



October 6, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 2:18-24 | Heb 2:9-11 | Mk 10:2-16

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

Everything in God's creation is intended to reflect his goodness and proclaim his glory. It's not hard to understand this idea when we behold the majesty of the sea. It can be more difficult, however, to remember this is also present in each of us and in our relationships – including that relationship God designed for man and woman: marriage. Our ability to turn away from God means that we sometimes reject, rather than reflect, him. This is one reason why Jesus responds to the Pharisees' question by revoking Moses' allowance for divorce, a concession God had made to the Israelites in the Old Testament. Jesus' statement might be unsettling because, in our time, divorce has affected nearly *everyone* in one way or another. But his words indicate the strength of the covenant the Lord has made with us: his love is permanent and unbreakable. We learn that the unbreakable bond between spouses reflects, in an imperfect way, God's perfectly faithful love for us.

### GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We find this truth about love in the wisdom of the Church. Love is not a "feeling." It is an action – a virtue – in which we consistently *will the good of another*. After all, this is who and what God is: a continuous outpouring of love. Our triune God is a relational community of love, and Jesus offers us the preeminent example of this: As the Son and out of love for the Father, he *chose* to remain on the cross, regardless of how he *felt*. Such was his love for us that he willed our redemption and sent us the Spirit to help us remain with him. Marriage, designed by God to mirror this triune communal, covenantal love, likewise requires a *decision to love* that is firm and constant, despite how we might *feel*. If we wish to be capable of the fidelity required for marriage, family life, or simply for our relationship with God, we must make the deliberate choice to love – *and we must do it over and over*. With time and with God's grace, the habit of choosing another's good becomes easier, and we experience the joy of a stable and authentic love.

**PRACTICE** We can reflect God's faithful love by becoming faithful ourselves. Choose one or two ways to exercise fidelity in little things this week. Examples might be getting up at the same time every morning without hitting the "snooze" button; spending five extra minutes in prayer each day; or offering a prayer of thanksgiving to God every time you are tempted to check your phone unnecessarily.

### 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

## To Live the Gospel of Life

At the gospel's heart is the summons to live life abundantly. In Jesus, God takes on flesh and shares our growing and loving, as well as our suffering and dying. No aspect of the human journey remains foreign to Jesus. He's befriended and betrayed, experiences fasting and feasting, knows the simplicity of childhood and the complex politicized life of an adult. On Respect Life Sunday, we're asked to consider how every moment of life is intimately known and ultimately precious to God. Pray the Rosary's Joyful Mysteries today in gratitude for how God chooses to dwell with us. - [Preparetheword.com](http://Preparetheword.com)

## October: Respect Life Month

The call to honor the dignity and rights of every person echoes the teachings of Vatican II's *Gaudium et Spes*. Later theologians would speak of a "consistent life ethic (CLE)," or "seamless garment," concerning decisions around conception and child-bearing and death and dying. CLE also applies to justice issues like poverty, immigration, capital punishment, warfare, living wage, racism, and any stance that threatens the dignity or rights of a person or group. Respect for life is not a boutique option for Christians. It is central to our purpose.

## Synod on Synodality

Oct. 2-27

The Synod started at the Vatican on Oct. 2. The 368 synod members are to focus on their main task: Finding ways to ensure "the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation." - [Usccb.org](http://Usccb.org).

## Bishop's Christmas Card Contest

Children grades Kindergarten to 5th Grade that are currently enrolled in a Parish Faith Formation or a Catholic School in our Diocese are invited to participate. The theme for this year's Christmas cards is "The Holy Family Radiates Love." The deadline to submit entry is **Oct. 13** to Sharlene, Faith Formation Coordinator, or **Oct. 21**, if you send the entry directly to the Diocese of San Jose. For details, visit [AscensionSaratoga.org](http://AscensionSaratoga.org).

## Men's Club

Meeting in-person in Worner Hall/Lounge Room  
Friday, Oct. 11, at 6:00pm.

## WEEKLY OFFERING - SEPTEMBER 29

-\$4,441 (basket: \$3,215; online: \$1,226). Goal: \$6,500.  
-YTD: **\$69,331**. Budget: \$84,500.  
-Faith Formation Fund: **\$1,209**.  
Thank you for your generosity.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 05	Sat	05 pm	Anthony Lau +
Oct 06	Sun	07 am	The Gerrard Family
		09 am	Jerry & LuRhe Streb (L)
		11 am	Shun Kuo Tang +
		05 pm	Richard Firato +
Oct 07	Mon	08 am	Rosy Pereira +
Oct 08	Tue	08 am	George & Josephine Chrisman +
Oct 09	Wed	08 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento (L)
Oct 10	Thu	08 am	Nicole McKeever (L)
Oct 11	Fri	08 am	Pierino Meneghelli +
Oct 12	Sat	09 am	Heather Opperman +

## Oct. 7: Prayer and Fasting for Peace

Pope Francis has called for a day of prayer and fasting for peace on October 7, the one-year anniversary of the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.

"In this dramatic hour of our history," the Pope said, "while the winds of war and the fires of violence continue to devastate entire peoples and nations," the Christian community is reminded of its call to "put itself at the service of humanity." - [Vaticannews.va](http://Vaticannews.va)

## Rosary for Peace

In 1917, in the midst of World War I, the Blessed Virgin appeared to three children in Fatima, Portugal. She pleaded for prayer and penance to bring an end to the war and restore peace. In particular, Mary asked the faithful to pray the Rosary every day for world peace.

In his traditional 2024 New Year's address to members of the Diplomatic Corps, the Holy Father stated, "Our world is witnessing a growing number of conflicts that are slowly turning what I have often called a third world war fought piecemeal into a genuine global conflict."

During the month of October, let us pray the Rosary for peace. Through its meditative character and repetition of Hail Marys, the Rosary can have a peaceful effect on us. "The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells"

- [Usccb.org](http://Usccb.org).

## Holy Father's October Intention

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

## Stewards in Action

Ascension needs your Time and Talent. Please consider serving our parish. Take home a pamphlet from the church, or download it from [ascensionsaratoga.org](http://ascensionsaratoga.org).

## Photo Sessions for Parish Jubilee Book

Please sign up for the photo session **Oct. 13** (Sunday) in the hall. **Sign up on [ascensionsaratoga.org](http://ascensionsaratoga.org).**

**The first 100 sign-ups will be give a \$10 discount:** \$15 (instead of \$25) per individual photo, \$25 (instead of \$35) per photo with two persons or more. You will receive a 5" x7" photo print on-site, and a Jubilee Book for \$10 (50% discount) when it's finished.

## Novena for Mental Health

World Mental Health Day is observed on Oct. 10, and here in the US, the Church begins nine days of focused prayer, teaching, and steps to engage more intentionally on mental health issues. The novena concludes on Oct. 18, the feast of Saint Luke, the patron of health care. The initiative aims to raise awareness and to combat the stigmas associated with this issue, and to advance wise, compassionate, and effective public policy. For details, scan the QR code.



## Elections 2024 Resources



< California Catholic  
Conference

US Conference of  
Catholic Bishops >

