



May 5, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:25-36, 34-35, 44-48 | 1 Jn 14:23 | Jn 15:9-17

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

“As the Father loves me, so I also love you ... If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love.” We don’t earn God’s love – it is freely given to us. But only by loving God and others, and by keeping his commandments, do we *remain* in that love as our source of life and joy. It becomes the air we breathe, and the breath we exhale. Today’s second reading and Gospel reassure us of the love of God, but also give us a few specifics for how to live in and remain in that love – self-sacrifice and prayer. We are to love one another as Jesus loves us, and we know what that looks like from his life: feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, forgiving one another, and more. Living in the way Jesus instructs is not simply completing a checklist of things to do, however. It’s a way of life – to live in God’s love and to demonstrate his love with our outward actions. When we do so, we are helping bring about the kingdom in a very real way. It’s not complicated. We begin by acting in accordance with the truth that the person in front of us is loved by God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The message of the Gospel is countercultural and upends many convictions about what is true, good, and beautiful. What Jesus says can seem upside down to us, as it certainly did to the people of his time! Even the disciples, who walked with Jesus, didn’t fully grasp all of what Jesus had told them until after he had been raised from the dead and appeared in their midst and shared food with them. And even after they understood, they didn’t live it perfectly, nor do we. The things of this world we can mistakenly think are important get in the way of loving as we ought, and they shape our behavior and vision of the world. To counter that, we must focus in on what the Lord is saying and what that demands of us. What exactly that will look like in our lives is the provenance of prayer. Ask for God’s help in loving all those we come across, even (and especially) those we may not particularly care for. He will answer our prayers and show us the way.

WITNESS Think of someone you know personally or whom you know of, who is particularly difficult to *like*. Create a plan to *love* them this week – either through praying for them, or interacting with them in a charitable, selfless way.

Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

www.ascensionsaratoga.org

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

(Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p

(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Confessions (Sat) 4:00-4:45pm

See through God's Eye

God does not see as we see, the prophet Isaiah reminds us. To harness the divine perspective, native peoples of western Mexico wove yarn on crossed sticks to represent the eye of God (ojo de Dios), which sees in four directions and in all elemental mediums: earth, wind, fire, and water. A God's eye became the portal through which God views the supplicant, or through which those who pray might share the divine vision. Sharing a God's-eye perspective on the world remains the goal of every believer. Practice seeing others as our compassionate God sees them. -*Preparetheword.com*

Congratulations!

Aleksander Rosse-Segovia, Antonio Quiason, Austin Cameron, and Jessica Gotauco received their First Communion last Sunday at the 9:00 am Mass. They made their First Reconciliation on February 24. May they continue to be drawn to the Lord.

Super Breakfast!

Thank you to all those who came to the Breakfast Supreme last Sunday. All proceeds will support the charitable work of the Men's Club and the Knights of Columbus local council. Thank you as well to all who put it together, making the breakfast an opportunity for many to enjoy food and each other's company.

Rosary Procession Rescheduled

Due to the anticipated rain on May 4, our Rosary Procession will be moved to Saturday next week, May 11, at 9:30 am (after the 9:00 am Mass).

Confessions Update

Reconciliation is not celebrated on Saturday, May 18, as we prepare for the 5:00pm Mass (Parish 60th Jubilee and Confirmation). You may make an appointment for confession. Thank you for your understanding.

Catholic Communication Campaign

May 12

US Catholics will have an opportunity to support the church communications ministry next week. Half of the gifts support our local diocese's communications programs. The other half funds communication activities at the national level and projects abroad. Thank you for your generosity.

WEEKLY OFFERING - APRIL 28

-\$4,645 (baskets: \$3,955; online: \$690). Goal: \$6,500.

-Retired Priest Fund (latest): **\$3,591.**

-Catholic Home Missions: **\$1,246.**

-Building Fund: **\$2,500.**

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

May 04	Sat	05 pm	Maxine Stice +
May 05	Sun	07 am	Dorothy Miller +
		09 am	Purita Belmonte (L)
		05 pm	The Lenarduzzi Family
May 07	Tue	08 am	Theresa Stolz +
May 08	Wed	08 am	Javier Domeyko +
May 09	Thu	08 am	Lisa Carstens (L)
May 10	Fri	08 am	Mary Lucas (L)
May 11	Sat	09 am	The McKeever Family

Come and Celebrate with Us

Saturday, May 18, 2024

5:00pm Mass

Join Bishop Cantú and several priests in this special Mass that officially closes the Parish 60th Jubilee Year and includes the Confirmation for our Youth.

Ascension's History

In its early years, Saratoga was a village of fruit orchards. Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road was a one-lane road and for miles on both sides stretched thousands of acres of land with trees weighted down with fruits.

In 1951 the first church was established with 85 families. Soon afterward, realtors began buying farms, builders erected ranch-style houses, developers attracted growing families, and more and more people were in need of a parish to bring them the word of God.

In 1964, Fr. William Worner became the pastor of this new parish to be called Ascension. Until then, it was part of Sacred Heart Parish in the same town.

Mr. Joseph Pon offered the family homesite at the corner of Prospect Road and Miller Avenue, a thirteen-acre property. "The Farmhouse," the original parish office, was their family residence.

For two months parishioners were busy boarding-in the front of the shed, putting in windows obtained from a discarded railway car, patching holes, and shoring up the roof. And so, the first Ascension Church was a converted drying shed affectionately called "The Barn."



(To be continued)

Catechists Needed

The word "catechesis" is rooted in a Greek word for "echo." Catechists are called to echo the Good News. It's also every Christian's responsibility. Jesus sent us to "go and teach all nations" before he ascended into heaven. Please consider the catechetical ministry. *If not you, then who?* Please come and explore the catechetical ministry (faith formation) on **Sat, June 8 from 9:30-10:30 am** in church.

Hospitality as Way of Life

Hospitality is an important reason that draws people to a church and keeps them come back. Offering welcome and hospitality is supposed to be in our Christian DNA or identity - not only in our practice.

"In ancient times, hospitality was viewed as a pillar on which the moral structure of the world rested. It was a highly valued moral practice, seen as an important expression of kindness, mutual aid, neighborliness, and a response to the life of faith" (Christine D. Pohl).

A sense of belonging is part of the 3 B's of Christian life: Believing, Behaving, and Belonging. For some people, they belong first before they believe. In other words our faith is personal and also communal.

Next time when you go to church, as you are welcomed by greeters, offer greetings to others in church, making them feel a sense of connection and belonging.