

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



May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 | 1 Pt 3:15-18 | Jn 14:15-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Several years ago, while praying in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, I heard the words, “I just couldn’t bear to leave you.” It was one of the clearest responses to prayer that I have experienced, and it occurred at a time when I was feeling incredibly lonely. I have spent years reflecting on those words, which resurface often as I receive Christ in the Eucharist. In the Gospel today, I hear echoes of those words again as Christ explains to the Apostles the many ways in which they – and we – will not be abandoned after his ascension into heaven. As the rest of the Gospel unfolds, the events of his passion and resurrection reveal the Lord’s faithfulness to them. After the resurrection, the Apostles know they can trust his word because they remember Jesus’ promise that the Father will send an Advocate to be with them. We, also, can trust him believing that out of complete and utter love for humanity, Jesus remains with us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Apostles accompanied one another in their community of faith, and they walked with those who had recently responded to God’s call to know the truth, as we see with the newly baptized in Samaria. In our lives today, the value of accompaniment cannot be underestimated. In our busy world when it is easy to feel disconnected and alone, being with one another is a powerful way to be a vessel through which Christ proclaims his promise to never leave us. By sitting with another in a time of grief, listening to the questions of a friend who is struggling, or rejoicing with a friend in response to good news, we accompany each other through life’s ups and downs. Sometimes accompaniment consists of proclaiming the Good News of Christ’s love and thereby helping others to have the courage to do the same. In whatever ways we are called to accompany another in their journey of faith, we do so with the promise that Christ is doing the same for us.

ACCOMPANY

In this joyful season of Easter, we continue to celebrate those who entered or were fully welcomed into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. This week, consider reaching out to someone who is new to the Church to celebrate with them, offer your continued prayers for them, or invite them to a parish event.

What Keeps Us Faithful

Catholics tend to be leery of words like "testimony" and "witness" when it comes to the business of sharing our faith with others. We may prefer to keep our profession of faith in a more formal key: say, with a group recitation of the Apostles' or Nicene Creed. Many of us may feel ill-equipped to give a defense of the faith in the debate style known as apologetics. Yet each of us should be prepared to give the reason for our hope to anyone who asks. What keeps us faithful? And how does what we believe influence who we're becoming?

-Takefiveforfaith.com

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favorably on your servant Pope Leo, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd. Grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides, so that, with the flock entrusted to him, he may attain life everlasting. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. *Pope Leo was elected a year ago on May 8*



Pope Leo's 400 Appeals for Peace

In the first year of his pontificate, Pope Leo XIV has appealed more than 400 times for peace. It was mentioned in his inauguration homily, in his meeting with international journalists, in his messages for Christmas, Easter, etc. He urged the "lords of war" to listen to "a melody greater than ourselves."

Special Collections

- **Catholic Charities Appeal** (May 10) supports over 30 programs, including emergency relief, food, housing, and immigration services for thousands of children, families, and seniors.
- **Ascension's Building Fund** (May 17) helps defray the expenses of an overdue maintenance work: repainting the exterior of our church and hall (estimated cost: approximately **\$10,000**).

WEEKLY OFFERING - May 3

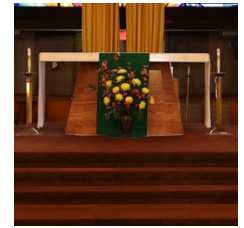
-Total: **\$5,363** (\$4,196 + online: \$1,167). Goal: \$6,800.
-YTD Sunday: **\$299,919** Budget: \$292,400.
-Holy Land: **\$25**. - Easter: **\$25**.
Thank you for your generosity.
Consider an **IRA or QCD Contribution**.

MASS INTENTIONS

May 09	Sat	05 pm	Debbie Law (L)
May 10	Sun	07 am	Josephine Gembala +
		09 am	Khiem Maria Bui +
		11 am	Ian Wong (L)
		05 pm	Barbara Power +
		(Mon-Thu) 08 am	Communion Service
May 16	Sat	09 am	Lenora Stolz +

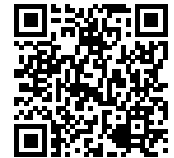
Renewed at the Table of the Lord

"My deepest prayer is that through this (liturgical) renewal, each of you will experience what has sustained me through all the challenges of own life and ministry: that the Mass is not simply a ritual we observe, but an encounter we participate in. I hope that you will depart Mass each time deeply convinced that you have just been met, and continue to be accompanied, by the living God who knows you personally, who knows what you carry in your heart, and who loves you more than you can imagine." - *Bishop Oscar Cantú*



Liturgical Renewal Materials

Weekly articles on the Mass are available in flyers in church, and also through the QR code here.



Capital Campaign Report: 88%

Pledged to date: **\$501,363 (88% of goal)**.

Thank you to our generous donors!

The ADA 2026 is combined with the "Sowing Seeds of Faith" Capital Campaign.

We have met the ADA 2026 goal (\$74,000), and currently, **\$213,681**, or 50% of what we have raised so far for the Campaign, returns to Ascension.

Donation Matching

We are thrilled to announce that a family has pledged to **match all campaign donations dollar-for-dollar**, up to **\$60,000**, from now until **May 31**, to support the church mission through the Capital Campaign.

Take advantage of this amazing opportunity. Consider a pledge to the campaign.

Campaign materials and pledge forms are on tables near the church main exit.

You can return your pledge card to the parish office, or place it in the offertory basket, or give online at dsj.org/giving/seedsfaith.

For giving options (QCD, IRA, stocks) scan the QR code >>>



What If You Are a Sustaining ADA Donor?

In 2026, the annual ADA and the Capital Campaign are combined into a single pledge.

But if you already donated automatically to the ADA as a sustaining donor, please consider a pledge to the Capital Campaign, which provides resources for the Pastoral Plan - beyond the scope of the ADA. Details are in the campaign materials in church.