

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

October 26, 2025

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 35:12-14, 16-18 | 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18 | Lk 18:9-14

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Today's first reading says, "The Lord is a God of justice who knows no favorites." While we humans show deference to people we admire or give preferential treatment to those we like, God loves all his creatures with the same perfect love. But then the reading goes on to say something that seems to contradict that opening line, even suggesting that God has a soft spot in his heart for the poor: "Though not unduly partial toward the weak, yet he hears the cry of the oppressed." The text mentions that God hears the prayers of the widow and orphan, and that "the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds." So what are we to make of all this? While God loves all perfectly, his heart is moved to mercy particularly toward the poor and lowly. And so the tax collector's humble prayer is heard, and he goes home justified, while the Pharisee does not.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Jesus knew how to tell stories that acted as a mirror to reveal the state of peoples' hearts. Today's Gospel opens with the line: "Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness." Because we cannot know what's going on in someone's heart the way Jesus knows, we have to be careful not to assume we know what another needs to hear. Yet, in our efforts to accompany others on the road to discipleship, there may be moments where we're called to speak a word that "afflicts the comfortable or comforts the afflicted." If we do, we must always do so from a place of love and humility, recognizing that sometimes we are sharing this word because God has convicted *us* of precisely the same thing we're sharing with another! In that way, our sharing becomes more *witness* to the ways God has humbled us.

PRAY

There is a short, ancient Christian prayer known as the Jesus Prayer that is derived, in part, from our Gospel reading today. The entire text of the prayer is one line: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner" which is repeated over and over again. Consider praying this prayer throughout the week as a way of rooting yourself more deeply in humility and an awareness of our need for God's mercy.



By Gustave Doré - Surab, Public Domain

An Endless Supply of Grace

When we pray the Hail Mary, we ask for the help of Mary our Mother at two crucial moments of our lives: "now, and at the hour of our death." Now is an important occasion because it is the time of decision. The hour of our death is critical because it's the last moment over which we exercise our will. When we pray for the dead, today and every day, we come to the spiritual assistance of those who can no longer help themselves. We can rest assured that one day the church will be supplying us with the same grace.

-Takefiveforfaith.com

All Saints & All Souls Mass Schedule

Nov 1 (Saturday)

9am - All Saints Mass (*not obligatory this year*)

5pm - Anticipated All Souls Mass

Nov 2 (Sunday)

7am, 9am, 11am, 5pm: All Souls Masses.

R.I.P.

John James, a long-time member of Ascension, passed away on Saturday, October 18. May he rest in peace, and may his family find solace in the Lord.

Advanced Planning Can Ease Grief

After the passing of a loved one, family members must confront difficult choices, which can be overwhelming if the final wishes of the deceased are not known. By planning ahead, you can make certain that their or your wishes are honored, which will help lighten the load on your family. The Outreach Team from our Diocese's Cemetery Services will visit Ascension to provide guidance on Advanced Planning on **Sun, Nov. 16, from 10am to 11am** in Worner Hall. Materials related to advanced planning will be in church on Nov. 8.

Parish Building Fund Collection - Oct 26

This semi-annual collection is designated for the continuous upkeep of our parish facilities. Your generosity will assist us in managing maintenance expenses as they continue to increase. Thank you.

WEEKLY OFFERING - Oct. 19

-Total: **\$4,881** (\$3,017 + online: \$1,864). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: **\$93,360**. Budget: \$108,800.

-World Mission Sunday: **\$1,484**.

-Catholic Education: **\$2,000** (YTD: \$3,905). Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 25	Sat	05 pm	Nicanor Tombo +
Oct 26	Sun	09 am	Walter Dunajski +
		11 am	John James +
		05 pm	Joseph Fiorentino & Family
Oct 29	Wed	08 am	Marta De Fazio +

Episcopal Ordination

Most Rev. **Andres "Andy" Ligot**, elected Auxiliary Bishop of San Jose, will make his **Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity** on Sunday, November 2, at 6:00 pm at the Cathedral Basilica of St Joseph.

His **Episcopal Ordination** will be celebrated at a Solemn Mass on Monday, November 3 at 2:00 pm at Our Lady of La Vang Church.

These liturgies are ticket-only.

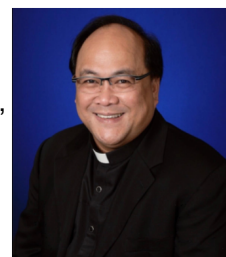
Please do not come without a ticket.

The Bishop-elect was in residence for a few years at Ascension parish rectory.

Congratulations, Bishop-elect Ligot!

May the Holy Spirit guide you in your episcopal ministry.

Please follow the liturgies through livestream at Facebook @dioceseofsanjose.



AC Survey on Pastoral Priorities

Please select:

- Three (3) top pastoral priorities for Ascension
- Ways to help achieve those priorities.

Scan the QR code to participate in the survey.

Thank you!



Refugee Foster Care

Refugee Foster Care, sponsored by our local Catholic Charities, supports unaccompanied refugee minors fleeing persecution and violence. The program is seeking families to welcome a refugee youth into their home. To learn more about it, join a virtual info meeting on Nov. 13 at 6:30pm. For more info, call 408-325-5107. RSVP via the QR code.

