

Happy Lunar New Year!

Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

www.ascensionsaratoga.org

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

(Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p

(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

February 11, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 | 1 Cor 10:31—11:1 | Mk 1:40-45

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

The leper in today's Gospel was not only severely ill, but he was also barred from practicing his faith. Because he was considered unclean, he could not enter the temple to worship. It is no wonder he did everything in his power to find Jesus and beg him for healing. And heal him Jesus did, both body and soul. According to commentary on this passage from the USCCB, "In curing the leper, Jesus assumes that the priests will reinstate the cured man into the religious community." It seems to me that this Gospel is about faith, and about love. The leper had great faith that Jesus could heal him, and the great love of Jesus for this man moved Jesus to go against mosaic law by touching and healing him. When we read the Scriptures we are reminded over and over again how much God loves us. Let us allow this knowledge to sink into our hearts and change us. When we begin to reflect God's love to those around us, we will find that our lives are filled with his peace. Give it a try: Love as Jesus loves.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Gospel is about Jesus' love, and it's also about great faith. Faith is a theological virtue that involves believing in God and everything he has said and revealed. It is a free gift from God, and with the help of his grace, faith is the foundation of our personal and communal relationship with our Triune God. As God's children baptized into the Body of Christ, we can root everything we do in faith so that all of our actions point to God and to building his kingdom. How do we do this? It's hard to say it much better than Paul does in his letter to the Corinthians today: "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."

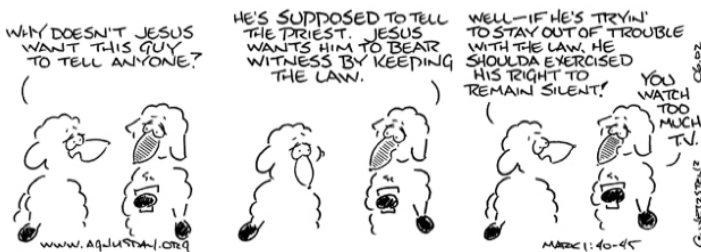
ACCOMPANY How do we love as Jesus loves? Accompany another. Perhaps there is someone in our lives with whom we can walk alongside on their journey of faith. It need not be intimidating; as Christian disciples we already possess the tools we need to accompany: listen, love, share and pray.

Significant Triad

Significantly, three elements are coming together this Sunday. It is February 11th, traditionally celebrated as the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, known for the miraculous healings through her intercessions. It is also the World Day of Prayer for the Sick, an observation introduced by St John Paul II. Finally, on this day we hear the story of Jesus healing the leper in Mark's gospel. Jesus did not simply cure the leper physically. He healed his deep pain of being excluded and shunned by everyone else. Jesus restored him to his family and community. Jesus desires to heal all aspects of our lives.

Agnus Day Comic Strip

Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org



Lent

+Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

February 14: 8:00 am; 7:00 pm.

+Stations of the Cross

8:30 am every Friday during Lent after the 8:00 am Mass.

+Weekly Lenten Reflection by Fr. Hao Journeying with Jesus

At the 8:00 am Mass every Wednesday, from Feb. 21.

+Paschal Mystery: Dying and Rising

by Fr. Maurice & Fr. Hao

During the 5pm Saturday Mass on March 9, 16, 23.

+Explore Lent on FORMED.org,

a Catholic multi-media resource presenting curated content to help you journey through this season. It helps deepen your understanding of Lenten days, practices, and devotions. You can find resources on prayer, the Passion, Holy Week, etc.

- (1) Go to formed.org/signup.
- (2) Select your parish by entering Ascension, or zip code.
- (3) Enter your name and email address.
- (4) Check that email account for a link to FORMED.



MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 10	Sat	05 pm	Barbara & Ronnie Stopnick +
Feb 11	Sun	09 am	Carol McLafferty (L)
		11 am	Tiburcio Jun Edano +
Feb 12	Mon	08 am	Gaudencia Santiago +
Feb 15	Thu	08 am	Romulo + & Agnes Sison (L)
Feb 17	Sat	09 am	Walter Whelan (L)

Eucharist Small Group Study

Join us every Sunday (Jan. 14 - Feb. 25) right after the 9:00 am Mass in our church. In preparation, you can watch the series free of charge at FORMED. Type "Formed.org Jesus and the Eucharist" into a search engine.

Jesus & the Eucharist

Session 5: God Is with Us

From the very beginning, God desired to be with his people. From the Garden of Eden to the Exodus, from the tabernacle in the wilderness to the temple in Jerusalem, the God of the universe has chosen to accompany his people and dwell with them. The Sacrament of the Eucharist, as the gift par excellence, is the gift of Christ himself. Under the humble species of bread and wine, there is the sacramental reality of Christ's Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. God gives himself to us in the Eucharist to give us strength for our journey and to accompany us along our way.

ADA Week 1 Report

Number of pledges: 29

Total amount pledged: \$23,255

Percent of goal: 30.95%

That's promising! Thank you, "first responders"!

How about you (who are reading this report)?

You can help *reach* and *surpass* our goal in a few weeks!

We plan to use the surplus this year for the *Terrace project* turning the area in front of the church into a level surface that is safe and good for parish gatherings. More details to follow. Thank you for your support.

Lion Dance after the 11 am Mass on February 11

Celebrate Lunar New Year of the Dragon with the Lions and Kids Dancing outside Worner Hall, organized by the Chinese Catholics at Ascension. **Happy New Year!**

Ascension 60th Jubilee

Closing Celebration - May 18 @ 5 pm

Our Parish 60th Jubilee will come to an official close on May 18, 2024, at the 5:00 pm Mass, presided by Bishop Oscar Cantú, followed by a Reception.

Help us plan the Closing Reception. Please sign up to (1) join the Reception Committee, or (2) be volunteers at the Reception. Sign-up sheets are near the main entrance to the church.

We are also planning to have a Parish Photo Directory. More details to follow.

Thank you for your participation.

February Special Collections

Feb 11: Ethnic Minorities & Church in Latin America

Feb 14 (Ash Wed): Church in Central & Eastern Europe

WEEKLY OFFERING - FEB 04

-\$6,383 (baskets: \$5,320 including \$2,000 annual gift; online: \$1,063). Weekly goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: \$195,603. Budget: \$208,000. Shortfall: \$12,397.

Thank you for your generous support.