



September 28, 2025

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Am 6:1a, 4-7 | 1 Tim 6:11-16 | Lk 16:19-31

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Have you ever had a moment when you felt yourself to be the underdog, and wished that there were some champion who would come and defend your cause? Today, we see God described in those terms. Our psalm tells us that the Lord “raises up those who are bowed down,” that he “protects strangers,” and “the fatherless and the widow he sustains.” But God doesn’t stop there. He wants *us* to become champions for the poor. Notice that our Gospel reading depicts the poor man named Lazarus in such a way that we cannot help but feel compassion for him. Here is a man who is in dire need, covered in sores, right outside the door of a rich man who has more than enough to provide for his own needs and those of Lazarus – but does nothing to help him. In fact, the rich man’s *dog* shows more compassion toward Lazarus (by licking his sores) than the rich man! The story is meant to prick our consciences and move us to have the same kind of response that God has – of compassion – leading us to become champions for those in need.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Throughout our history, the Church has been particularly effective at spreading the faith during those times when we’ve put care for the poor and vulnerable at the center of our action. Before the advancements of modern medicine, members of the early Church risked their lives to care for those sick with contagious diseases. Their selfless example led many to faith in Christ. While our situation is much different today, we are called at the beginning of the first reading to not be complacent in our efforts to care for the poor. As we serve those most in need, our witness will likewise draw others to seek to know and follow the God of compassion whom we serve.

SERVE

One of the ways we can fight against complacency is to engage in service. Check your parish or local charitable organizations for opportunities to serve those in need in your community. No matter what kind of service you choose to engage in, do everything with “love, patience, and gentleness,” as Paul reminds us today. Then we will be models of God’s own care for the poor.

Church of the Ascension
ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939

Masses: (Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p
(M-F) 8a; (Sat) 9a
Confessions: (Sat) 4p - 4:45p

Gustave Boné, Public domain

Who Is On Your Doorstep

Long-standing images of the fires of hell owe much to the vivid description of the afterlife contained in a gospel story. A rich man (later sometimes named Dives) suffers tormenting flames after death because he ignored poor Lazarus on his doorstep throughout his life. Medieval artists loved to illustrate the story because of its drama and visual potential. But beneath all the fire and brimstone lies a clear and direct message: Living only for one's own wealth and comfort leads to a living hell. If we hope to rest in the bosom of Abraham, we need to pay attention to the Lazarus waiting at our doorstep.

-Takefiveforfaith.com

Pope's October Prayer Intention

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

Blessing of Animals - October 4

In honor St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment, the blessing of animals is scheduled for October 4, Saturday, his feast day, around 9:30am (or after the 9am Mass) near his statue in front of Worner Hall.

R.I.P.

-John Morrissey: Funeral on September 26 at 12pm.
-Richard Wong: Funeral on October 4 at 11am.
May they rest in peace.

Office Fumigation

Our Parish Office is scheduled for a complete fumigation for termite treatment. To ensure the safety of all, both the Office and Worner Hall will be closed from October 1 to 3.



Collection for Faith Formation Fund

Sept 28

This semi-annual collection is for our Youth Faith Formation Fund. It will benefit our ministry to the younger generation. Thank you.

WEEKLY OFFERING - Sept 21

-Total: **\$4,889** (\$3,073 + online: \$1,816). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: **\$70,439**. Budget: \$81,600.

Thank you for your support.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sept 28	Sun	07 am	Ana Karen Sanchez (L)
		09 am	Marietta Sokol +
		11 am	Onezieme Mouton +
		05 pm	The Weeks Family
Oct 04	Sat	09 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento +



Diocese of San Jose Pastoral Plan

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & OBJECTIVES

Participate in the Pastoral Plan

Worship – Practice hospitality in church. Volunteer in a liturgical ministry.

Formation – Try watch. [formed.org/catholic-saints](https://www.formed.org/catholic-saints) (Free subscription: type "ascension" or 95070).

Outreach – Connect with someone who is homebound or has health issues.

Family – Read together the scriptural reflection in the parish bulletin.

Youth and Young Adults – Show kindness and interest in them. Listen to them.

Structural Renewal – Participate in the ADA to support implementation.

Priorities for Our Parish Renewal

Our Diocese is engaged in a journey of Spiritual Renewal through the Pastoral Plan that was issued in December 2023. The main goal is to support parishes in renewing their commitment to faith and service. This Plan emerged from a series of listening sessions held in 53 parishes. Each parish is now looking for clarification on the distinct aspects of spiritual renewal in their community. We will be carrying out a parish-wide survey in the next few weeks. Meanwhile, please scan the QR code for the Pastoral Plan.



What Is Spiritual Renewal?

Spiritual renewal is a process for Christian communities to revitalize their faith, deepen their relationship with God, and become more active, missionary disciples. It involves both individual and collective growth through prayer, worship, formation, and service.

"Renew your faith continually and never give up, for faith never abandons anyone, much less a soul that is yearning to love God" — St. Padre Pio.

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often" — St. John Henry Newman.

October Mass Attendance Count

Annually, every parish and mission in the Diocese records the attendance at Sunday Masses during the month of October. These counts provide snapshots of each parish and vital info to the Diocese for clergy staffing and future planning. Mass Counts begin the weekend of October 5 – 6 through October 26 – 27.

Kairos Retreat Roles & Responsibilities

This series of articles will resume in a few weeks.