	Mercedes & Ricardo Fuenzalida +

Christian Initiation at Ascension - Oct. 13

For some time now, we've welcomed and have been gathering with two "inquirers" (ones who have not been baptized) and a baptized "candidate;" all seeking to be full members of the Catholic Church.

At the 9am Sunday Mass (Oct. 13), our liturgy begins with their first public affirmation of their desire to take the next step as they proceed to what is called the Order of Catechumens. This is the Rite of Acceptance for the unbaptized and the Rite of Welcoming is for the baptized.

After being marked with sign of the cross on their foreheads and senses, they'll each receive a cross. A Catholic bible will be placed into their hands.

In the course of their journey ahead, led by their catechist, they will be intentionally dismissed after the Liturgy of the Word to further reflect on God's Word until they will be fully received into the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church, by the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Let us all pray for their continued conversion to God.

Adult Confirmation

Are you an adult having received the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist but not Confirmation? We can help you prepare for Confirmation. Contact Fr. Hao, or Arlene/Tony at 408-725-3939 the sooner the better.

Another Photo Session

Oct. 23, Wednesday, from 1pm—3pm, in the Classrooms.

Walk-ins are welcome. Or sign up at AscensionSaratoga.org.

The first 100 sign-ups will be given a \$10 discount:

\$15 (instead of \$25) per individual photo, \$25 (instead of \$35) per photo with two persons or more. You will get a 5"x7" photo print on-site, and a Jubilee Book for \$10 (50% discount) later.

Stewards in Action

Ascension needs your Time and Talent. Please consider serving our parish in some way. Take home a pamphlet from the church's pews, or download from ascensionsaratoga.org.

Americans with No Address

"Americans with No Address" is a powerful 90-minute documentary highlighting 20 major cities facing various rates of homelessness. It is a documentary seeking to give context to the upcoming drama film "No Address."

The film producers wanted us to have an accurate understanding of what US homelessness truly looked like. They were interested in what solutions have been implemented and proven to show positive changes.

Bishop's Christmas Card Contest

Children grades Kindergarten to 5th Grade that are currently enrolled in a Parish Faith Formation or a Catholic School in our Diocese are invited to participate. The theme for this year's Christmas cards is "The Holy Family Radiates Love." The deadline to submit entry is **Oct. 13** to Sharlene, Faith Formation Coordinator, or **Oct. 21**, if you send the entry directly to the Diocese of San Jose. For details, visit AscensionSaratoga.org.

Rocktoberfest

Featuring BootLeg & Rock Candy concert, games, beer garden bar, food concessions

Oct. 19, 24 from 6:00pm. Tickets: \$40.

Sacred Heart Parish, Saratoga

For tickets: visit parish.sacredheartsaratoga.org