

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 22, 2026

Written by
THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17 | 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28 | Mt 25:31-46

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

Over the past several weeks, we have heard proclamations of the eternal kingdom of God, drawing our eyes forward to what is prepared for us after this life. This Sunday, we are invited to gaze upon Christ the King, who has conquered sin and death in order to welcome us into that eternal kingdom. To further understand his kingdom, we are called to meditate on what kind of king Christ is. Our first reading gives us a glimpse of his divine kingship. Christ does not rule or govern from afar; instead, we have a shepherd-king who tends to the needs of the sheep. As our king, Christ is present to us, his people, in ways that are intentional, sacrificial, and relational. This passage reminds me of Pope Francis' direction to a group of French priests in 2013 that they should be "shepherds with the 'smell of the sheep.'" Christ knows and loves us intimately, and he calls us into a relationship in which we are adopted sons and daughters of the Father.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Through our baptism, we have been invited into Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king. By our participation in his kingship, we are charged with caring for the needs of others as Christ cares for us. In today's Gospel, Christ describes the judgment that we will receive according to how we have cared for others. It is a judgment not meant to frighten us, but to remind us of our call to love as we are loved. In our communities, our families, and as the Body of Christ in the Church, we are meant to reflect the life-giving love of the Trinity, in which there is a constant giving and receiving of love. We receive God's overwhelming love and mercy through the sacraments, and we reflect it to others by allowing his love to flow out through our lives and actions, thus extending his reign in the world.

SERVE

Today's teaching from Matthew 25 forms the foundation for what the Church has named the Corporal Works of Mercy. Complemented by the Spiritual Works of Mercy, these are concrete ways that we can serve the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors. This week, consider choosing one work of mercy to which you can dedicate your time as we approach the Advent season.

Happy Thanksgiving!

MASS AT ASCENSION
-Nov. 26 (Thursday): 9:00am.
-Nov. 27 (Friday): 8:00am.

INTERFAITH SERVICE
-Nov 26 (10:00am) at Sacred Heart, Saratoga.

PARISH OFFICE
Our office will be closed on Nov. 26 & 27.

Our Giving Tree

-**Catholic Charities** relies on your generosity to provide support for individuals to be self-sufficient. Gift cards make the holidays brighter for Catholic Charities clients.
-The **Layette Program** welcomes infant clothing and other needed items and supplies. This program has been in existence throughout the years since 1955.
-The **Help One Child** program appreciates gifts for foster and at-risk youth across our county.
Please stop by the Giving Tree in our church and see what you can give. Thank you.

Joy of Being God's Hands

"Do not lose the joy of being God's hands and instruments of His peace: a peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble, and persevering, a peace that comes from God who loves us all unconditionally."

- Pope Leo XIV

Indifference

"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference."

- Elie Wiesel

Campaign for Human Development

Nov 22

This special collection supports the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program, founded in 1969, aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty by funding local community-based projects that create jobs, improve education, and strengthen neighborhoods.

WEEKLY OFFERING *Nov 15*

-Total: $**5,295** ($3,505 + online: $1,790)
-YTD Sunday: $114,594. Budget: $140,000.
-Terrace Project: $2,000.
Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 21	Sat	05pm	Maxine Stice +
Nov 22	Sun	07am	Bill Costley +
		11am	Khiem Maria Bui +
		05pm	The Lau Family
Nov 23	Mon	08am	Theresa Stolz +
Nov 26	Thu	**09am**	*Thanksgiving*
Nov 27	Fri	08am	Remedios Doria +
Nov 28	Sat	09am	G. Prince Fernando +

What Are You Thankful For?

(Thanksgiving is an opportunity) "to say thank you to someone, to recognize that we all have received so many gifts — first and foremost, the gift of life, the gift of faith, the gift of unity, to encourage all people to try and promote peace and harmony and to give thanks to God for the many gifts we have been given." *- Pope Leo XIV*

Learn from St. Francis

Our next *Faith Forward* Gathering
Dec. 6, Sunday, from 12:05pm
EMBRACING HUMILITY & POVERTY
Register at the **table** near our church's main entrance OR scan the **QR code >**



St. Francis & St. Clare Relics in San Francisco

Relics of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare are on display at St Mary Cathedral in San Francisco through Nov. 28, 2026, daily 9:00am – 4:00pm except during Masses.
Admission is free.
Scan QR code for more details.

Ascension 2026 Finance Report

- **Total Revenue** was $38,810 over budget. The surplus was from increased Holy Day Offerings, Earnings on Deposits & Facilities, Special Gifts.
- **Operating Expenses** were $28,469 under budget, primarily due to lower Physical Plant offset by higher Payroll.

Still, the last fiscal year ended with a Net Loss $67,280 under budget.

Sunday offertory is the largest source of revenue for most parishes, especially Church of Ascension (**57% of parish FY 25-26 budgeted income)**. Your generous support is greatly appreciated. Today we ask you to consider increasing your donations because of the rising operating costs and *the shortfall in collections in the current fiscal year (to date).*

Scan QR code for more details.