



August 20, 2023

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 56:1, 6-7 | Rom 11:13-15, 29-32 | Mt 15:21-28

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

The abundance of God's love for us is what stood out for me in our readings today. If we consider the concept of abundance outside the Scriptures, it can be tricky. When we have it, does it imply we have too much when others have too little? If we are speaking of material things, then perhaps. But God's infinite and merciful love for us resound in each of our readings today, and this is cause for joy. In Isaiah, the Lord announces that he will accept offerings from anyone who holds to his covenant, Jewish or not. Saint Paul stresses that God's mercy is for *all*, and Jesus, after some back-and-forth with the Canaanite woman, heals the woman's daughter because of her great faith. God never tires of desiring healing and wholeness for *all* his children, which is a great gift. Let this gift of grace from God be a catalyst for us to reach out in love to others so that we also can come to God's "holy mountain and [be made] joyful in [his] house of prayer."

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How can we reach out in love to others as we called to do? Perhaps we can start with our parish. Is there a ministry we have read about in the bulletin that needs volunteers? Or a coordinator? Perhaps it is time to ask God how we can be his instrument in the world. We can start small. I will never forget when my friend volunteered to run our Vacation Bible School one summer. Of course, she turned to her friends to help her with this daunting task! What she desperately needed was someone to go from classroom to classroom and lead the children in song. Talk about out of my comfort zone! But she gave me the music books and song suggestions, and pretty soon, "This Little Light of Mine" was reverberating through the halls of the school. I learned then and there that kids don't notice the quality of your voice if you are joyful and enthusiastic. They love to sing! Take a chance and get out there. You won't regret it.

**PRAY** *Lord, Jesus Christ, give me the wisdom to view my hands as extensions of yours. Give me eyes to see all people as you see them. Help me to use my voice to praise you and bring the truth of your goodness to everyone I encounter. Give me the strength to have unwavering faith. Amen.*

## Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

[www.ascensionsaratoga.org](http://www.ascensionsaratoga.org)

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

(Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p  
(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a



# Parish Picnic

**Sunday, September 10, 2023 @12 noon**

Open BBQ on the lawn

Games & Prizes

Parish Ministry Fair

Tickets \$15 per person - Free for children 12 & under

Tickets can be purchased after Mass, and at Parish

Office M-F, 10 am - 2 pm.

### Catered BBQ

-Freshly grilled Ham/Cheese/Veggie Burgers

-Freshly grilled Chicken Drumsticks & Thighs

-Mac & Cheese special recipe

-Corn on the Cob

-Boston Baked Beans

-Potato/Cesar Salad

-Dessert: Sliced Watermelon

-Beverages: Bottled Water, Soft Drinks, Lemonade

*(No alcoholic beverages permitted)*

## PARISH MINISTRY FAIR

*Right at the Parish Picnic, September 10, 2023 (noon)*

Enjoy fellowship and food at the Parish Picnic & Explore the call to serve at the Parish Ministry Fair.

Representatives will be on hand to provide information about ministries and groups at Ascension.

Prayerfully consider sharing your time and talent.

If not you, then who? If not now, then when?

Ascension counts on you!

## MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 19 Sat 05 pm George Chrisman +

Aug 20 Sun 09 am Y. K. Cheng +

11 am Werner Haufler +

05 pm Marilyn Quentin (L)

Aug 26 Sat 09 am Margaret Rosier +

*(Pray for All Parishioners at Masses without intentions)*

## WEEKLY OFFERING - AUGUST 13

-Total: **\$9,550** (baskets: \$9,550; online: n/a)

-Needed: \$6,500.

-YTD: n/a. Budget: \$45,500 *(Fiscal year 2024)*.

Thank you for your generosity.

## Was Jesus Prejudiced against Canaanites?

In (his) reflection, Deacon John Harden addresses the troubling passage in...Matthew where Jesus encounters a Canaanite woman. He highlights the context of the event, explaining that Jesus' visit to the region of Tyre and Sidon was to demonstrate an important lesson to his disciples. Previously, the disciples faced criticism for not observing ritual purity laws, and Jesus taught them that true purity comes from the heart, not from external rituals. The encounter with the Canaanite woman exemplifies this lesson, as Jesus praises her great faith, demonstrating that God looks beyond heritage and customs to value a pure heart. The episode emphasizes the significance of humility, persistence in prayer, and genuine faith in God's eyes. *(Young-Catholics.com)*

## Mission Co-op Appeal Next Week

*August 26-27*

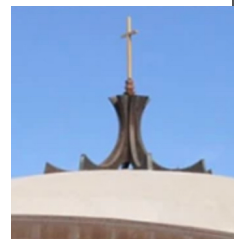
Next weekend, we will have a guest speaker making the annual Mission Appeal. Foundation for Children in Need is a Catholic lay organization based in Arlington Heights, IL. Dr. Geetha Yeruva, founder and president of FCN, will share with us her group's mission work in the villages of India. FCN provides free medical check-ups and medicine to 2,000 children and several college students in need. Children born with cleft lip and cleft palate are helped with free corrective surgeries in the past 9 years. We encourage you to support their mission work generously. To know more about their mission work, please visit: [www.fcn-usa.org](http://www.fcn-usa.org).

## Parish Facilities Updates

-We just repaired the water leakage at the church skylight and will unclog the roof drain in a few days.

-The Cross on the church rooftop, downed during a storm in February, will be back on the octagrammic cupola with a secure socket.

These works are possible thanks to our Buildings & Grounds Committee, our maintenance staff and volunteers, and funded by an insurance payment and a generous donation from a family. Thank you!



## Small Group Facilitator Training

Become a group facilitator and help bring "Jesus and the Eucharist" (a 7-week series) to our parish this Fall.

**One-hour training (online or in-person)** is available for:

• First time facilitator or leader

• Anyone leading a small group.

Pick one of the training sessions:

• August 28 at 6-7 PM | In Person

• August 29 at 7-8 PM | Online.

Please use the following link, or scan the QR code using your smartphone's camera. →

[forms.office.com/r/HSYY6Ri0se](https://forms.office.com/r/HSYY6Ri0se).

