



October 27, 2024

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 31:7-9 | Heb 5:1-6 | Mk 10:46-52

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Although today's Gospel recounts the healing of Bartimaeus' physical blindness, the story is a summons for each of us to be healed of our spiritual blindness. Spiritual blindness, an effect of sin, clouds our ability to perceive who we are and who God is. Paradoxically, Bartimaeus' spiritual eyesight is clear; he recognizes who Jesus is and he sees his own desperate need for Jesus' help. For us, however, sin acts like dust, obstructing our vision and preventing us from perceiving God's presence. We find it difficult to recognize God in other people and in the sacraments; and we likewise become incapable of perceiving ourselves as God sees us. If we wish to have our spiritual eyesight restored, we would do well to imitate Bartimaeus' humble, confident prayer: "Master, I want to see." Acknowledging our need before God and begging for his help, we invite him to heal our hearts, so that we, like Bartimaeus, may follow Jesus "on the way."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Where can we seek the healing of our "spiritual sight"? We should look for it from the same person from whom Bartimaeus begged to be cured of his physical blindness: Jesus. But whereas Bartimaeus' encounter with Jesus took place amid noisy crowds of followers and curious onlookers, our most intimate relations with Our Lord take place in the quiet context of prayer and the sacraments. Above all, confession and Eucharistic adoration offer us opportunities to meet God and petition him for the cleansing of our hearts. In confession, we humbly acknowledge our need for conversion and invite God to heal us. In Eucharistic adoration, we approach Jesus with the faith of Bartimaeus, seeing past the appearance of bread and declaring that the consecrated host is indeed God himself. Through these eyes of faith, the Lord heals any blindness, and we can see "and [follow] him on the way."

PRAY Choose a regular time to take advantage of the two opportunities for healing we've discussed - confession and Eucharistic adoration. If you do not already go to confession regularly, consider making it a monthly commitment. Finally, set aside time this week to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, either in Eucharistic adoration or before the tabernacle in your church. Try visiting him weekly - and then watch how your time in his presence transforms you.

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

I Can See Clearly Now

Certain events leave us with the sensation of scales falling from our eyes. Maybe it's a directed retreat or parish mission that shatters our complacency and brings us to tears. Or maybe it's just life happening to us in all of its raw power—in birth, loss, love, or pain—that promotes a clearer value of what's really important. All in a moment, we sense what we need to do, or stop doing, to be true to what's real. When those hours arrive, pay attention! Jesus is calling, a way is opening, and all that's required is to say "yes." - *Preparetheword.com*

All Saints & All Souls

Nov. 1: **8 am & 7 pm** (Friday)

Nov. 2: **9 am & 11 am** (Saturday)

"We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church; and we believe that in this communion, the merciful love of God and his saints is always [attentive] to our prayers"

(*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 962*)



Littlest Saints

LittlestSaints.com features the lives of the saints as told by kids. In each episode, a young child dons a habit, a uniform, etc., and acts out a different heavenly hero's story, full of drama, comedy, and everything in between. Visit LittlestSaints.com.

"Invited" Podcast

by Diocese of San Jose

The Diocese of San Jose launched "Invited" potcast on Oct.16, 2024.

Episode 1: **Advocacy and Political Love in an Election Year** - with Bishop

Oscar Cantú, Fr. Angelbert Chikere, and Michael Shirley.

At www.youtube.com/@DioceseofSanJoseCA.



Artisan Faire

Featuring 70 vendors, local artisan gifts, jewelry, holiday items, and gourmet foods.

Friday, November 8, from 9am - 4pm.

Saturday, November 9, from 9am - 4pm.

Sacred Heart Parish, Saratoga

For details: visit parish.SacredHeartSaratoga.org.

WEEKLY OFFERING - OCTOBER 20

-\$5,416 (basket: \$3,571; online: \$1,845). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: **\$86,155**. Budget: \$104,000.

-World Mission: **\$2,100**.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 26	Sat	05 pm	The Lenarduzzi Family
Oct 27	Sun	07 am	Melba Paes (L)
		09 am	John Sokol, Sr. +
		11 am	Luz & Dave Wenger (L)
		05 pm	Fr. Rey Sarmiento (L)
Oct 28	Mon	08 am	The Gerrard Family
Nov 01	Fri	08 am; 07 pm	All Saints
Nov 02	Sat	09 am; 11 am	All Souls

Encyclical on the Sacred Heart

Pope Francis just released a new encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The encyclical "*Dilexit nos*" was published on Oct. 24 amid the celebrations of the 350th anniversary of the manifestation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1673. The celebrations will conclude on 27 June 2025.

"'He loved us', Saint Paul says of Christ (cf. Rom 8:37), in order to make us realize that nothing can ever 'separate us' from that love (Rom 8:39)": Thus begins Pope Francis' fourth encyclical, which takes its title from the opening words, *Dilexit nos*.
- *From Vaticannews.va*

Sixty Years Ago in Ascension

On Oct. 27, 1964, Father William H. Worner was appointed the first pastor of our Church of the Ascension. On a piece of property offered by the Pon family, a drying shed was spruced up and converted into the first church, affectionately called "The Barn." Three years later, a permanent church was dedicated on October 29, 1967. In 1977, Fr. Worner was succeeded by Monsignor John T. Dwyer.

Update on Ascension 60th Jubilee Book

Our 60th Jubilee Book is in progress. We are collecting content - including pictures, artifacts, and stories - for the book.

- Pictures and artifacts: If you have photos or other materials related to Ascension (historic events, activities, or buildings, etc.), please send them to the parish (with a brief caption, your name, and your phone number).

- In your own words: Please write just a few words, or a sentence, to express what you like about our Ascension Parish, either (1) on the newsprint paper in church, or (2) on "Ascension Jubilee Book" on the website ascensionsaratoga.org. The comments that best define our community will be part of our 60th Jubilee Book.

Thank you.



Prayer Before an Election

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, Men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- *US Conference of Catholic Bishops usccb.org*

Funeral at Ascension

Our community will remember and pray for **Douglas Weins** at his funeral on Saturday, November 9, at 11am. May he rest in peace.