

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

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**"The one who humbles himself
will be exalted"**
Luke 14:11



August 31, 2025

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29 | Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a | Lk 14:1, 7-14

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

There's a well-known story about an actor who was asked by an elderly priest to recite Psalm 23. The actor agreed only if the priest also recited the psalm. While the actor's delivery was met with esteem and applause, the priest's was met with raw emotion, stunned silence, and tears. The actor, smiling, said, "I may know the psalm, but the priest, he knows the Shepherd." I can't help but be reminded of this story when reading today's Gospel. Like the Pharisees, the actor represents the one who was the "center of attention" who was humbled whereas the priest, in his humble service to God, found himself exalted. That is where true humility lies, when our actions and our everyday lives are rooted in God first and not ourselves.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As Jesus reminds us today, "Every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Beyond telling us this truth, Jesus lived it. Scripture tells us that Jesus – the second Person of the Holy Trinity – "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave..." (Phil 2:7), and that he came not "to be served but to serve" (Mk 10:45). Each of us is invited to consider the ways we can imitate the same humble servant-leadership which Jesus showed throughout his life. What does servant leadership look like, practically speaking? Some simple examples: At work, it might look like signing up to do those less desirable tasks that others would prefer to avoid. In our homes, it could look mean letting your children or spouse choose what's for dinner rather than asserting your own preferences over meal planning. In our relationships, it might mean allowing a friend to talk through their struggles without offering advice or sharing how you might have handled things differently. With the eyes of faith, each of us can see countless opportunities to practice the virtue of humility in daily life.

WITNESS

Like the priest in the story above who revealed God to the crowd in his recitation of Psalm 23, you have the opportunity to let God shine through in your life to others. Be a servant leader, seeking to glorify God rather than yourself. When you are humble you "will be exalted" and "repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Gifts That Keep on Giving

"Love one another." "Forgive everyone." "Give to those who cannot repay you." These sayings of Jesus seem like a lot of hard work with little reward. But nothing could be further from the truth. Have you ever left a large tip for a tired waitress or waiter? Or smiled at a store clerk who was having a difficult day? Such gestures generate feelings of gratitude and well-being that do not come any other way. If we spent only a few minutes every day thinking of a small gift we could give to someone, just imagine how our world would change! Try it today—then do it again tomorrow.

- Takefiveforfaith.com

Youth Faith Formation Registration

If you are a returning family needing to update contact info, please call Sharlene @ (408) 725-3939 x 5. If you are new, access the registration form on ascensionsaratoga.org or call Sharlene.

Christian Initiation Will Start Soon

* Do you know someone considering the Catholic faith?
* Do you want to know more about your Catholic faith?
The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is for any adult who is not baptized, or was baptized in another Christian tradition, or any Catholic who has not received First Communion or Confirmation. Call 725-3939 to talk to our team (Fr. Hao, Arlene, or Tony).

Rooms for Refugees & Parishioner

- 1) Catholic Charities Refugee Foster Care is seeking a room for a refugee aged 18+ years. Contact Kimberly at 408-325-5107 or klozano@ccscc.org.
- 2) One female parishioner is looking for a rental in home or apartment this month. Quiet private room with attached bath. Call parish office at 408-725-3939.

Humanitarian Relief for Gaza Aug. 31 - Sept. 1

This 2nd collection supports relief in Gaza and surrounding areas. Thank you for your solidarity.

WEEKLY OFFERING - August 24

-Total: **\$5,644** (\$4,563+online: \$1,081). Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: **\$47,818**. Budget: \$54,400.

Thank you for your support.

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 30	Sat	05 pm	Don Radis +
Aug 31	Sun	11 am	Francisco Moreno +
		05 pm	Christian Herrera +
Sept 01	Mon	08 am	Nick Perry (L)
Sept 02	Tue	08 am	J. B. Son Phung +
Sept 03	Wed	08 am	Lowell Forte +
Sept 04	Thu	08 am	Dina Rendic +
Sept 05	Fri	08 am	Anthony Lau +
Sept 06	Sat	09 am	Bonifacio Feliciano +

San Jose Auxiliary Bishop Appointed

Office of the Bishop of San José

Dear friends in Christ,

With great joy, we share that Pope Leo XIV has bestowed a significant honor upon us by appointing Rev. Andres "Andy" C. Ligot as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of San José.



Today, we rejoice with gratitude for Bishop-elect Andy's 'yes' to the Lord and to the Church in Silicon Valley. His priestly heart, pastoral experience, and steady leadership will bless our parishes, schools, and ministries. I invite the faithful to keep him in prayer as he prepares for episcopal ordination.

In Christ,

Most Rev. Oscar Cantú
Bishop of San José

(Announcement made in DC and San Jose, 8/29/25)

Parish Picnic Sept. 7, 2025 @ Noon

With Catered BBQ & Games, Prizes

\$25 per person | Children 12 and under: Free.

Tickets available after Mass, in the Parish Office, and at the Picnic.

Explore Christian Faith & Life Through the Alpha Course

On 6 Sundays, starting from Sept. 14

in Worner Hall classrooms (12:15pm - 2:00pm)

Each session includes a meal, a talk, and discussion for Connection, Content, and Conversation.

Register in our church or call 408-725-3939.



Sunrise with Jesus continues

August - October | Every Wednesday at 7:30am

Learn more about **Prayer** in the **Scriptures**, in the **Spiritual** tradition, and in the lives of the **Saints**.

Last week: **Lift up our hearts in prayer.**

Labor Day & Low-Wage Workers

The Campaign for Human Development in November funds employee-owned projects that help low-wage workers to achieve fair wages, stable employment, job training opportunities, and better benefits.

Memorial Mass - Sept. 6

Pray for the repose of the soul of **Barbara Power**, who was our parish secretary for several decades. Her Memorial Mass will be on Sept. 6 at 11am, followed by a reception in Worner Hall. May she rest in peace.

Divine Mercy Devotion - Sept. 5

Chaplet and Rosary start at 3:00pm, along with Confessions by Fr. Oscar Tabujara during the Exposition, then Benediction.

Kairos Ministry series resumes 9/7