

Church of the Ascension
ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939
Mass Schedule
(Sat) 5pm (Sun) 7am, 9am, 11am, 5pm
(Mon-Fri) 8am (Sat) 9am
Confessions
(Sat) 4pm - 4:45pm



March 2, 2025

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:4-7 | 1 Cor 15:54-58 | Lk 6:39-45

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

It can be uncomfortable to admit, but our speech habits can truly reveal our interior life. Too often, I've fallen prey to the temptation of gossip or other alluring but unbecoming forms of conversation. Perhaps we all have to some degree, which is why today's words from Sirach capture our attention: "When a sieve is shaken, the husks appear; so do one's faults when one speaks." This theme of speech being connected to our hearts is woven throughout Scripture, and it both challenges and encourages us. Before God came to us in the flesh, he came to us as the *Word*. Our words carry eternal weight; they have the power to bless or to curse. For this reason, the Scriptures today challenge us to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate, in order to grow in virtue so that our speech may reflect his glory and our words echo his truth.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In today's parable from Luke's Gospel, Jesus asks, "Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" Ouch. Am I the only one who shifts uncomfortably when reading this? How often and how easily do we fixate on the way others have caused us frustration, discomfort, or hurt? While those things may (or may not) be true, it feels so easy to dismiss personal responsibility. In this passage, Jesus lovingly teaches us that when we live this way, we remain stuck in our patterns of sin. But he also gives us another option: "Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly." It is through this honest examination of conscience and cleansing of our own sin that we come to know God more fully, and as our vision is cleared, become more aware of how his beauty and mercy surround us.

REFLECT

Today, let us pray for a deeper personal conversion through an honest examination of conscience, so that as we empty ourselves from our sinful ways, we may become more tethered to God's holy will, speaking his truth and living in his light. Commit to praying an Act of Contrition each day this week and ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in virtue.

Where Racism Begins

People of goodwill generally assume they're not complicit in racism or racist practices. That's because we describe racism as attitudes, words, and acts intended to harm or subordinate people whose origins are different from ours. Racism, however, involves omissions as well as actions: in what we fail to do or say to make equality tangible for everyone. Racism can also be institutionalized in laws, education, hiring practices, economic opportunities, zoning regulations, and voting restrictions. Racism operates best under the surface. As Pope Francis reminds us: Let none of us imagine that the conversion of hearts isn't meant for us.

- Takefiveforfaith.com

ABCs of Fostering Vocations

Guide your junior high child to pray that he or she might discover and use the gifts God has given.

Include the diocesan vocation prayer in your personal and family prayer, especially on Wednesdays. Invite a priest, brother or sister to dinner or to an outing with your family.

Join together in prayer as a family; include a short vocations prayer when you pray before meals (especially on Wednesday). - USCCB.org

Daylight Saving Time Next Sunday

Remember that Daylight Saving Time will return Sunday next week, March 9, at 2:00 am.



ADA Report - Week 4

-Number of Pledges: 54
-Pledged Amount: \$40,880
-Percent of Goal: 53%. Thank you for your support. Please help us reach our goal soon!

Special Collections

-Ash Wednesday: for the Church in Central & Easter Europe.

-March 9: for the Black & Indian Missions. Thank you for your generosity.

WEEKLY OFFERING - FEB. 23

-Total \$6,532 (\$5,529+online: \$1,003. Goal: \$6,500.
-YTD: \$217,877. Budget: \$221000.
-Thank you for your generous support.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 01	Sat	05 pm	Ron <u>Stopnick</u> +
Mar 02	Sun	07 am	Gary S. H. Chang +
		09 am	Francis Pereira +
		11 am	Rogelio <u>Vicencio</u> +
		05 pm	Terry Lynch +
Mar 03	Mon	08 am	The Gerrard Family
Mar 04	Tue	08 am	Gaby Plott +
Mar 05	Wed	08 am	Ash Wednesday
		07 pm	Ash Wednesday
Mar 06	Thu	08 am	
Mar 07	Fri	08 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento +
Mar 08	Sat	09 am	<u>Crislucia Borromeo</u> +

Month of Saint Joseph

March is known as the Month of St. Joseph and is punctuated by the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 19th. Some traditions which honor the saint in March:



-Saint Joseph's Table: Create a makeshift St. Joseph shrine and dinner festival to share delicious treats with those less fortunate (*For details: scan QR code*).

-Recite a daily novena prayer in praise of St. Joseph's virtues and to obtain his blessing for a special intention. (*For details: scan QR code*).



Ash Wednesday Schedule

Mar 5

Come and celebrate Mass with the distribution of ashes at **8:00 am & 7:00 pm**.

Lenten Practices

-*Abstaining from meat* on Ash Wednesday and Fridays.

-*Fasting* on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (eat one simple meal a day).

-*Almsgiving* (give to a charity). Faith Formation children participate in Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl in response to families experiencing hunger around the world.

-*Stations of the Cross*: Fridays after the 8am Mass.

Support Our Candidates for Initiation Sacraments

-Four children preparing for First Holy Communion.

-One teenage candidate for Confirmation.

Order of Christian Initiation

with Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist

-One teenager

-One family of four, including one baptized Lutheran.

Rite of Sending: Sunday, March 9 at 9am Mass.

Rite of Election: Same Sunday at 4pm at Cathedral.

Rite of Scrutiny: March 23; March 30; April 6.

Pope Francis' Lent Message

In his Message for Lent 2025, Pope Francis invites us to "journey together in hope," and to take the opportunity of the upcoming Lenten Season to ask ourselves whether we are truly willing to heed God's call to change our lives. He also challenges us to reflect on our spiritual journey by identifying with the hardships of migrants, fostering compassion and embracing hope in God's promise of eternal life.

Pray for Pope Francis

After a few days with a slight improvement, Pope Francis suffered a sudden breathing episode on Friday evening. He remains alert and oriented.