



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-4:45pm

September 6, 2026

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 33:7-9 | Rom 13:8-10 | Mt 18:15-20

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

St. Teresa of Calcutta once wrote, "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." Community, when lived according to Christ's command to love one another, fills us with joy and companionship. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that living as a Church also means holding one another accountable when a member of the community has gone astray. While we are not responsible for the choices others make, we have a responsibility to help one another out of love. Ezekiel's task as a prophet was not always an easy one, nor is it easy today to speak out against injustice or wrongdoing. But the good news of our faith and our Church is that we belong to Christ and to each other. When we speak the truth in the face of injustice, it should serve to rally one another toward righteousness as we journey as one Body to the eternal glory of heaven.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our Gospel speaks about moments where members of the Church help one another to recognize and turn away from sin. Each of us will have moments in which we need to be reminded of God's commands and called to conversion. In those moments, we can give powerful witness to Christ by receiving the truth with humility and allowing ourselves to be led back to the loving arms of the Good Shepherd. Acceptance of our own shortcomings and flaws can be an opportunity to recognize that we are not the agents of our own salvation. Then, by seeking the love and forgiveness of God – especially in the sacrament of reconciliation – we show, by our example, that all people are called to be reconciled with our Lord so that we may live together in the fullness of his glory for all eternity.

PRAY

A prayer before confession:

God, you know all that I do and all that is in my heart.

I turn to you today because I know that I have made choices that have hurt others and rejected you.

You have made me conscious of an emptiness in my life because of my sinfulness.

I want to turn back to you and the way of life to which you call me.

In your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

Holy Father's Prayer - September

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



October 4: Saint Francis' Life

12:15 pm - 1:45 pm in Worner Hall

For All Ages

Guest Speaker: Fr. Peter Eugenio, OFM

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 on the next column >>>

Christian Initiation Will Start Soon

* Do you know anyone considering the Catholic faith?

* Do you want to know more about what we believe?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is for any adult who is not baptized, or was baptized in another Christian tradition, or any Catholic who has not received First Communion or Confirmation.

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

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

Call 725-3939 to talk to the OCIA Team (Fr. Hao, Arlene, or Tony).

Men's Club

Meeting in-person: Worner Hall/Lounge Room
Friday, September 11 at 6:00pm.

Collection for Catholic Education - Sept. 13

Ninety percent of the funds collected will remain in our Diocese to support tuition assistance, lay ecclesial ministry formation. The rest will be for the Catholic University of America. Thank you for your generosity.

WEEKLY OFFERING - August 30

The numbers weren't available at the time the bulletin was printed. Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sep 05	Sat	05 pm	Maxine Stice +
Sep 06	Sun	07 am	Edward Gembala +
		09 am	Khiem Maria Bui +
		11 am	Wai Ping Leung +
		05 pm	Kay Lynch +
Sep 07	Mon	08 am	Joseph Stolz (L)
Sep 08	Tue	08 am	Matthew Poon +
Sep 10	Thu	08 am	Mary Park (L)
Sep 11	Fri	08 am	Thelma Wanter +
Sep 12	Sat	09 am	Ken & Jennifer McKeever (L)

Pastoral Council Openings

Interested in supporting Ascension in a significant way? Consider joining the Ascension Pastoral Council. The Council meets once per month (10 months per year) and the initial term is 3 years.

The Council advises the pastor on pastoral matters, helping identify and encourage those ministries or services that are needed for the growth of a parish. Scan QR code for more details (history of council, responsibilities, qualities of council members, etc.).

If you have any questions, contact Fr. Hao or any of the current Pastoral Council Members: Jeff Moe (chair), Keswick Tsang (vice chair), Tom Roza (secretary), Bob Bowe, Harry Stice, Dong-Young Chang, and Melissa Chan.

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

In this *Year of Saint Francis*, the Church commemorates this 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.

Youth and Families and anyone else are invited every Sunday to the **11:00am Mass** (*) starting on **September 20**, when we will **worship**, listen to the **word**, and learn to be **witnesses** to the Risen Lord.

Please **register** for the October 4 gathering in church (or on the parish website soon). Suggested \$5 donation at the gatherings.

Next Monthly Gatherings

Nov. 8: Seeing God in All Creation

Dec. 6: Embracing Humility & Poverty

(*) *This Mass replaces the 10:15am class. Those preparing for sacraments will follow a special schedule.*

25th Anniversary of 9/11

-Celebrate the 8am Mass on 9/11 at Ascension.

-Watch the Memorial Mass on 9/10 at 5pm ET by Archbishop Ronald Hicks at St. Patrick's Cathedral (to be livestreamed at saintpatrickcathedral.org).

Marriage Renewal - Sept. 18-20

This workshop/retreat at Ascension helps couples strengthen communication, deepen their faith, renew their relationship. Registration: \$250 per couple (Meals included). Financial assistance is available. Couples of all faiths and cultures are welcome. Scan QR code for more info.



Parish Picnic Sept. 13 @ Noon

\$20 per person - Kids (12 or younger) come free. Catered BBQ, burgers, ice cream, kids activities

