

Church of the Ascension

ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939

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

This week: Mon-Thu: 9a & 7p (no 8a Mass)
Confessions: (Sat) 4p-4:45p



Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13 | 1 Cor 1:26-31 | Mt 5:1-12a

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

There have been many times when I have experienced “imposter syndrome” in my work, where I doubt my own ability. In these times, I often looked to others to try to determine if I was doing enough. But instead of giving me the validation and encouragement I was seeking, this act of comparison frequently led to dissatisfaction. I began to wish I was more like others — more outgoing, more disciplined, more organized. But who I am and the gifts that I have to offer are exactly what I am being called to give in my vocation. Saint Paul reminds us in his First Letter to the Corinthians that we were not called because we possess a specific talent or personality; we have been called to bear witness to the work Christ is doing in us. And this witness comes from living our vocation authentically, with the gifts we naturally possess. When we not only accept but love and value our unique qualities, we give glory to the One who so lovingly and perfectly created us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In proclaiming the beatitudes, Christ reveals that those who will experience the rewards of heaven aren’t those we might consider “blessed” by human standards. What our culture values as markers of success and happiness are not always what is valued in the kingdom of God. Indeed, the joys of life in the kingdom are deeper than those here on earth; we were created for fulfillment greater than what this world can offer. Therefore, we must live confidently in the hope of Christ’s promises instead of comparing ourselves to others who might appear more successful. And as we live our vocation, we are called to live out the countercultural message of the beatitudes — a radical trust in the eternal promises of God in spite of earthly poverty, grief, or persecution. In doing so, we invite others to see and experience the joy of the abundant life that Christ proclaims.

REFLECT

As we go through life, there can be times when we feel unprepared for the vocation God has called us to. Consider how these feelings of inadequacy may be an invitation for us to rely more fully on Christ working within us. Bring this to prayer and ask the Lord to reveal how he may be using this particular circumstance to draw us closer to him.

Sowing Seeds of Faith

Five centuries ago, Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St Juan Diego and planted seeds of faith that transformed the Americas. Today, the Lord is calling us to a renewal here in our Diocese.

Church of the Ascension is proud to join every parish in the Diocese in the *Sowing Seeds of Faith* campaign. This initiative is the tangible next step in fulfilling the call of our diocesan Pastoral Plan, *Renewed in Christ, Together in Mission*, to spiritual renewal through deeper discipleship, vibrant community, and missionary outreach.

The Pastoral Plan will strengthen ministries and outreach across 53 parishes to ensure a strong, vibrant local Church for generations to come.

For Ascension, this campaign helps our parish to:

- Creating a Welcoming Place for Worship
- Supporting Families at Every Stage
- Engaging Youth and Young Adults.

Over the next five months, we will be asking you to support the important work in our Diocese and Ascension through your Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Details are on a separate page (hard copy, or QR >>).



Collection for Church in Latin America

This collection today benefits catechists, seminarians, pastoral projects in Latin America. Thank you for your support.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Jan. 25

-Total: **\$4,146** (\$3,310 + online: \$1,888). Goal: \$6,800.
-YTD Sunday: **\$190,981**. Budget: \$204,000.

Jan. 18

-Total: **\$5,198** (\$3,083+ online: \$1,063). Goal: \$6,800.
-YTD Sunday: **\$186,834** Budget: \$197,200.
-Ascension Faith Formation: **\$1,347**.

Thank you for your generosity.

Weekday Mass Schedule (Feb. 2-5)

Massed on Monday - Thursday this coming week will be at **9:00am** and **7:00pm** (no 8am Masses)
Fr. Michael Moore will preach at these Masses as part of the **Parish Mission**.

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 31	Sat	05 pm	Jessica Fedeli +
Feb 01	Sun	07 am	Josephine Gembala +
		09 am	John Domanico +
		11 am	Lihua Wu +
		05 pm	Marie Firato & Family
Feb 03	Tue	09 am	Danilo Bautista +
Feb 05	Thu	09 am	Theresa Tien Dao +
Feb 06	Fri	08 am	Walter Whelan +

Spiritual Renewal

Parish Mission with Fr. Michael Moore, SPS

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Not Only With Us But Also Within Us

1/31 & 2/1 (Sat & Sun Masses)

Introducing Mission

2/2 - 2/5 (Mon-Thu) 9:00 am & repeated at 7:00 pm
(no 8:00 am Mass on Mon-Thu)

Mission (Reflection during 9am & 7pm Masses)

Monday: "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

Tuesday: That is why Jesus, the Son of God was born as one of us.

Wednesday: That is also why Jesus gave us the Eucharist.

Thursday: How can we even try to understand the next life while still in this life?



St. Patrick Fathers

Fr. Michael Moore, who leads our Parish Mission this week, is a priest of St. Patrick's Missionary Society. The society, commonly known as St. Patrick Fathers, first came to the US in 1954 for the

purpose of mission awareness and promotion of their missionary work in Africa, South America and the Caribbean. The society's first house was in Camden Town, New Jersey. It was relocated to Chicago since 1968. While their main focus continues to be the promotion of the society's missionary work they also have a long tradition of service to the wider Irish community in Chicago. Fr. Moore and his confrères were once in residence near our Ascension Church.

Ash Wednesday Schedule

Feb. 18

8:00 am & 7:00 pm.



How to Lent

This is a new series from the Augustine Institute that aims to help us appreciate and practice the pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Guided by Solenne Santiago and with the help of priests and religious, this series will challenge our preconceived notions about Lent, laying out a roadmap for entering the season with a purpose.



More Lenten Resources

for ADULTS and CHILDREN on the **FORMED Lent Calendar** (QR code).
Sign up by entering our church zip code, selecting Ascension, etc.