



April 21, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:8-12 | 1 Jn 3:1-2 | Jn 10:11-18

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

Several years ago I went to a shopping mall with my six-year-old son, and I could tell he was overwhelmed by the fast-moving crowds; he stuck close to my side. Not long into our trip, he turned a corner and, suddenly, his face lit up. He pointed at a young boy ahead. “That’s James! I know him! He’s in my class!” he exclaimed, and ran up to talk to him. Out of the sea of strangers was someone he *knew*, and who knew him. That changed the whole experience for him. Today’s readings are all about that kind of knowing. In the Gospel Jesus tells us that, like a good shepherd, he knows his flock and they know him. How comforting it is to know that Jesus not only knows each one of us, but he willingly chose to lay down his life for each one of us as the ultimate sacrifice of love. But how do we get to know our Good Shepherd better? By immersing ourselves in Scripture and prayer and seeking a personal relationship with him. If we stay close to the Lord, we’ll know his voice when we hear it – in the quiet of our prayer, in the everyday promptings of the Spirit in our decision-making, and even, in the midst of all the noise, as the calming and guiding voice leading us along the right path.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Being known is one of the most fundamental human and spiritual needs. When my son recognized his friend, he also instinctively recognized – without being able to articulate it – this need, in the midst of the anonymity of the mall. And his reaction was so pure: “I know him, and he knows me!” But he didn’t leave it at that; he went to engage with his friend. He *encountered* his friend. This is what Christ desires for, and with us – not just to know us, to simply recognize us from afar, but for us to want to encounter him! We are meant to be in community; Jesus is always here for us: in the Church, in the sacraments, in Scriptures and in our hearts.

PRAY Spending time in prayer and reading the Scriptures are essential in order to get to know the voice of Jesus. Read the Gospels this week, even a chapter a day, and contemplate what passages stand out for you. Pray about it at Mass. The Scriptures and the sacraments are how Jesus speaks to us, like a good shepherd speaks to his flock so the sheep will know his voice and follow it.

Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

www.ascensionsaratoga.org

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

(Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p

(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Stained glass: Alfred Handel, d. 1948 [2], photograph: Bendoricreative work: CrazyShane, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Live with Purpose

Collecting a paycheck may be important to make a living, but will it alone make a life? Some Catholics hear the invitation to choose a different path. They're nudged by family members, religion teachers, and homilists. They have opportunities to learn about priesthood and apostolic life, about missions and monasteries and cloisters. On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, let's be sure to issue the invitation - and to receive it.

-Preparetheword.com

Pray for Our First Communicants

Please pray for children who will receive First Communion on April 28 at the 9:00 am Mass.

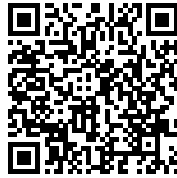
Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children coming forward to receive Holy Communion for the first time.

May this day be the step toward a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship. May their hands, extended in anticipation of your body and blood, inspire all of us to cherish this sacred Sacrament. Amen.

Special Collection for Retired Priests

April 21 - Good Shepherd Sunday

There are 45 retired priests in the Diocese. In addition, we have 38 priests reaching retirement age (70 years old) in the next 12 years and 8 in just the next three years. The well-being of our retired priests, who have dedicated their lives to serving our community, rests in your hands. Your contribution is a testament to your gratitude for their ministry. Your gifts provide funding for their medications, nursing care, etc. Thank you for your support.



Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations

April 19-21, 24 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
1385 Michigan Ave, Alviso, CA.

Opening Mass on Friday, April 19 at 7:00 pm.

Closing Mass on Sunday, April 21 at 8:30 am.



ADA Week 8 Report

Number of pledges: **121**

Percent of goal: **114%**

Surplus funds go back to Ascension.

Thank you for your support.

WEEKLY OFFERING - APRIL 14

-\$4,723 (baskets: \$3,607; online: \$1,116). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: \$251,951. Budget: \$266,500.

-Catholic Relief Rice Bowls: \$249.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Apr 20	Sat	05 pm	Christian Herrera +
Apr 21	Sun	09 am	The Ito Family
		11 am	Renato Quiogue, Sr. +
		05 pm	The Lenarduzzi Family
Apr 24	Wed	08 am	Orv Burley (L)
Apr 25	Thu	08 am	Theresa Stolz +
Apr 26	Fri	08 am	Mary Lucas (L)

60 Years & Counting...

You are invited to join us for the **Closing Mass** of Our Parish **60th Jubilee Year** with the **Confirmation Rite** for youths from Ascension, Queen of Apostles, and Saint Joseph of Cupertino parishes on **Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 5:00 pm.**



Bishop Cantú is presiding, with three former pastors and other priests concelebrating.

Social Hour in Worner Hall with appetizers and beverages to follow after Mass.

Get your free ticket by May 3rd, the RSVP deadline for our food order with the caterer.

After May 3rd, the cost is \$5 per ticket. This enables us to buy additional food and beverages.

You must present your ticket at the door. If you are later unable to join us, please give your ticket to a parishioner who can attend.

Breakfast Supreme

Sponsored by Ascension Men's Club & Knights of Columbus Council 4981.

A hearty breakfast experience with family and friends!

Sunday, April 28, 2024, 9:30am - 1:00pm in Worner Hall.

Tickets are available after weekend Masses and at the Parish Office. Adults \$20 | Children 7 and older \$10.

Donations support the Men's Club & Knights Charitable Works

Menu:

Famous Baked French Toast | Homemade Pancakes
Sausage, Ham, Bacon | Scrambled Eggs |
Hash Brown Potatoes | Fruit Salad, Fruit Juices
Coffee, Tea, Milk, Hot Chocolate.



Diocesan Pastoral Plan: How You Can Participate



Worship - Volunteer as a liturgical minister at your parish



Family - Read the bible together at home. Start with the Gospels



Formation - Dedicate 10 minutes in uninterrupted prayer with God every day



Youth and Young Adults - Be curious about our young people: ask them questions and listen to them and their experiences



Outreach - Connect with someone who hasn't been to Mass in a while and let them know they are missed, listen to them, and invite them to join you



Structural Renewal - Participate in the ADA to support implementation