

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



June 28, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a | Rom 6:3-4, 8-11 | Mt 10:37-42

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

In today's Gospel, Christ tells the Apostles of the rewards given to those who welcome his disciples. He reminds us that God sees and values any support offered to those whom he sends to proclaim his word. While we're accustomed to receiving a reward that is proportional to the effort required for that task, God provides a generous reward for even the simplest acts (showing hospitality, offering a cup of cold water). The reward offered is not based on the grandeur of our action, but on the goodness of God who generously blesses our small acts of faithfulness. Christ preaches of this same concept when he describes the poor widow's offering of two coins in the Gospels of Mark and Luke (Mk 12:41-44, Lk 21:1-4). Jesus did not judge the monetary value of the two coins; he saw only the sacrifice and generosity that was communicated by the gesture. We can trust in the overwhelming grace of the Father that even the smallest gift we offer to him is worthy of a great reward.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In the first reading, a woman generously offers lodging for the prophet Elisha. She saw Elisha's need, knew that he was a holy man, and used the gifts and resources she had to support him in his sacred work. We are also called to generously support and encourage the ways in which our brothers and sisters are leading others to Christ. In other words, we are called to accompany our fellow disciples, whether they need a listening ear or a simple acknowledgment of their efforts. Because each baptized person shares in the mission of spreading the faith, every action we do to support one another is also supportive of this essential task of discipleship. As we begin to walk alongside other disciples, we pray that our witness manifests God's love at work in the world and brings many closer to him.

PRAY

Our Scriptures today invite us to consider how we can support and accompany our fellow disciples: "Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple ... will surely not lose his reward." One of the simplest ways we can offer support is to pray for one another, asking for the grace to be faithful to the Lord and to our efforts to share our faith with others. Even a simple, heartfelt prayer for one another will not go unnoticed by the Lord.



America 250

God our Father, giver of life,
we entrust the United States
of America to your loving care.

You are the rock on which this nation was founded.
You alone are the true source of our cherished rights
to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Pope Leo XIV to Receive Liberty Medal



Pope Leo will send his greetings to Philadelphia during our nation's 250th birthday celebration as he accepts the National Constitution Center's prestigious Liberty Medal on July 3.

The 38th annual Liberty Medal will be awarded to Pope Leo for his lifelong work promoting religious liberty, freedom of conscience, and dignified human freedom around the world.



America 250 Video Series

Marking the 250th anniversary of this nation, Catholic Current Podcasts presents a series of episodes on the contributions of Catholics to the US.



US Consecration to Sacred Heart (video)

US Bishops consecrated the nation to the Sacred Heart on June 11. The video (QR) highlights the Mass with the consecration entrusting the nation

to the Sacred Heart's merciful love.

R.I.P. Thelma Werneburg, a founding parishioner of Ascension, passed away June 21 and will be interred on June 29. May she rest in peace.

Peter's Pence for Holy Father - June 28

This collection enables the Holy Father to respond with emergency financial assistance to requests to aid those who suffer as a result of war, oppression, and natural disasters.

WEEKLY OFFERING - June 21

-Total: **\$5,961** (\$3,716 + online: \$2,245). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: \$340,473. Budget: \$340,000.

Thank you for your generosity.

Consider an **IRA or QCD Contribution**.

MASS INTENTIONS

Jun 27	Sat	05 pm	Louise Harpham (L)
Jun 28	Sun	07 am	John Miller +
		09 am	Thelma Werneburg +
Jun 29	Mon	08 am	Thelma Werneburg +
Jun 30	Tue	08 am	Scott Burley (L)
Jul 01	Wed	08 am	Carlo Santiago +
Jul 02	Thu	08 am	John Belinger +
Jul 03	Fri	08 am	Douglas Weins +
Jul 04	Sat	09 am	Ken & Jennifer McKeever (L)

Presidential Message on Bishops' US Consecration to Sacred Heart

The US President called the June 11 National Consecration to the Sacred Heart by the US Catholic Bishops a "powerful moment in our national story and a poignant reminder that America has always been guided by the loving hand of God (...). Inspired by this proud birthright of faith, just years after the end of the Revolutionary War, Bishop John Carroll—the first Catholic bishop in the United States and cousin of Catholic Founding Father Charles Carroll—consecrated our young Republic to Mary, the Mother of God. Today, this grand legacy of faith in America reaches yet another historic milestone as America's Catholic Bishops consecrate our Nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus."



Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul - June 29

Celebrate the solemn feast of Saints Peter and Paul with us at the 8:00am Mass on Monday, June 29. Saint Peter and Saint Paul, pray for the Church.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention in July

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

Updates on Donations to Campaign & Terrace Project

Capital Campaign by June 17

Parish Goal:	\$569,000
Total Pledge:	\$683,330 (120% of goal)
Total Gifts:	96
Total Paid:	\$242,543 (36% of pledge)
Parish Share:	\$310,382 (to date)

Terrace Project by June 17

Estimated Cost	\$375,000
Total Pledge:	\$20,309 *
Total Gifts:	34

(*) The greater the contributions to the Terrace Project, the less we will depend on the Capital Campaign's Parish Share, which is meant to fund both our Pastoral Goals (Worship, Family, Youth & Young Adults) and the Terrace Project itself.

Support the Terrace Project

Consider a gift to support this project.

Ways to donate:

-**Checks:** make them payable to Ascension Church and include 'Terrace project' on the memo line.

-**Online giving** (credit, ACH, etc.) through ascensionsaratoga.org. Select "Terrace Project" from drop-down menu, then frequency.

