

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 9, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 | 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17 | Jn 2:13-22

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

Although today's feast marks the dedication of one of the most important churches for Catholics, the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, it's ultimately not a celebration of a building, but a celebration of all members of the Church. As Paul reminds us, we are "the temple of God" and the Spirit of God dwells in us. We see in the Gospel that Jesus has immense love for the temple and wishes to protect it. He uses a whip made from cords to drive out the money-changers, telling them, "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace." So, too, he loves and cherishes his Body, the Church – the place his presence dwells. Today's feast invites us to consider our love and zeal for the Church. As our love for the Lord grows, we will grow to love what our Savior loves.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our first reading offers a beautiful image that can help us understand our mission as disciples. The prophet Ezekiel has a vision of the temple with water flowing out of it. Wherever the water flowed, there was abundant life, including "every sort of living creature," "abundant fish," and "fruit trees of every kind" whose "leaves shall not fade, nor the fruit fail." Since we are God's temple, Ezekiel's vision invites us to be sources of life-giving water, nourishment, and healing for the world around us. A powerful way to evangelize is simply to strive to be conduits of goodness in the world, right where we are. When others are lost in desolation, how can we offer a drink to quench their spiritual thirst? When people around us are hungry, how can we offer physical or spiritual food to ease their hunger? Where there is division, how do we bring healing and hope? Through these actions, we give others a taste of the goodness that life with God offers.

PRAY

At every Mass, during the Prayer of the Faithful, we pray for the needs of the Church first. This is intentional – as the Church is the Bride of Christ. Pay particular attention to what we pray at this moment and consider how you can show your love for the Church by praying for her and for the needs of the Church throughout the world in your personal prayer this week.

The Lord's Living House

How often, when we speak of church, we have to clarify whether we mean the faith community or the building where that community gathers. The fact that the memorial of the dedication of the **Church of St. John Lateran today** replaces even the Sunday liturgy reminds us that our faith reaches into the clay from which we are made. We celebrate this building—the pope's own cathedral, the mother of all churches—remembering that human beings need things that appeal to the senses to remind us of spiritual values. Saint Augustine says that when the community of faith gathers “they are hewn out, as it were, from mountains and forests, like stones and timber; but by catechizing, baptism, and instruction they are . . . shaped, squared, and planed by the hands of the workers and artisans” and finally are made into a house for the Lord, “fitted together through love.”

-Takefiveforfaith.com

Pope's November Prayer Intention

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

What Matters When We Die

The late Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago was fond of reminding people that their relationships with God and with each other are what endures, and he wisely advised “The only thing we take with us when we die is what we have given away.”

Collection for Archdiocese for Military Service - Nov. 9 (every 3 years)

The Archdiocese for the Military Services is responsible for providing pastoral care and services to active-duty men and women serving in all six branches of the US Armed Forces, and those working in civilian jobs for the federal government beyond U.S. borders.

Thank you for your support.

WEEKLY OFFERING - Nov. 2

Data unavailable at the time of printing.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 8	Sat	05 pm	Javier Domeyko +
Nov 9	Sun	07 am	Edward Gembala +
		09 am	Sr. Eloise Rosenblatt RSM +
		11 am	Father Robert Hughes +
		05 pm	Lowell Forte +
Nov 10	Mon	08 am	Maria De La Luz Vaca +
Nov 11	Tue	08 am	J. De Jesus Marcial +
Nov 15	Sat	09 am	Joseph Stolz (L)

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome - November 9

The Archbasilica of the Most Holy Savior and of Saints John the Baptist and the Evangelist at the Lateran in Rome is commonly known as the St. John Basilica. Commissioned by Emperor Constantine and consecrated by Pope Sylvester in 324 AD, it is the oldest and highest ranking of the four major basilicas in Rome. It is the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome or the Pope, thus the mother of all churches in the world.

The November 9 feast today celebrates the anniversary of the dedication of the St. John Basilica and reminds us that we are part of the pilgrim Church on earth, shepherded by the Pope, the Bishop of Rome.

The feast of All Saints (Nov. 1), the day of commemoration of All Souls (Nov. 2), and today's feast (Nov. 9) celebrate the Communion of Saints, the special bond among the baptized, living and deceased, who share the same faith in the same Lord, who through the same Baptism and Spirit, made us one body (Ephesians 4:4-6).

“Behold God’s dwelling with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people, and God himself with them will be their God” (Revelation 21:3)



Advanced Planning for Yourself or Your Loved Ones - Nov. 9 & Nov 16

Save the dates! Catholic Cemeteries staff will visit us with helpful information on Sunday, **November 9th and 16th** after the 9am and 11am Masses. Pre-planning your final resting place and services can help ensure that your last wishes be fulfilled and relieve emotional and financial stress on your family. Catholic Cemeteries offers many options for your (or your loved ones') final resting place that meets the needs of you and your loved ones. Give the gift of peace of mind to yourself and your family. Come for a **presentation in Worner Hall on November 16th from 10am -11am.**

Parish Office Closed for Veterans Day

Our parish office will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Men's Club

Meeting in the Hall Lounge, Nov. 14, Friday, 6:00pm.