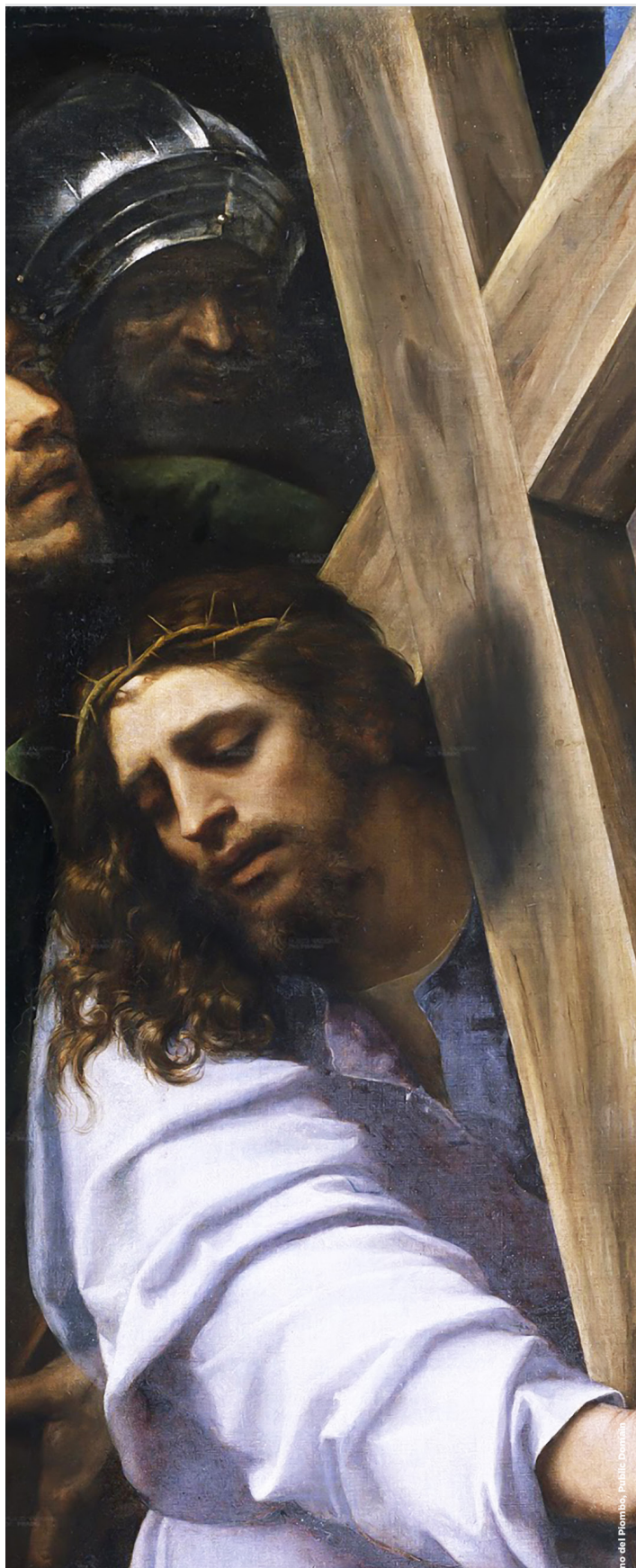




Church of the Ascension

ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939

Masses: (Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p
(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Confessions: (Sat) 4p – 4:45p

August 30, 2026

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:7-9 | Rom 12:1-2 | Mt 16:21-27

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Peter, understandably, responded to Christ's foreshadowing of his death with shock and horror – insisting that Jesus would not suffer and die. But Christ's words to his disciples taught them all to respond with humble obedience, trusting in the mission of God without fully understanding it. And Jeremiah in the first reading felt that God had “duped” him. Perhaps the message here is to expect the unexpected when taking on a life of holiness. In my own vocations of marriage, motherhood, and teaching, I regularly encounter challenges and surprises. As disciples, when we discern the will of God in our lives and choose to live according to his will, we do so not because we know all that it will entail, but because we know and trust the One who calls us. We are not promised an easy life, but we are promised abundant life. God calls us to a life of holiness because he knows that is what will bring us fulfillment and peace.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In the process of discernment, we consider our gifts and talents, humbly reflect upon what is needed to build the kingdom of God, and listen carefully in prayer to the voice of God. We have the immense gifts of Sacred Tradition and Scripture to facilitate the “renewal of [the] mind” (Rom 12:2) as we allow our minds and hearts to be transformed by God's will. And in humble obedience, we must be honest with ourselves about whether we are fully open to God's call, even when it is contrary to our plans. When we believe with our entire being that we are living according to God's will, we will not be able to remain quiet or live in a mediocre way. Just as Jeremiah was unable to keep himself from speaking on the Lord's behalf, the Good News of Christ will come pouring forth from our being in everything that we do. And in this outpouring of God's love, we will give others the opportunity to encounter Christ through us.

