

“
HAVE IN YOU
THE SAME
ATTITUDE THAT
IS ALSO IN
Christ Jesus.
”

(PHIL 2:5)

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

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September 27, 2026

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28 | Phil 2:1-11 | Mt 21:28-32

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Ask any long-time educator, and they'll tell you we often learn more from our mistakes than from doing it perfectly from the start. Today's Gospel also seems to send the same message: Jesus tells us that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before the chief priests and elders. Perhaps this is because they – having lived a sinful life – know firsthand the emptiness of not following God's ways. Having gotten it wrong, they now earnestly seek what is right. The mystic Julian of Norwich writes, "First the fall, and then the recovery from the fall, and both are the mercy of God." Even in our wanderings, God is at work, drawing us to return to him. Ezekiel tells us that when we respond to that grace and turn from the wickedness we have committed, doing what is right and just, we will surely not die, but receive the gift of eternal life from the God who is Mercy itself.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Speaking to the Christian community at Philippi, St. Paul reminds them to have "the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus." The previous lines offer a glimpse of what that attitude entails: encouragement, love, compassion, mercy, unity, humility, regarding others as more important than ourselves. These attitudes should shape our way of relating to those whom we are trying to evangelize. Rather than judging them or thinking of ourselves as more important, we are called to serve them with humility, offering them our encouragement to seek the Lord who loves them so much that he gave his life for them.

REFLECT

Today's Gospel includes the story of a son who initially says no to his father's request but then changes his mind and does it. The Gospel ends with a line about how the chief priests and elders did not change their minds even when they saw tax collectors and prostitutes responding to John's call to repentance. Indeed, the Greek word for conversion is *metanoia*, which has been defined as "a change of mind that leads to a change in action." Take some time today to do an examination of conscience, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of thinking that need conversion and change. What might the Holy Spirit want to change your mind about this day?



Come, Holy Spirit!

Let's keep these young people in our prayers as they are confirmed this Sunday at the 11:00am Mass:

Evan Krishna

Aleksander Rosse-Segovia

Jase Tan

Alexander Tran.

Quotes from Bishop Fulton Sheen who was beatified on 9/24 in St. Louis, MO.

- "If a man is ever to discover anything big, he must always be making himself little."

- "To be a sinner is our greatest curse, to admit it is our greatest blessing."

- "Heaven is a city on a hill, hence we cannot coast into it; we have to climb."

At Bishop Sheen's beatification, Cardinal Tagle said, "Embracing the vulnerability of Jesus, Fulton Sheen touched and held the damaged flesh of the vulnerable people with leprosy, counting himself as one of them, 'the 501st person with leprosy. Blessed is the earthen vessel that draws power from Jesus.'"

Priesthood Sunday - Sept. 27

This is a special day set aside in the United States to honour the gift of the priesthood and recognize the dedicated service of priests in the Church.

Christian Initiation Start This Sunday

* Do you know anyone considering the Catholic faith?

* Do you know any adult who has not received First Communion or Confirmation?

Invite them to explore our Faith and Tradition.

Start date: **Sept. 27** (11am - 12:30pm).

Learn with the community: **Oct. 4** (12:15pm- 1:45pm).

Call 725-3939 to talk to Fr. Hao, Arlene, or Tony.

Funeral at Ascension

Sat, Oct 3 at 11am: Linda Ramirez +

May she rest in peace.

National Migration Week - Sept 21-27

This is an opportunity to reflect on our history as an immigrant Church, and to appreciate the challenges faced by migrants and refugees in the US and beyond, to be in solidarity in prayer, accompaniment, advocacy.

WEEKLY OFFERING Sept 20

-Total: **\$4,930** (\$3,267 + online: \$1,662. Goal: \$7,000.

-YTD Sunday: \$67,526. Budget: \$84,000.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sep 26	Sat	05 pm	Louise Harpham (L)
Sep 27	Sun	07 am	Gary S. H. Chang +
Sep 30	Wed	08 am	Mia Park (L)
Oct 01	Thu	08 am	Madeleine Welch Griffin +
Oct 02	Fri	08 am	Jovita Atencion (L)
Oct 03	Sat	09 am	Joseph Stolz (L)

Learn from Saint Francis' Life



October 4, Sunday
12:15 pm - 1:45 pm in Worner Hall
For All Generations

Come for a shared *meal, learning, and discussion* around the life of Saint Francis.

In this *Year of Saint Francis*, the Church commemorates the beloved saint who passed away 800 years ago on October 3, 1226.

This is the 1st **monthly gathering** as part of Ascension's Spiritual Renewal.

REGISTRATION in church or on our parish website/QR code >>

Deadline: Oct. 1.

Suggested \$5 donation at the gathering.



Blessing of Animals

Oct. 3, Saturday, 9:30am at Saint Francis shrine in front of Worner Hall. The beloved saint passed away 800 years ago on Oct. 3, 1226.

Youth Faith Formation This Year

-*Weekly*: Praying and Learning together at the **11am Mass every Sunday** (instead of the Faith Formation sessions at 10:15am). Starting Sunday, **Sept. 20**.

-*Monthly*: Sharing a Meal and Learning together at the **Faith Forward Gathering** from 12:15pm to 1:45pm). Details above (Oct 4: St Francis' Life).

Commissioning of Catechists

Oct. 4 at the 11:00am Mass

The commissioning of catechists is a special liturgical rite where a parish publicly blesses and formally appoints individuals to teach the Catholic faith.

US Bishops Taskforce on A.I.

Responding to Pope Leo's appeal in his encyclical *Magnifica humanitas* on artificial intelligence, the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Administrative Committee met on 9/16 with representatives from a variety of tech firms and specialists in the area of AI.

As a result, they formed the Task Force on Preserving Human Dignity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence with Bishop Cantú of San Jose as its chairman. In addition, over a dozen of the bishops met with members of Congress urging for the enactment of meaningful safety guardrails on AI and to support legislation to protect children online.