

Holy Week Schedule

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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

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Mt 21:1-11 | Is 50:4-7 | Phil 2:6-11 | Mt 26:14—27:66

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Pay attention to the prominence of Scripture in today's Mass. At Masses where there's a Procession or the Solemn Entrance, we'll hear the Gospel reading proclaiming Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. During our regular Liturgy of the Word, we'll also read through the lengthy account of Christ's passion (this year, from the Gospel of Matthew). Following the reading of the passion a brief homily may be given, but there may also be a period of silence rather than a homily. In so many ways, it seems that beginning with Palm Sunday (and all throughout Holy Week), the Church is inviting us to feast on God's Word in a deeper way than perhaps at any other time in the liturgical year. As disciples, our whole Christian life must be nourished not only by the sacraments, but by the Word of God. As Lent comes to a close, we can think back to our Gospel of the First Sunday of Lent, where Jesus tells us that "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." (Mt 4:4) The events we hear about during this time are the climactic moments in the unfolding plan of our salvation. By reading the Gospel accounts, we're invited to *participate* in them through this liturgy which makes them present to us, here and now.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul's Letter to the Philippians speaks of Jesus' self-emptying love. Although he was God, Jesus took on our humanity and offered his life in humble obedience to the Father, accepting, willfully, even death on a cross. When we consider our efforts to lead others to know the Lord, we're invited to adopt his own way of reaching out to humanity. Do we enter into the lived experience of those we seek to evangelize? In what ways do we empty (humble) ourselves in order to draw near to them? Are we willing to set aside our plans, our agenda, our way of doing things, and willingly accept God's way of doing things? Following the example of our Lord, our own efforts at evangelization should be marked by humility and self-emptying love.

STUDY

One of the best ways we can participate in the celebration of these sacred days is to spend time reading the Scriptures for each day of Holy Week. Read the text, then sit in silence, allowing the words to wash over you. What moments or lines stand out to you? As you re-read the Gospel of Christ's passion, read the words knowing that Jesus has done all of this *for you*.

Find Solace in the Psalms

In an interview after his release from captivity, Servite Father Lawrence Martin Jenco, one of the hostages held in Lebanon for 564 days in the 1980s, said that the prayers and psalms he had learned as a child gave him the greatest solace during a long incarceration filled with cruel and severe deprivations. Jesus found similar comfort during his torture and death. His last words from the cross, according to the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, were: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" a line from Psalm 22, one of the many psalms Jesus would have learned as a boy. Memorize a psalm today that will give you comfort in your hour of need. -*Takefiveforfaith.com*

MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 28	Sat	05 pm	Javier Munita +
Mar 29	Sun	11 am	Vicente Santiago, Junior +
Mar 30	Mon	08 am	Luc Boulanger (L)
Apr 01	Wed	08 am	The Lau Family
Apr 02	Thu	7:30pm	<i>Holy Thursday</i>
Apr 03	Fri	12p;7:30p	<i>Good Friday services</i>

Interested in Stephen Ministries?

Stephen Ministers are lay members of the church trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. If you are interested, call Fr. Hao at 408-725-3939.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Holy Thursday** (no 8:00am Mass)
7:30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper, then Adoration in the hall until 10pm.
- Good Friday** (no 8:00am Mass)
12:00pm: Passion of the Lord
(*Holy Land collection*)
1:30pm: Stations of the Cross
7:30pm: Passion of the Lord
(*Holy Land collection*)
- Holy Saturday** (no 9:00am Mass)
8:30pm: Easter Vigil
- Easter Sunday:**
Regular Sunday schedule.



Easter Egg Hunt

The Fil-Am Association will be hosting the yearly Easter Egg Hunt and Coffee & Donuts on April 5, 2026.

Divine Mercy Devotion - April 12

- 2:30pm: Spiritual Message by Fr. Maurice
 - 3:00pm: Eucharistic Exposition, Chaplet, Rosary, Confession, Benediction, Blessing of Oil, Veneration of DM image, etc.
 - 4:00pm: Fellowship with refreshments in Classrooms.
- For info on the **Divine Mercy Novena**, see flyers in church.

Christians in the Middle East

Lebanon: Christians make up 30–35% of the population, with the majority being Maronite Catholics, followed by Greek Orthodox and other denominations.

Israel: About 45,000 out of the West Bank's 3.2 million are Christian. Before Oct 7, 2023, around 1,000 Christians lived in Gaza or 0.05% of the population. In Israel there are about 180,000 Christians (Israeli citizens, immigrants, etc.).

Consider a Special Easter Gift

Your generous **Easter donation**, reflecting the joy of the Resurrection, is a great way to support our church beyond regular donations. In the fiscal year 2024-25, gifts during the holy days (Christmas, Easter, etc.) reached \$32,063, equating to 10% of the Sunday collection. Thank you! We also appreciate your contribution to the **Flowers Fund**, which helps us enhance the liturgical environment during the Easter season.

WEEKLY OFFERING - March 22

-Total: **\$10,914** (\$9,031, including 2 **donations of \$3,000 & \$2,500** + online: \$1,883). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: **\$260,129**. Budget: \$258,400.

-Catholic Relief Services: **\$246** (YTD: \$2,651). Thank you for your generosity.

Consider an IRA to Charity Contribution:

individuals 70½ years or older can donate up to \$108,000 without increasing taxable income or requiring itemized deductions.

Ascension Financial Report (July 1 - Feb. 28)

	Actual	Budget	Over(Under)
INCOME			
Sunday Collections	\$228,038	\$231,200	\$(3,162)
Holy Day Collections	24,600	17,205	7,395
ADA Rebate	12,721	13,000	(279)
Other Income	151,522	143,461	8,061
Total Income	416,881	404,866	12,015
EXPENSE			
Staff Salaries, Benefits, etc.	221,777	224,599	(2,822)
Diocesan Assessment	23,288	23,288	-
Other Expenses	187,216	184,916	2,301
Total Expense	432,282	432,803	(521)
Net Income (Loss)	(15,401)	(27,937)	12,536
Depreciation Expense	85,885	84,757	1,128
Net Income (Loss) after Depreciation	(101,286)	(112,694)	11,408

Capital Campaign Report

Stay tuned for additional updates next week.

Please pray for the success of our Campaign.