REFLECT

Spend some time this week considering the vocation to which you are being called. Reflect upon how you can grow in trust of God to depend upon his care and guidance as you serve according to his will. Although our specific call may be challenging and may seem overwhelming, we can trust in the promise that following God's will leads to a life of joy and peace.

Pastoral Council Openings

Interested in supporting Ascension in a significant way? Consider joining the Ascension Pastoral Council. The council meets once per month (10 months per year) and the initial term is 3 years.

The Pastoral Council advises the pastor on pastoral matters, helping identify and encourage those ministries or services that are needed for the growth of a parish. The threefold task of the council – investigating, considering and recommending conclusions – forms the core consultative work of the Pastoral Council.

Scan QR code for more details (history of council, responsibilities, qualities of council members, etc.).

If you have any questions, contact



Fr. Hao or any of the current Pastoral Council Members: Jeff Moe (chair), Keswick Tsang (vice chair), Tom Roza (secretary), Bob Bowe, Harry Stice, Dong-Young Chang, and Melissa Chan.

Volunteer Ice Cream Social

Saturday, September 5

3p - 4p at the area outside the Hall Lounge.

It is a way for our Parish to say thank you to our volunteers for their services in different ways.

Pope Francis called volunteers "the strength of the Church" and an "indispensable" part of its mission.

Adoration & Divine Mercy - September 4

You are invited to the 8am Mass and Adoration on First Friday from 8:30am to 3:00pm, followed by Divine Mercy & Benediction. Though drop-ins are welcome, please **sign up in church** to ensure that at least two adorers are present at all times.

WEEKLY OFFERING

August 16

-Total: **\$4,609** (\$3,441 + online: \$1,163). Goal: \$7,000.

-YTD Sunday: \$40,514. Budget: \$49,000.

-Assumption: **\$245**.

August 23

-Total: **\$4,604** (\$3,463 + online: \$1,466). Goal: \$7,000.

-YTD Sunday: \$45,119. Budget: \$56,000.

-Mission Co-op: **\$4,388**.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 29	Sat	05 pm	Richard Firato +
Aug 30	Sun	07 am	Sofia Laguisma +
		09 am	James Bastholm +
		11 am	Wai Ping Leung +
		05 pm	Gabrielle Mancuso (L)
Sep 01	Tue	08 am	Ron Hensley (L)
Sep 02	Wed	08 am	J. B. Son Phung +
Sep 04	Fri	08 am	Jane Lautermilch +
Sep 05	Sat	09 am	Leina Boulanger (L)



October 4: Saint Francis' Life

12:15 pm - 1:45 pm in Worner Hall

For All Ages

Guest Speaker: Fr. Peter Eugenio, OFM

Come for a shared *meal, learning, and discussion* around the life of Saint Francis.

In this **Year of Saint Francis**, the Church commemorates this beloved saint who passed away 800 years ago on October 3, 1226.

This is the 1st **monthly gathering** as part of Ascension's Spiritual Renewal.

Youth and Families and anyone else are invited every Sunday to the **11:00am Mass** (*)

starting on **September 20**,
when we will **worship**,
listen to the **word**,
and learn to be **witnesses**
to the Risen Lord.

Please **register** for the October 4 gathering in church (or on the parish website soon).
Suggested \$5 donation at the gatherings.

Next Monthly Gatherings

Nov. 8: Seeing God in All Creation

Dec. 6: Embracing Humility & Poverty

Jan. 10: Songs & Prayers

Feb. 21: Vocations

Mar. 7: Willingness to Suffer for Christ

Apr. 4: Brotherhood and Peace.

(*) *This Mass replaces the 10:15am class. Those preparing for sacraments will follow a special schedule.*

Parish Picnic

Come celebrate as one parish family!

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Noon - Following the 11AM Mass

On the front lawn of the parish

ON THE MENU

**Catered BBQ and Burgers
Kids' Activities
Ice Cream and Dessert**

\$20

PER PERSON

**Kids come
free!**

Children 12 & under — no charge