



June 9, 2024

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 3:9-15 | 2 Cor 4:13—5:1 | Mk 3:20-35

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

I know people who read the ending of a book before they are finished with it. I could never do that! I have to follow the story in every detail until the final page. When it comes to the story of our salvation history, however, we get to do a little of both: we know the end of the story in terms of Revelation and God's desire for us to live with him in eternity. We know of the heavenly kingdom to which we have been invited and in which we live. What we don't know is all the details that get us to our own, individual, final page in the great drama of our response to the gift of salvation. In the first reading today, we hear the story of the fall of humankind - about how our earliest parents rejected God's command and gave into temptation. However, the story doesn't end there. Adam and Eve may have been sent out of the Garden of Eden, but God didn't give up on them - or us. Instead, he sent a long line of prophets who paved the way for his Son, Jesus. With Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, the gates of heaven were opened so all have the opportunity to accept the gift of salvation. As St. Paul writes in his Letter to the Corinthians, we can know "that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul's words give us great hope and encouragement, for we all know that living as God commands can be difficult. We are assured, however, that grace and strength are ours if we only ask the Holy Spirit for guidance. As Christians, we are part of the body of Christ and a community of believers. In today's Gospel, Jesus notes that a house divided against itself cannot stand. That's a reminder that we are all in this together. We need one another - and the grace of God - to bring us to everlasting life in heaven. In the Gospel Jesus asked, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And we heard the answer: those who do the will of God. Let us open our hearts today to receive the promptings and grace of God, so we may follow him to the best of our ability each day. The story of salvation is our story, and we know what the ending is meant to be.

PRAY As members of the body of Christ, perhaps there are ways this week we could be praying alongside our brothers and sisters in our church or community. In addition to Mass, consider Eucharistic Adoration or a prayer group. Reflect on how God might be nudging your heart.

Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

www.ascensionsaratoga.org

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

(Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p

(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Why We Hide

A psychologist explained something fascinating about shame: No one can put it inside us without our consent. Shame doesn't enter from the outside but responds from the inside. Those seeking to embarrass us are frustrated if we refuse their attempt to impart shame with the slap of a hand or a word. If we accept shame, it's because deep down we're already carrying it. So Adam, guilty of disloyalty to God, is shamed by his newfound nakedness. Yet Jesus, insulted, beaten, stripped, and humiliated, remains clothed in honor at the cross. Got shame? We've got a sacrament for that.

- *Preparetheword.com*

Sacred Heart of Jesus

The human heart has been a symbol of love, and a metaphor for the innermost essence of things. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the physical, mystical heart of Jesus is an object of popular devotion. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated on the Friday of the third week after Pentecost (June 7 this year), and also every first Friday and the entire month of June. This devotion includes acts of honor and reparation to the Sacred Heart, depicted as a radiant yet wounded heart, encircled by a crown of thorns. The devotion, promoted by St. Francis de Sales and some religious orders, became especially popular due to the visions of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque in the late 17th century. It's a response to the religious indifference or confusion at the time, and an antidote to Jansenism, a popular heresy, that emphasized human sinfulness and sense of guilt. While this devotion and the Divine Mercy are both about God's mercy, the Sacred Heart is about the Son of God with the call for reparations, and the Divine Mercy is about the Holy Trinity with a spirit of trust. The feast of the Sacred Heart became universal in 1856 during the reign of Blessed Pius IX, and the Divine Mercy Sunday was instituted in 2000 by Saint John Paul II.



Funerals & Memorials

- **Eleanor Cienna Stafford:** June 15 (11am Mass)
- **Joseph Montanez:** June 28 (3pm Mass)
- **Tony Fadelli:** June 29 (11am Mass)
May they rest in peace.

Special Collection

June 9: *Catholic Charities Appeal.*

With your support, Catholic Charities changes lives for good – one family at a time.

WEEKLY OFFERING - JUNE 2

-**\$5,411** (baskets: \$4,319; online: \$1,092). Goal: \$6,500.

-Parish Building Fund: **\$2,321.**

-YTD: **\$292,928.** Budget: \$312,000.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

June 08	Sat	05 pm	Gary Auclair +
June 09	Sun	07 am	Dorothy Miller +
		09 am	Remedios Doria +
		11 am	Anthony Lau+
June 11	Tue	08 am	The Weeks Family
June 15	Sat	09 am	Cynthia Stolz (L)

Young Adults Group/Mass

June 15

Ascension is forming a **Young Adult Group**. We welcome adults ages 18-30s, who are looking for a community to belong to. Our goal for this group is to help them connect, have fun, and grow in their faith and spirituality. No time commitment is necessary. We will start with the **Young Adult Mass** on *Saturday, June 15, at 5:00 pm* at Church of the Ascension, followed by an informal meeting. Interested young adults may (1) sign up at the tables near the church main entrance, or (2) call the parish office at 408-725-3939 x3.

Pope Francis' Quotes

"Dear young people, you are the living hope of a Church on the move! For this reason, I thank you for your presence and for your contribution to the life of the Body of Christ... [Christ's] love for you is unaffected by your failings or your mistakes. He gave his life for you, so in his love for you he does not wait for you to be perfect."

"Every Family should look into the icon of the Holy family of Nazareth. Its daily life had its share of burdens and even nightmares... Like Mary, they (today's families) are asked to face their family's challenges with courage and serenity, in good times and bad, and to keep in their heart the great things which God has done (*cf. Lk 2:19,51*)."

Growing Together As Families

Our Church of the Ascension welcomes families in various stages of life. Our focus at this time is to provide opportunities for families with young children to find the support to grow in their relationship with each other, with the parish and with the Lord. We want to support parents who are sharing similar joys and challenges that parenthood brings as well as give their children a welcoming environment to build friendships. Please (1) sign up at the tables near the church's main entrance, or (2) call the parish office at 408-725-3939 x3 for **our first meeting at 10:00 am on Sunday, June 23**, in the Hall Classrooms.

"How precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the faith" (Pope Francis)

Vocations Soccer Cup

Sunday, June 23, 2024 @ Mitty High School

Tickets (\$10 each) available from June 8-9 in church & the office.

All proceeds benefit our seminarians formation.

The Diocese of San José is hosting the Soccer Games for Vocations. Sisters and Postulants competed in a soccer game for the St. Clare Cup, with high school girls filling out both teams. Priests and Seminarians will compete in a 2nd soccer game for the St. Joseph Cup, with high school boys filling out both teams as well.

Seasons of Hope - Grief Discussion Group

"You will grieve, but your grief will become joy." (Jn 16:20)

Sacred Heart Parish's "Seasons of Hope" discussion group is a place to share the loss of a loved one. There is no fee to participate. Faith based materials and a journal are provided. All are welcome. Meetings are weekly on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:30 PM in the Parish Center.

Upcoming meeting dates: July 10th, 17th, 31st.