

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 12, 2025

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 5:14-17 | 2 Tim 2:8-13 | Lk 17:11-19

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

After his healing in the Jordan river, Naaman returns to Elisha. It's clear from their ensuing conversation that his miraculous healing had led to him recognizing the God of Israel as the one who had healed him. In thanksgiving, he desires to offer sacrifice, and pledges that he "will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any other god except the Lord." In the Gospel, we see the Samaritan returning to Jesus after his healing, falling at the Lord's feet and "glorifying God in a loud voice." It's clear from both Scriptures that when we recognize what God has done for us, our first response is to worship. That's why our central act of worship as a Christian community is called *Eucharist* – from the Greek word for thanksgiving. When we come to worship God, what is it that we're grateful for? If gratitude is the heart of worship, it's a fruitful practice to intentionally spend some time considering God's providence in our lives over the past week so we come to the liturgy prepared to offer thanks.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Something that has always struck me about today's Gospel is that Jesus heals all ten of the lepers, not only the one who returned to offer thanks. While we, as humans, can be tempted to withhold love when we know it will not be acknowledged or appreciated, Jesus heals all ten. God is good to us, even when we're ungrateful. As Paul says, "If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself." God can do only one thing: love. How powerful would it be if we worked to imitate the kind of gratuitous love we see in today's Gospel? Think about opportunities to practice this kind of love. What a witness this would be to the world if we were to imitate God's way of loving. As the Persian poet Hafiz wrote: "Even after all this time, the sun never says to the earth, 'You owe me.' Look what happens with a love like that. It lights the whole sky."

REFLECT

Take some time before Mass each Sunday to do an examine-style prayer, reflecting on where you've seen God's action in your life during the week. How has God provided for your needs? How has God accompanied you through challenges? How has the Spirit of God brought consolation and strength? Make a list of all the places you've experienced God's presence and grace and prepare to offer thanks to God for these gifts at Mass.



Faith Brings a Wellspring of Healing

Whether Jesus was speaking to a woman who had anointed him in a Pharisee's house, another woman whom he had cured of a hemorrhage, or a leper whom he'd cleansed, his closing words were much the same: "Your faith has saved you." Believing in Jesus' power to heal had opened the door to healing. Some versions of the Bible, though, translate this phrase a little differently: "Your faith has made you well." To be "saved," then, can mean to be made well, to be made whole, not only in one's own person but in relationships with others, too. In yourself and in your relationships with God and others, what needs healing? -Takefiveforfaith.com

Prayer for Hope (Respect Life Month)

Heavenly Father, in the sacrament of Baptism, you have given us the gift of new life. Through your son our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you have made us your own.

Help us to recognize the gift of human life as a sign of hope in our world.

Reveal to us the places where your precious gift of life is most in need of protection and strengthen us to defend life in all stages and circumstances, from the child in the womb to the elderly and dying.

Guided by your Holy Spirit, guard us from discouragement and give us the grace to be messengers of hope, filled with confidence that nothing can separate us from your love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

New Altar Servers Needed!

A training session for new altar servers is scheduled for **Saturday, October 18, at 9:30 AM** in the church. Please call Fr. Hao at 408-725-3939.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sept 28

-Total: **\$5,823** (\$5,117 + online: \$706). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: **\$76,262**. Budget: \$88,400.

-Faith Formation Fund: **\$1,628**

-Building Fund (online): **\$992**.

Oct 5

-Total: **\$6,810** (\$3,830 + online: \$2,980). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: **\$83,072**. Budget: \$95,200.

-Building Fund: Office Termite Treatment: **\$1,000**.

Consider donating from your IRA if you're 70½ years of age or older. Such a donation, part of your annual Required Minimum Distribution, is free from taxation.

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 11	Sat	05 pm	Cesar Munita +
Oct 12	Sun	07 am	Agatha Pao +
		11 am	Gabrielle Mancuso +
		05 pm	Marie Firato & Family
Oct 18	Sat	09 am	Thomas Dien & Monica Than Tran +

Family Covenant in Today's World

In a homily on the Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly (June 1), Pope Leo said, "Today's world needs the marriage covenant in order to know and accept God's love and to defeat, thanks to its unifying and reconciling power, the forces that break down relationships and societies."

In the family, he said, faith "is shared like food at the family table and like the love in our hearts. In this way, families become privileged places in which to encounter Jesus, who loves us and desires our good, always." – Pope Leo XIV, Homily, June 1, 25

Family Ministry Toolkit

Do you have a heart for supporting families in our parish? Join the **Family Ministry Gathering: Introducing the Family Ministry Toolkit**. This virtual diocesan event will present new resources to strengthen faith and family ministry in our parishes.

Date & place:

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 @ 7:00pm (via Zoom)

REGISTER VIA QR CODE >>>

For more information, please contact the Office of Adult Spirituality & Family Life at familylife@dsj.org.



Diocese of San Jose Pastoral Plan

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES &
OBJECTIVES



Participate in the Pastoral Plan

Worship – Pray and sing together with others during Mass.

Formation – Try watch.formed.org (Free subscription: type "ascension" or 95070).

Outreach – Check in with someone who is homebound or has health issues.

Family – Read together the scriptural reflection in the parish bulletin.

Youth and Young Adults – Show kindness and interest in them. Listen to them.

Structural Renewal – Help secure the finances needed to implement the pastoral plan.

Priorities for Our Parish Renewal

Each of 53 parishes in the Diocese is called to participate in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for the renewal of faith and service. Ascension is in the process of discerning three (3) priorities, based on the pastoral plan, for our community's renewal. We will be carrying out a parish-wide survey in the next few weeks. Meanwhile, please scan the QR code for the Pastoral Plan.

