



October 18, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 45:1, 4-6 | 1 Thes 1:1-5b | Mt 22:15-21

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

A mentor once told me that there is no sweeter sound than that of one's own name. It communicates that one is seen, known, and cared for. We read in Isaiah today that God has chosen Cyrus and has called him by name. In the Letter to the Thessalonians, Paul and his followers "give thanks to God always" for all in the community, knowing that each brother and sister is "loved by God" and "chosen." And although these words are written about Cyrus and the Thessalonians, we trust that God speaks these words to us as well. We have each been chosen. Our Father calls each of us by name. It is sometimes difficult to believe that God desires *me* and chooses *me* individually. It is a love that I often fail to reciprocate, despite my desire to do so. But that does not diminish the love God has for me. I am not lost in the crowd of history and humanity. Each of us was created with love and rejoiced over by our heavenly Father.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

When ^{Text}Jesus is asked in today's Gospel about the taxes due to Caesar, he does not falter with his response. We must live the truth of our faith in the world, but ultimately, what the world asks of us is not the same as what our Creator desires. Taxes are paid out of obligation, but God asks for our love. In using the talents God has given us in caring for our brothers and sisters, we acknowledge the fullness of the majesty and wonder of our Creator. We do not have to isolate ourselves from this world, but we must remember that we were not created for this world. We have already been chosen and claimed by our loving Father. And it is to him that we offer the gift of our heart, which is infinitely more valuable than coins.

REFLECT

In the Gospel of Matthew, Christ also says, "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." (6:21) In light of today's Gospel, we must also consider whether our participation in society in any way prevents us from offering ourselves totally to God. Spend some time reflecting on what it is that you truly treasure. Do you reserve the offering of your heart for God? Or are you giving to the world what should be reserved for God?

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

Pope Leo on World Mission

In his video message on the Centennial World Mission Sunday, Pope Leo shared that the legacy of World Mission Sunday deeply shaped his own life, recalling his childhood experience of the day in the United States and how the prayers and generosity of the faithful later supported his own missionary service as a priest and bishop in Peru.



He emphasized that Baptism unites all believers into a single family in Christ, carrying a shared responsibility to proclaim the Gospel, bringing God's message of hope to the world.

He invited every Catholic parish and individual around the world to renew their commitment to the Church's global mission through prayer, spiritual communion, and material contributions.

Commissioning of Catechists

Oct. 18 at the 9:00am Mass

Pray for our catechists, who serve in the important faith formation ministry.

Parents as Primary Faith Educators

"Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule" (*Catechism*, 2223).

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. Contact Fr. Hao at 408-725-3939.

Support World Mission - Oct. 18

Your donation to the second collection today supports the missionary work of the Church in **1,124 territories** where the Church is young, struggling, or persecuted. Thank you for your generosity.

WEEKLY OFFERING Oct 11

-Total: **\$7,702** (\$4,654 + online: \$3,048). Goal: \$7,000.
-YTD Sunday: \$85,774. Budget: \$105,000.
-Building Fund: **\$1,640**.
Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 17	Sat	05 pm	Mercedes & Ricardo Fuenzalida +
Oct 18	Sun	07 am	Mary Ellen Rose +
		09 am	June Whelan +
		11 am	Marianna Rohr (L)
		05 pm	Pam Czynski (L)
Oct 24	Sat	09 am	Ken & Jennifer McKeever (L)

Why Should I Learn about Faith?

- *To Love God More Deeply:* Knowing God's steadfast love allows you to move beyond abstract facts into a close relationship with him.
- *To Answer Questions and Defend the Truth:* A solid grasp of Scripture, Sacred Tradition, helps you respond gracefully when others ask about Church teachings or challenge your beliefs.
- *To Discern Error and False Teachings:* Familiarity with authentic doctrine protects against cultural confusion, spiritual stagnation, and misunderstandings about the sacraments, moral law, or the dignity of human life.
- *To Live With Integrity:* Faith is meant to shape your daily decisions, how you treat others, and how you handle suffering rather than just being something you profess on Sundays.
- *To Align Reason With Revelation:* The Catholic tradition holds that faith and reason work together; studying the faith fulfills the mind's natural hunger for ultimate truth and goodness.

Continue to Learn from Saint Francis

Our next *Faith Forward* Gatherings:

Nov. 8: Seeing God in All Creation.

Dec. 6: Embracing Humility & Poverty.

More details and **registration info** will be available soon, so stay tuned!



Youth Faith Formation This Year

-*Weekly* (from **Oct. 18**): Praying and Learning together at the **9:00am Mass every Sunday**, and **Catechetical sessions after Mass**.

-*Monthly*: Sharing a Meal and Learning together at the **Faith Forward Gatherings** from 12:15pm.

How To Pray

"Contemplative prayer, in my opinion, is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us."
(St. Teresa of Avila - feast day: Oct 15).

Learn to pray with Hallow app:

- How to Pray: 6 Tips on Getting Started in Prayer.
 - How to Pray the Daily Examen.
 - How to Pray Christian Meditation.
 - How to Pray the Rosary, etc.
- Basic daily prayers and a selection of audio sessions are free to all Hallow app users.



Pray the Rosary for Peace with Kids

You are invited to join our youth and their families praying the Rosary for Peace on **October 18 after the 9:00am Mass at the Marian shrine**.

We also pray the Rosary every week in the Chapel right **after the 9:00am Saturday Mass**.