

March 17, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31-34 | Heb 5:7-9 | Jn 12:20-33

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

As we quickly approach Easter, we're reminded of the reason why we are celebrating. God's chosen people stumbled quite a bit throughout the Old Testament, so God intervened time, and time, and time again to set them back on the straight and narrow. Whereas we would likely give up on someone over time, God has remained steadfast in his grace, and always will. He created a new covenant with Israel that wrote his law upon the hearts of Jews and Gentiles alike. This new covenant was realized through Jesus Christ, who was born into our flesh and crucified on the cross. He suffered death in perfect obedience to God the Father. By being born into flesh, Jesus united humanity and divinity; through his crucifixion and resurrection, Christ "became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him." He is the law of love that lives within us, and through him "all, from least to greatest, shall know [the Father.]"

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Jesus didn't suffer the cross for his sake or for his own glory. No, our Savior came to preach the kingdom of heaven to us before sacrificing himself for our sins. Notice how in today's Gospel he even admitted he was troubled! It can be terrifying to do God's will for our lives, and Christ himself was troubled by what he was called to do. Yet, in love and trust in the Father, Jesus was obedient, saying "but it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." All Christians are called to a life of self-sacrifice, each to the degree it serves God's purpose. We are all called to give up our lives for the sake of love to glorify God. Without Christ's sacrifice, we would not have been saved; without our willingness to pursue God's call upon our life, the kingdom of God cannot be realized on this earth.

**REFLECT** The Lord placed his law upon your heart the moment you were conceived, but how do you allow him to shine through your life? How do you serve and glorify the Lord? Take a moment today to reflect on your words and actions and consider how you show the world that God is Lord over your life for all time, not only during Lent.

“ I will place my  
law within them  
and write it upon  
their hearts. ”

(Jer 31:33)

## Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

[www.ascensionsaratoga.org](http://www.ascensionsaratoga.org)

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

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

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

## The Hour Is at Hand

One of the secrets of successful businesspeople is, invariably, balance between their personal and professional lives. They'll say that their weekends are sacrosanct or maybe it's the nine-hour day...

Sooner or later, though, that moment of truth comes along when you realize your life is passing you by and you worry that all you have to show for it is work.

Consider today's gospel a wake-up call. We cannot save ourselves from the hour of our deaths. If it comes this day, or the next, what will you regret most?

Throughout Lent, try starting each morning reciting this prayer of the psalmist: Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit to sustain in me.

- Patrice Tuohy, *Preparetheword.com*

## What Do We Know about St Joseph?

Matthew alone highlights Joseph's role... The earliest gospel (Mark) calls the adult Jesus "son of Mary" rather than "son of Joseph." Luke and John prefer to call Jesus "son of Joseph." However, Luke adds, "as was thought." Joseph's last appearance is when Jesus is 12. Jesus is called the carpenter's son, revealing his father's occupation. Tradition says Joseph died when Jesus was 18 with the art of the Eastern Church depicting the death of Joseph. - Alice Camille, "Questions Catholics Ask"

## Saint Joseph's Table

In gratitude to Saint Joseph for his intercession with God during a devastating drought that hit Sicily in the 1600's, Sicilians erected tables overflowing with food at homes then in the churches. This year once again Ascension will honor Saint Joseph, the patron of our Diocese, with a St. Joseph table in our church during the 8:00am Mass on March 19.

SUGGESTED ITEMS OF FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS:

- Granola Bars and Protein Bars
- Peanut Butter
- Fruit cups and applesauce cups
- Cheese Crackers
- Beef Jerky and dried fruit
- Juice Boxes
- Pop-Top cans of Tuna, Chicken, Chili, Ravioli, Pork, Beans
- Trail Mix and Packaged Nuts

NO GLASS CONTAINERS, PLEASE



## ADA Week 6 Report

Number of pledges to date: **94**

Amount pledged: **\$70,885**

Percent of goal: **94%**

Thank you to those who made their pledges. Please help us reach our goal soon!

## WEEKLY OFFERING - MAR 10

-**\$6,114** (baskets: \$3,038; online: \$3,076).

-YTD: **\$226,808**. Budget: \$240,500.

-Catholic Relief Services: **\$2,159**.

Thank you for your generous support.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 16	Sat	05 pm	David Braddi +
Mar 17	Sun	09 am	Brandon Biala +
Mar 22	Fri	08 am	Bianca Andrews (L)

## Ascension New Photo Directory

It is time for our new pictorial church directory to mark our Parish 60th Jubilee. We need a coordinator of the project. Please let Fr. Hao know if you are interested or someone else may have the talents and skills for this project.

## Ascension 60th Jubilee Reception

May 18, 2024

Our Jubilee will close on May 18, at the 5:00 pm Mass, presided by Bishop 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. Thank you.

## Holy Week Special Schedule

-Holy Thursday: 7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

-Good Friday:

12pm Passion Liturgy; 1:30pm Stations of the Cross

Divine Mercy Devotion (details on parish website)

7:30pm Passion Liturgy

-Holy Saturday:

8:00pm Easter Vigil

No 8am Mass on these Sacred Triduum.

## Novena before Divine Mercy Sunday

From Good Friday to April 6

Day 1 - Good Friday 3/29

(after 1:30 pm Stations of the Cross), Chapel

Day 2 - Saturday, 3/30: 9am,

Worner H. Classrooms

Day 3 - Easter Sunday, 3/31

(after 11am Mass), Chapel

(Complete schedule on [ascensionsaratoga.org](http://ascensionsaratoga.org))



## Quotes

"Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving." - *Saint Augustine*

"My whole strength lies in prayer and sacrifice; these are my invincible arms; they can move hearts far better than words, I know it by experience." - *Saint Therese of Lisieux*

"Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give." - *Saint Francis of Assisi*

"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring."

- *Saint Catherine of Siena*

## Hebrews 5:5-10 With the permission of [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org)

"HE BECAME THE SOURCE OF ETERNAL SALVATION FOR ALL WHO OBEY HIM..."



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YES.



THAT'S A LOT.



IT'S THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH, WHICH IS TRUST IN WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR YOU.



WELL, IF YOU CAN'T TRUST JESUS, WHO CAN YOU TRUST!?



HEBREWS 5:5-10