



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

November 24, 2024

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Dn 7:13-14 | Rv 1:5-8 | Jn 18:33b-37

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

If we reflect on today's Gospel, it might be hard for us to envision Jesus ever dressed like an actual king! When Pontius Pilate asked him if he was a king, Jesus responded, "If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over." Imagine: Jesus had spent the night in agony; his friends had all abandoned him; and, in a few verses, Pilate will deliver him to be scourged. He must have *felt*, at that moment, like anything but a king. But, indeed, he was (and is) the Creator of the Universe and its rightful king. We Christians – called, like Jesus' first disciples, to be his friends and followers – should do everything we can to proclaim him as king of our hearts, our families, our lives, and our society.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

There is a tradition of placing an image of Jesus' Sacred Heart in a prominent place in the home. The idea is to "enthron" Jesus as king of the home and the family; there is even a small ceremony to go along with the enthronement. In one of the most famous images of the Sacred Heart, Jesus wears a magnificent crown, holds a scepter in his right hand, and carries the earth in his left hand. We see, from this picture, Jesus as a king with a glorious crown who holds the world in his hand – but he does so with a heart burning with love! He loves us so much that he wishes to extend the reign of his love to every human being on earth. We can cooperate with him in this by "enthroning" him as king of our hearts and our homes and allowing his love to impact everything we do and say. By our willingness to welcome God into every aspect of our lives, we will become witnesses of his love to others.

INVITE This week, take one opportunity to invite someone to pray with you. They could be dinner guests, a coworker, or a friend you meet for coffee. Whoever it is, ask him or her if there are any particular intentions you can bring to God in prayer. By doing this, you remind your friend of God's constant presence and his desire to be part of all of your joys, sorrows, and anxieties.

Glory be to Christ, Our King!
Happy Thanksgiving!

A Game of 20 Questions

Actually, only 11 questions are exchanged in the fateful interview between Pilate and Jesus. Pilate asks 10, the most famous being, "What is truth?" Equally significant, however, is Pilate's other inquiry, "Are you the King of the Jews?" To which Jesus replies with his own bold interrogation: "Are you saying this on your own or have others told you about me?" It remains a significant inquiry. On this day when the church honors Jesus as King of the Universe, we might ponder the question ourselves: Does Jesus rule our hearts? Or is his authority just something we hear tell about?

Thanksgiving Dual Celebration

You are invited to these celebrations on Thanksgiving:

- **9:00am (not 8:00am) Mass at Ascension Church**

(with blessing of food that you share at your Thanksgiving dinner)

- **10:00am Interfaith Prayer Service**, sponsored by the Saratoga Ministerial Association, at Congregation Beth David Synagogue, our neighbor.

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
his mercy endures forever" (Psalm 118:1)*

CHA Student Choir at Ascension Mass

Please welcome the Canyon Heights Academy Choir to our Ascension Church on **Sunday, Dec. 1 at the 9:00 am Mass.**

This is a private Catholic school, located in Campbell.



Finance & Facility Report

Our parish annual Finance & Facility Report is available in church, and on ascensionsaratoga.org. It gives you (1) a summary of our financial activities and performance, and (2) an update on maintenance or repair projects that keep our facilities safe and functional. Thank you for your support.

Scan the QR code for the Annual Report.



WEEKLY OFFERING

NOVEMBER 10

-**\$8,212** (basket: \$5,043; online: \$3,169). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: \$104,681. Budget: \$123,500.

-**\$2,683** (Parish Building Fund).

NOVEMBER 17

-**\$5,340** (basket: \$4,022; online: \$1,318). Goal: \$6,500.

-**\$7,800** (special annual donation)

-YTD: \$117,821. Budget: \$130,000.

-**\$4,000** (special donation for Parish Building Fund)

-**\$1,344** (Campaign for Human Development)

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 23	Sat	05 pm	Maxine Stice +
Nov 24	Sun	07 am	The Gerrard Family
		09 am	Edmond Ko +
		11 am	Anthony Lau +
		05 pm	Heather Opperman +
Nov 28	Thu	09 am	(Thanksgiving)
Nov 30	Sat	09 am	Natalie McKeever (L)

Advent Gathering with Mary

Gather - Listen - Reflect - Eat - Share as a Family

Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation. More than anyone else, our Blessed Mother Mary knows how to prepare for Jesus, and can teach us to live the Advent spirit today.

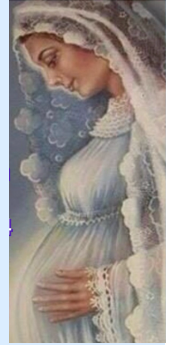
Come to our Advent Gathering, to reflect on how to prepare for Jesus' coming (*starts with a simple meal*).

Sunday, Dec. 8 (12:00pm - 1:30pm)

Worner Hall

Free admission

To help us prepare enough food, please **sign up** (in the back of the church) or **call the parish office 725-3939**.



Celebrate Immaculate Conception

The Mass celebrating the Immaculate Conception this year will be on Monday, Dec. 9, as the feast falls on Sunday.

Bishop Cantú has granted dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass this year. Yet you are encouraged to come and celebrate Mass at **8:00am on Dec. 9, Monday**.

Nativity Play by Children

Open to all school-aged children

Bring costumes if you have them.

Time commitment:

Dec. 14 & Dec. 21 (10am-11am): Rehearsals

Dec. 24 (5pm Family Mass): Nativity Play

To sign up: Scan QR code >>>

or visit ascensionsaratoga.org.



Ads/Messages in Parish Jubilee Book

Consider sponsor our Ascension Jubilee Book with:

- Ads for your *business* (or someone else's)
- Messages in *honor* of those who mark significant events (graduation, wedding, anniversary, etc.) or in *memory* of a loved one (death anniversary), etc.

- *Congratulations* to Ascension from your family or group.

Sponsorship levels:

Full Page \$250 | 1/2 Page \$150

1/4 Page \$100 | Business Card \$50

Our Contact Person:

Melissa at franmel1123@yahoo.com, or 408-823-9079.



Help One Child

Help One Child is committed to a unique, holistic approach, serving the full breadth of child welfare from prevention through emancipation or post-adoption. Take a look at the **Giving Tree** in the corner of our church and see how you can support this program.

Layette for Mothers and Babies in Need

Items needed: baby clothing and other items for newborns from zero to 6 months. We have a basket in church for donated items. You can support also with a check payable to "Diocese of San Jose Layette Fund" and we will send your donation to the Diocese. On December 1, volunteers bring items to Isolation Products, 157 San Lazaro Avenue, Sunnyvale. Thank you.