



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

November 10, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 17:10-16 | Heb 9:24-28 | Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

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

“Give it your all! Leave it all on the field! Trust in your training/preparation/coaches.” We’ve all heard a version of this type of exhortation. It requires a great amount of confidence and trust – faith, if you will – to let go of our doubt and fears. The two widows of today’s readings had such confidence, as they offer us heroic examples of faith. The widow of Zarephath uses her only remaining food to cook for Elijah. She did this after receiving God’s promise that, “The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry.” The widow had the assurance that God would sustain her, and she lived by it – trusting she could give her all, because with God’s help there would be more. Likewise, the widow in the Gospel could make an offering to the temple treasury because of her limitless confidence in God: she gave “her whole livelihood.” From that moment, she would have nothing to sustain her but God’s providential care. By their unreserved acts of generosity, both women consented to rely on God in the most absolute sense. And in so doing, they silently proclaimed their faith in the personal and unconditional love that God had for each of them.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

So deeply did these two women believe in God’s goodness that they were able to act without fear. Confident in his love, they could give to the point of having nothing left. They, literally, “gave it all that they had.” Rather than being burdensome, however, their surrender was the basis of their relationship with God and therefore, it was a much greater treasure than material goods. This message is clearly at odds with the notion that possessions and wealth are the basis of happiness. By rejecting this idea, giving generously of ourselves and trusting God to sustain us, we gain more than we could ever give up. Like the widow whose jar never runs dry, when we fill our lives with what God offers and not what the world offers, we live with abundance.

REFLECT Choose one aspect of your life you can mentally “reframe” in order to see it not as a lack but as an opportunity to cast yourself more fully on God. Spend 15 minutes this week speaking to God about this. If you can, thank him for the chance to draw closer to him. If it is too difficult to thank him for your trial, ask him to *help you* see and appreciate how he is leading you along this path of greater intimacy with him.

Generosity, Redefined

Many are shocked at the idea of biblical tithing. Give 10 percent—10 percent!—of our resources to the Lord? Who would do this? Yet some Christians do it as a matter of course. The gospel doesn't follow the widow who put her whole livelihood into the temple treasury after her signature gesture of trust. Yet we're led to believe God will care for her with the same extravagance that she shows. The best counsel on generosity remains: give until it scares you.

-Preparetheword.com

Hope Is a Gift and Duty for Christians

Pope Francis writes that hope is a gift from God and a task that must be cultivated by all Christians, in the introduction to his new book, "Hope Is A Light In The Night," which collects excerpts from various speeches by the Pope on the theological virtue of hope.

"The Jubilee of 2025, a holy year that I wanted to dedicate to the theme "Pilgrims of Hope", is a propitious occasion to reflect on this fundamental and decisive Christian virtue – especially in times like the ones we are living, in which the third world war being fought "piecemeal" that is unfolding before our eyes can lead us to assume attitudes of gloomy discouragement and ill-concealed cynicism" ("Hope Is a Light in the Night")



Ascension Annual Report

Our parish annual Finance & Facility Report is available in church, and on ascensionsaratoga.org. It gives you (1) a summary of our financial activities and performance, and (2) an update on maintenance or repair projects that keep our facilities safe and functional. Thank you for your support. Scan the QR code for the Annual Report.



Second Collections

Nov. 10: **Semi-annual Parish Building Fund.**

Your contribution helps our parish cope with the increasing costs and needs for facility maintenance.

Nov. 17: **Annual Campaign for Human Development.**

Your donation helps break the cycle of poverty by offering low-income people a hand up, not a hand out.

Thank you for your generosity.

WEEKLY OFFERING - NOVEMBER 3

-\$5,385 (basket: \$4,446; online: \$939). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: **\$96,468**. Budget: \$117,000.

-All Saints Day: **\$656**.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 09	Sat	05 pm	Paul Lenarduzzi +
Nov 10	Sun	07 am	Edward Gembala +
		09 am	Paul Sze +
		05 pm	Heather Opperman +
Nov 11	Mon	08 am	The Gerrard Family
Nov 12	Tue	08 am	Linda Venturini (L)
Nov 13	Wed	08 am	Natalie McKeever (L)
Nov 14	Thu	08 am	Paul Lenarduzzi +
Nov 15	Fri	08 am	Deanne Sorola (L)
Nov 16	Sat	09 am	Blaise Vanderhorst (L)

Communion of Saints - Part II

In November, after the feast of All Saints (Nov. 1) and the commemoration of All Souls (Nov. 2), there is another feast on **Nov. 9** celebrating the Pilgrim Church on earth: **The 1,700th anniversary of the Dedication of the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran in 324**. This church - *not* St. Peter's Basilica - is the cathedral (the church with the cathedra/seat) of the Bishop of Rome, who is the Pope. Its facade bears the Latin inscription of "Mother and Head of all the Churches in the City and the World."

The original church on this site was named after the Most Holy Savior. When it was rebuilt and then renovated in the late 16th and 17th centuries, it was called St. John Lateran because it was built on a property donated by the Laterani family, and rededicated to Christ the Savior, in honor of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist.

Memorial for Those Who Died 2023-24

Invite those who lost a loved one since November 2023 to join us at the 9am Mass on Saturday, November 23, followed by refreshments. This month Pope Francis especially prays that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

An Ascension Teen Honored

At the 10th annual "Saints in the City" event on Nov. 7 honoring young Catholics across the Diocese, Aly Broussard, a teen and catechist's aide in our parish, received Saint Thomas Aquinas Award for her deep understanding of the Catholic faith and spends time helping others to learn the beauty and richness of our faith. Bishop Oscar Cantú met each honoree at the event.

For more details, visit ascensionsaratoga.org, or scan the QR code below.



10 Years of Recognizing Young Disciples



Prayer After An Election

God of all nations, Father of the human family, we give you thanks for the freedom we exercise and the many blessings of democracy we enjoy in these United States of America.

We ask for your protection and guidance for all who devote themselves to the common good, working for justice and peace at home and around the world.

We lift up all our duly elected leaders and public servants, those who will serve us as president, as legislators and judges, those in the military and law enforcement.

Heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord, with a common purpose, dedication, and commitment to achieve liberty and justice in the years ahead for all people, and especially those who are most vulnerable in our midst. Amen.

- US Conference of Catholic Bishops (usccb.org)