

September 21, 2025

## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Am 8:4-7 | 1 Tim 2:1-8 | Lk 16:1-13

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

As Catholics we understand that none of our actions are truly isolated. Every virtue we practice or sin we commit affects others because we are all members of the body of Christ. Today's readings from the Old and New Testaments highlight our interconnectedness and offer guidance for how to order the life of the community according to God's will. The key to tranquil communal life is to consider the needs of others as important as our own. In the first reading, the prophet Amos decries those who exploit the poor for personal gain, putting profit over the common good. In the second reading, St. Paul begs the community to pray not only for themselves and for their close relatives, but to offer prayer and supplication for *everyone*. It's tempting to buy into the perspective that we need only focus on *our own* life. But the Lord invites us into authentic community where we intercede, sacrifice for and build up the kingdom *together*.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

I like to think of myself as a trustworthy person, and I'd expect most of us would consider ourselves the same. But as the Lord convicts my heart with today's Gospel reading about those who are trustworthy or untrustworthy in big and small matters, I hear the Holy Spirit inviting me to ponder deeper questions: Perhaps I don't intentionally deceive people and I aim to keep my word, but when someone's name or reputation comes up in conversation, can I be trusted to build them up? Do I fall prey to petty gossip, or simply sit idly by as others fall? I am true to scheduled commitments I make, but am I trustworthy with how I spend all my time? Do I use the gift of time for God's greater glory, or do I squander it with excessive scrolling or mindless TV shows? The Spirit doesn't want us to be scrupulous, and everything must be understood through God's merciful gaze. But the Lord does intend to purify us so that we can live more fully in communion with him.

### **REFLECT**

Today, consider how you are invited to live in community and contribute to the building of a Christ-like culture. How are you called to more trustworthy stewardship of the gifts and time God has given you so that you can use them for building up the body of Christ?

Church of the Ascension  
ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939

Masses: (Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p  
(M-F) 8a; (Sat) 9a  
Confessions: (Sat) 4p - 4:45p

## Catechetical Sunday

September 21

This week we celebrate Catechetical Sunday, an opportunity for our faith community to recommit to the mission of spreading the Gospel. **Parents** and **catechists** play a vital role in imparting the Christian faith to the younger generation and sharing the Good News with adults who want to join our Church.

## Collection for Faith Formation Fund

Sept 28

This semi-annual collection is for our Youth Faith Formation Fund. It will benefit our ministry to the younger generation in their journey of faith. Thank you.

## WEEKLY OFFERING - Sept 14

-Total: **\$5,087** (\$3,668 + online: \$1,419). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: **\$65,550**.

Budget: \$74,800.

-Catholic Education: **1,886**.

Thank you for your support.

## MASS INTENTIONS

|         |       |                            |
|---------|-------|----------------------------|
| Sept 20 | 05 pm | Ruth Pregliasco +          |
| Sept 21 | 07 am | Agatha Pao +               |
|         | 09 am | Darina Kavanagh +          |
|         | 11 am | Walter Dunajski +          |
|         | 05 pm | Joseph Fiorentino & Family |
| Sept 23 | 08 am | Dina Rendic +              |
| Sept 27 | 09 am | Joseph Stolz (L)           |

## Pastoral Plan of Our Diocese

At a Glance

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & OBJECTIVES

#### Worship

To provide reverent and joyful worship experiences that deepen our connection with Christ and his people

*Welcoming | Eucharist | Homilies | Music*

#### Outreach

To be Christ to everyone we meet

*Evangelization | Catholic Social Teaching | Service*

#### Formation

To invigorate the formation of missionary disciples

*Prayer | Initiation | Spiritual Growth | Education*

#### Youth and Young Adults

To understand and engage young people and to cultivate young leaders for our church and the world.

*Listening | Engagement | Training*

#### Family Ministry

To make Christ the center of family life

*Parents | Accompaniment | Support | Togetherness*

#### Structural Renewal

To build a sustainable structure in support of the mission of the diocese

*Ministries | Compensation | Organization | Funding*



## How You Can Participate

**Worship** – Volunteer as a liturgical minister at your parish

**Formation** – Dedicate 10 minutes in uninterrupted prayer with God every day

**Outreach** – Connect with someone who hasn't been to Mass in a while and let them know they are missed, listen to them, and invite them to join you

**Family** – Read the bible together at home. Start with the Gospels

**Youth and Young Adults** – Be curious about our young people: ask them questions and listen to them and their experiences

**Structural Renewal** – Participate in the ADA to support implementation

## Kairos Retreat Roles & Responsibilities 7 of 15

Step behind the scenes of a Kairos Weekend and discover the heart of our team! Every weekend is made spiritually rewarding by our Core Team, alongside the Table Leaders, Assistants, and Table Clergy at each table. Our Core Team is a group of dedicated individuals:

- The Advising Leader, the Leader from the previous Kairos Weekend, offers invaluable guidance.
- The Current Leader enthusiastically forms our volunteer team and guides the weekend's journey.
- The Observing Leader, provides support to the Leader and prepares to lead the next weekend.
- Our Chapel Coordinator thoughtfully arranges prayers and clergy meditations.
- The Agape Leader tirelessly gathers "hands of love" supportive notes, posters and a powerful "Prayer Scroll" from our wider community, adorning our meeting spaces with these symbols of support.
- The Prayer Leader guides a group of resident graduates in offering heartfelt prayers for everyone involved specially each speaker.
- The Head Servant leads a team of graduates who ensure everyone is nourished with beverages, snacks (especially those beloved cookies!), and meals.
- The Inside Coordinator warmly greets candidates daily, handling logistics with care.
- And our Runner ensures all approved supplies, food and beverages arrive smoothly.