

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

August 9, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a | Rom 9:1-5 | Mt 14:22-33

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

As I prepared to become a teacher, a professor reminded me that the most effective way to command the attention of a room full of boisterous students is to lower my voice. Matching their volume only adds to the chaos. But approaching with a low, calm voice demands attention due to the contrast in volume. Prior to the scene in which Elijah encounters God on Mount Horeb, he was fleeing for his life. He was distraught. Likewise, in the Gospel the Apostles were in distress as they were tossed about on the sea. Chaos, anxiety, and distress are unfortunately all too common experiences. But God breaks through our worries and brings peace. God speaks to Elijah in a whisper. Christ walks calmly toward the disciples in the rocking boat. God doesn't match the chaos and the volume of our broken world. When Christ says, "Peace be with you," it is a genuine extension of peace to our weary souls from the Prince of Peace. The challenge for us comes in finding the quiet to experience the peace that Christ offers.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Doing the work of God does not mean that we always have to get louder. Proclaiming the Good News may mean that our words grow softer while the gentleness and peace from the Spirit become more visible. I find it interesting that as the crowds are dispersing and the Apostles are getting into a boat, Jesus finds a spot of solitude to pray. All too often in my own ministry, I see the tasks that need to be completed and disregard my own need for solitude. But it is in this quiet that we hear the voice of God that gives life to ministry and that guides us in the path of holiness. God will not add chaos to the world – peace is in his nature and he cannot act contrary to his nature. And so in the midst of our busyness and brokenness, God lowers his voice and calls us to attention.

LISTEN

Particularly with the expansive nature of technology, it can be difficult to block out the world in order to silence our minds and hearts. But we know from Christ's example of prayer and from Elijah's experience on Mount Horeb that God speaks to us in the quiet. Spend some time this week in quiet solitude to make yourself available to encounter God and hear his voice.



Walking on Water, by Ivan Almazovskiy (1888), Public Domain

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION • SARATOGA

Parish Picnic

Come celebrate as one parish family!

Sunday, September 13, 2026
Noon • Following the 11:00 AM Mass

On the front lawn of the parish

Catered BBQ & Burgers Kids' Activities Slushie Cart

\$20 PER PERSON Kids come free!
Children 12 & under — no charge

Tickets available next week



Marriage Renewal Workshop at Ascension

September 18-20

- Inspiring presentations from married couples
- Private time for meaningful conversation
- Practical tools for communication & conflict resolution
- Reflection on intimacy, forgiveness, and family life.

Registration: \$250 per couple (Meals included). Financial assistance is available.

The workshop welcomes married and engaged couples of all faiths and cultures. Scan QR code for more info.



Men's Club meeting in-person in Worner Hall/Lounge
Friday, August 14, at 6:00pm

Collection for Church in Africa - August 9

Your donation to the Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa supports the pastoral work and growth of the Church in Africa. Thank you for your generosity.

WEEKLY OFFERING - August 2

-Total: **\$7,628** (\$6,840 + online: \$788). Goal: \$7,000.

-YTD Sunday: \$29,345. Budget: \$35,000.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 08	Sat	05 pm	Louise Harpham (L)
Aug 09	Sun	07 am	Jim & Margaret Bastholm +
		09 am	Khiem Maria Bui +
		11 am	Marie Firato & Family
		05 pm	Joseph Fiorentino (L)
Aug 10	Mon	08 am	Brigitta Vang Tran +
Aug 15	Sat	09 am	Joseph Stolz (L)

Last week, we reflected on the call to be **missionary disciples**, who grow in faith and lead others to Christ. To that end, our parish will offer a **discipleship pathway** that integrates the three Ws.

Pastoral Plan at Ascension Part II

Word, Worship, Witness

The focus of every week in our Parish will be the Eucharist, especially the 11:00am Mass on Sunday, when we will make the liturgy more relevant to our youth and also their families. Children will also have more opportunities to be active and engaged in the liturgy (through interaction, service, etc.). This is where children and families learn from the word and worship, and are encouraged to be witnesses to the Lord. We will give them a weekly takeaway at Mass to help connect worship to daily life.

In addition, every month, we gather around 12:15pm in the parish hall for an hour and a half, right after the 11:00am Mass. These monthly gatherings include a communal meal, large-group presentations on a theme, and breakout sessions for different age groups. These intergenerational gatherings unite the parish community—from children to seniors—for ongoing learning.

At each gathering, we will explore a specific theme. This year, from October 2026 to April 2027, we will focus on various themes inspired by the life of Saint Francis of Assisi. This aligns with the Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, which runs from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, commemorating the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi's death (or *Transitus*) in 1226.

For the Pastoral Plan (parts I & II), scan QR code. The three pastoral priorities at Ascension: Worship, Family, Youth & Young Adults.



Feast of Assumption Mass Schedule

While the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary is not obligatory this year since it falls on a Saturday, it remains a major feast. Celebrate it with us on **Aug. 14 at 7pm, or Aug.15 at 9am.**

August: National Make-a-Will Month

Do you have a will, trust, or estate plan? Planning your estate gives directions to your family and keeps them from guessing. It also offers the chance to share your gifts to sustain the Church's mission. Our Diocese has partnered with FreeWill, a secure online tool that helps create a legal will at no cost to you.

Visit partner.freewill.com/dsj.