

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



November 8
Faith Forward
Gathering

Details on page 2

Elías Moskos (1620-1697), Christ Pantocrator, Public Domain

October 25, 2026

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 22:20-26 | 1 Thes 1:5c-10 | Mt 22:34-40

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Sounds simple, right? Not so much. Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel can’t help but take us back to that age-old question: “And just who is my neighbor?” According to the Lord’s words in the reading from Exodus, our neighbors are the alien, the widow, and the orphan. Documents from the USCCB such as “Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity” and its writings on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person clearly reflect the position of the U.S. Bishops that it is essential for public policy to respect the dignity of all. While challenging at times, our faith doesn’t offer guidance only for interior, spiritual realities. Indeed, our Church proclaims that we must let the demands of the Gospel shape the whole of our society. We are – to use St. John Paul II’s phrase – to work to build a “culture of life,” a “civilization of love.” In the end, Catholic Social Teaching is nothing but the Church’s effort to live Christ’s call to love our neighbor as ourselves in the wider human community.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In response to the scholar of the law’s question about which commandment is the greatest, Jesus responds by saying that it is to “love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” Heart, soul, and mind are words that describe the innermost self. The Lord – it is clear – wants to be loved fully, by all that we have and are. He wants to be loved as the only Lord in our lives; there can be no other. St. Paul praises the Thessalonians for turning “to God from idols to serve the living and true God.” In other words, they underwent a change of heart, where they turned away from loving things that were not God to loving and serving the only true God. This change of heart has enabled them to become witnesses to others of Christ’s love. In our own lives, we must also undergo conversion if we wish to bear authentic witness to the Lord and to our faith. What are the idols we need to let go of to surrender our hearts, souls, and minds more fully to the Lord?

STUDY

As Catholics, we all have a responsibility to form our consciences and deepen our knowledge of the Church’s teaching surrounding critical issues facing our world today. Spend some time this week familiarizing yourself with the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching, which are “a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amid the challenges of modern society.” (USCCB)

All Saints & All Souls Mass Schedule

ALL SAINTS (Nov 1, Sunday)

Regular Saturday/Sunday Mass Schedule

ALL SOULS (Nov 2, Monday)

8:00am, 7:00pm.

Draw Your Favorite Saints

Children up to age 17 are invited to submit **drawings** or **posters** of their favorite saints. Artwork is on the **letter size** paper with the **child's name**, the **Saint's name**, and "**why this is my favorite Saint.**" Bring it to the table near the sanctuary next Sunday.



Learn from Saint Francis

Our next *Faith Forward* Gathering

Nov. 8:

Seeing God in All Creation.

Register at a **table** in church or scan the **QR code**.

St Francis' quotes:

"The world is a great stage on which God displays his many wonders."

"Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation, and especially for our Brother Sun."



Liturgical Ministers Needed!

- 1) **Altar servers:** At least 8 years old, in the 3rd or 4th grade, and have received Communion.
- 2) **Communion ministers:** 18 years of age or older, having received Baptism, Confirmation, and Communion, practicing Catholic, living a life in harmony with Catholic faith and morals. Communion ministers training: 10/31 & 11/7 at 9:30am in church. Contact Fr. Hao at 408-725-3939.

WEEKLY OFFERING Oct 18

-Total: **\$5,573** (\$3,229 + online: \$2,343). Goal: \$7,000.

-YTD Sunday: \$91,347. Budget: \$112,000.

-Terrace Project: **\$1,000**.

-World Mission: **\$1,615**.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 24	Sat	05 pm	Louise Harpham (L)
Oct 25	Sun	07 am	Bill Costley +
		09 am	Khiem Maria Bui +
		11 am	Joseph Chin (L)
		05 pm	Wai Ping Leung +
Oct 31	Sat	09 am	Theresa Stolz +

Lifelong Faith Formation

Faith formation is the lifelong, continuous journey of growing in a personal relationship with God, integrating spiritual beliefs into daily life, and transforming the whole person—mind, heart, and spirit. Faith practice (or spiritual discipline) is the set of regular, repeated actions and habits that nourish that relationship and put belief into action.

Parents as Most Significant Influencers

At the heart of all the research is the finding that the most important influence shaping the religious and spiritual lives of children and youth is their parents. The overwhelming evidence from the research studies shows that the parents of American youth play the leading role in shaping the character of their religious and spiritual lives, even well after they leave home and often for the rest of their lives.

- US Conference of Catholic Bishops usccb.org

The Light of Faith

Started by Pope Benedict XVI and completed by Pope Francis, the encyclical "Lumen Fidei" (Light of Faith) was released on July 5, 2013, as the final installment of a trilogy on the theological virtues (following charity and hope).

Funerals at Ascension

-Fri, Oct 23 at 10am: Leonardo Alvarez +

-Fri, Oct 30 at 10am: Sonja Gorman +
May they rest in peace.

New Film on St. Peter's Tomb

On the 400th anniversary of the consecration of St Peter's Basilica (Nov 18, 1626), a new film explores the faith, history and archaeology at its heart. The trailer premiered at the Rome Film Festival and features Pope Leo XIV reflecting on St Peter.

The documentary is directed by Paula Ortiz, written by Andrea Tornielli, narrated by American actor Chris Pratt.



How To Pray with Music

God has been drawing people to himself through music for centuries.

We see David bring peace to Saul

whenever he plays the harp (1 Samuel 16:23). Jesus sang traditional Passover hymns with his disciples at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:30). The Psalms were written with the intention of them being sung. This prayer method has strong Biblical roots; there are countless Biblical instances of praying with music.

Today, we can continue the tradition of conversing with God through music at Mass, during personal prayer, and while we go about our day. Sessions are free to all Hallow app users.

- Hallow.com