

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

September 20, 2026

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Is 55:6-9 | Phil 1:20c-24, 27a | Mt 20:1-16a

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

Writing to the Philippians while in prison, St. Paul feels complete peace about his fate. To stay on this earth means fruitful labor for him; to die means entering eternal life with God. Having lived apart from God in the past, he finds immense joy at being able to labor for the Lord, despite the suffering it entails. Upon first glance, the parable St. Matthew recounts in his Gospel offers a glimpse of God's generous mercy. But reading the parable alongside Paul's letter reveals another layer of meaning: Those who have more time to labor in the vineyard of the Lord are given a great gift – the chance to bear immense fruit. Our long hours laboring in the Lord's vineyard are not something we're meant to merely suffer through on our way to our eternal reward. Rather, they are an opportunity to be drawn into communion with the Lord. As with St. Paul, the joy that comes from realizing that we share in the very life and work of God is available to us now, not only in the life to come.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Each of the vocations to which God calls us requires sacrifice and includes challenges. Living in humble obedience to the will of God is not easy, but it is full of peace. To focus only on the eternal reward offered after death disregards the love, peace, and joy of the kingdom that we are gifted *now*. We are invited to be laborers in the vineyard, co-creators with the Master of the universe. As we creatively and compassionately allow God's love to flow through us, we infuse new life and love into the world around us. When we truly believe that a life lived in Christ is the most abundant life, we stop asking what is fair and we begin to eagerly invite others to join us in the vineyard. Doing the will of God in this life is a reward unto itself.

STUDY

This week, return to the first reading from the prophet Isaiah. As you reflect on his call to "seek the Lord while he may be found," consider the gift of God's love and presence in your life right now. And as we labor in the vineyard, keeping our eyes on the ultimate reward of eternity with our Creator, may we also recognize the immense gift of knowing, loving, and serving God in this life.

Confirmation:

Sun, Sept 27 @ 11am Mass

Faith Forward Gathering:

Sun, Oct 4 @ 12:15pm
Worner Hall



Confirmation Next Sunday

Please pray for these youths who will be confirmed at the 11:00am Mass next Sunday at Ascension:

**Evan Krishna,
Aleksander Rosse-Segovia,
Jase Tan,
Alexander Tran.**

Beatification of Bishop Fulton Sheen

Bishop Fulton Sheen will be beatified on Thursday, Sept 24, in St. Louis, Missouri. He will be the first American-born bishop and the first TV host recognized as "Blessed." Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle representing the Vatican will preside over the ceremony. The miracle approved for his beatification is the complete and unexplained recovery of James Fulton Engstrom, a baby born with no heartbeat or pulse for 61 minutes. Live coverage will start at 2:00pm CT on EWTN and its YouTube channel.

Christian Initiation Will Start Soon

- * Do you know anyone considering the Catholic faith?
- * Do you know any adult who has not received First Communion or Confirmation?

Invite them to explore our Faith and Tradition.

Start date: **Sept. 27** (11am - 12:30pm).

Learn with the community: **Oct. 4** (12:15pm- 1:45pm).

Call 725-3939 to talk to Fr. Hao, Arlene, or Tony.

Funerals at Ascension

- Fri, Sept 18 at 10am: Selma Garcia +
 - Wed, Sept 23 at 1pm: Beverly Gurney +
 - Fri, Sept 25 at 11am: Beverly Vizcaino +
 - Sat, Oct 3 at 11am: Linda Ramirez +
- May they rest in peace.

National Migration Week - Sept 21-27

This is an opportunity to reflect on our history as an immigrant Church, and to appreciate the challenges faced by migrants and refugees in the US and beyond, to be in solidarity in prayer, accompaniment, advocacy.

WEEKLY OFFERING Sept 13

-Total: **\$4,891** (\$3,701 + online: \$1,190). Goal: \$7,000.

-YTD Sunday: \$62,596. Budget: \$77,000.

-Catholic Education: **\$1,513**.

-Mission Co-op: **\$3,000** (To date: \$7,798).

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sep 19	Sat	05 pm	Paul T. Phung +
Sep 20	Sun	07 am	Bill Costley +
		09 am	Khiem Maria Bui +
		11 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento +
		05 pm	Dina Rendic & Cesar Munita +
Sep 23	Wed	08 am	Elizabeth Stolz +
Sep 24	Thu	08 am	Mark Rose (L)
Sep 25	Fri	08 am	Theresa Stolz +

Learn from Saint Francis' Life



**October 4, Sunday
12:15 pm - 1:45 pm in Worner Hall
For All Generations**

Come for a shared *meal, learning, and discussion* around the life of Saint Francis.

In this *Year of Saint Francis*, the Church commemorates the beloved saint who passed away 800 years ago on October 3, 1226.

Blessing of Animals: Sat, October 3 at 9:30am.

This is the 1st **monthly gathering** as part of Ascension's Spiritual Renewal.

REGISTRATION in church
or on our parish website/QR code >>
Suggested \$5 donation
at the gathering.



Next Monthly Gatherings

Nov. 8: Seeing God in All Creation

Dec. 6: Embracing Humility & Poverty.

Saint Francis Prayer Before Crucifix

Most High glorious God,

enlighten the darkness of my heart.

Give me right faith, sure hope and perfect charity.

Fill me with understanding and knowledge
that I may fulfill your command.

Youth Faith Formation This Year

-*Weekly:* Praying and Learning together at the **11am Mass every Sunday** (instead of the Faith Formation sessions at 10:15am). Starting Sunday, **Sept. 20**.

-*Monthly:* Sharing a Meal and Learning together at the **Faith Forward Gathering** from 12:15pm to 1:45pm). Details above (Oct 4: St Francis' Life)

Acknowledgments

Thank you to our Hospitality Team and all the volunteers who helped at the **Parish Picnic** last Sunday with setup, serving, youth activities, and cleanup. Guests enjoyed tasty barbecue, ice cream, cookies, and great company while children had a good time with the bouncy house and a fire truck!

Our parish also appreciates all volunteers who serve the community in numerous ways. On Saturday, September 5, they enjoyed an **Ice Cream Social** in the sunny weather. We extend our thanks to the Finance Council for putting this event together.