

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

January 25, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 8:23—9:3 | 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 | Mt 4:12-23

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

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For most of my life, any time I have heard these words of Jesus, the emphasis has always been on “Repent.” Recently, I’ve started to pay more attention to the second half of Jesus’ proclamation: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Through his coming into our world and the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus’ reign has begun. The signs of his kingdom’s arrival are striking and immediate; we see Jesus “curing every disease and illness among the people.” This is cause for great rejoicing, like the rejoicing we hear of in today’s reading from Isaiah: “Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness ... upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown.” Jesus’ miracles reveal that the reign of darkness, sin, and death is coming to an end; this is good news, indeed! It’s also a major part of our call as disciples. We’re called to pray (“thy kingdom come”) and to work to advance Jesus’ reign on earth.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Like the Apostles Peter, Andrew, James, and John in today’s Gospel, we, too, have been called to help build God’s kingdom on earth. We do this in a particular way by continuing the works of Jesus here on earth. As Pope Leo XIV reminds us in *Dilexi Te*, “The signs that accompany Jesus’ preaching are manifestations of the love and compassion with which God looks upon the sick, the poor and sinners ... The Church, if she wants to be Christ’s Church, must be ... a place where the poor have a privileged place.” (21) Part of the way we bear witness to the inbreaking of God’s kingdom on earth is to put those who are ill and marginalized at the center of our concern. Then the kingdom of God will be manifest and visible in the world, drawing others to Christ.

SERVE

This week, spend some time researching ways you can work with other Christians to serve the sick and the poor of our world. As we conclude this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (which ends Jan. 25, 2026), there’s no better witness we can offer to the dawn of the kingdom of God than being “united in the same mind and in the same purpose” (as Paul calls us to be today) in serving those in need.

Lace Up Your Walking Shoes

Do you feel different this year? What insights have you gained over the past 12 months? In what ways have you changed? What areas in your life need your attention? You may feel like resting for a while. But remember, you can't stand in one place indefinitely and be a disciple of Jesus. Christianity requires transformation and conversion, and these changes can take a lifetime. Invest in the resources (people, periodicals, books, and worship) that will serve as your walking shoes on your never-ending spiritual journey.

-Takefiveforfaith.com

Jubilee Year of St Francis

Pope Leo XIV proclaimed the Jubilee Year of Saint Francis of Assisi, marking the 800th anniversary of his death (Oct. 3, 1226). The year (Jan. 10, 2026 to Jan. 10, 2027), is a journey for the renewal of holiness, reconciliation, and peace in a fractured world.

In a world where “the virtual takes over the real, disagreements and social violence are part of everyday life, and peace becomes more insecure and distant every day, this Year of St. Francis spurs all of us, each according to our possibilities, to imitate the poor man of Assisi, to form ourselves as far as possible on the model of Christ,” the Vatican states.

Sunday of the Word of God

In 2019, Pope Francis declared that “the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the word of God. This Sunday of the Word of God will thus be a fitting part of that time of year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity.”

National Catholic Schools Week Jan. 25-31

This week in 2026 with the theme “Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community” focuses on celebrating the value, contributions, and faith-based environment of Catholic education.

Collection for Church in Latin America

Feb. 1

This collection benefits catechists, seminarians, pastoral projects in Latin America. Thank you for your support.

WEEKLY OFFERING - Jan. 18

Data not available at time of printing.
Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 24	Sat	05 pm	Koon Shum Wong +
Jan 25	Sun	07 am	John Miller +
		05 pm	Joseph Fiorentino Sr & Family
Jan 30	Fri	08 am	Mary Ann Stoltz +
Jan 31	Sat	09 am	Robert Firato (L)

Spiritual Renewal Parish Mission with Fr. Michael Moore, SPS

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Not Only With Us But Also Within Us

1/31 & 2/1 (Sat & Sun Masses)

Introducing Mission

2/2 - 2/5 (Mon-Thu) 9:00 am & repeated at 7:00 pm
Mission

Monday: “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.”

Tuesday: That is why Jesus, the Son of God was born as one of us.

Wednesday: That is also why Jesus gave us the Eucharist.

Thursday: How can we even try to understand the next life while still in this life?

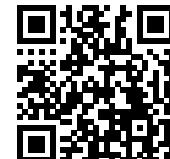
Ash Wednesday Schedule

Feb. 18

8:00 am & 7:00 pm.

How to Lent

This is a new series from the Augustine Institute that aims to help us appreciate and practice the pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Guided by Solenne Santiago and with the help of priests and religious, this series will challenge our preconceived notions about Lent, laying out a roadmap for entering the season with a purpose.



More Lenten Resources

for ADULTS and CHILDREN on the FORMED Lent Calendar (QR code).

Sign up by entering our church zip code, selecting Ascension, etc.

