



February 9, 2025

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 | 1 Cor 15:1-11 | Lk 5:1-11

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

“Woe is me, I am doomed!” “I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle.” “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” Do you notice a theme today? Each of these lines – taken from our readings – reveals the humbling reality that when humans stand in the glorious presence of God, we must confront the Truth, look at ourselves honestly, and recognize our sin. We are reminded of the Garden, when original sin disfigured human nature and Adam and Eve, realizing their nakedness, hid themselves from God. The story would be tragic if that had been the end. But in today’s readings and in our own lives, the crippling effects of our sin are *not* the end. By becoming aware of our sin – agonizing though this may be – we invite the Lord in. It’s the crack in the door that he will enter, bringing mercy and freedom found only in him.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Each of today’s readings shows how God’s presence leads us to acknowledge our lack; however, that’s only “step one.” Notice what happens next in each instance. “Your wickedness is removed, your sin purged.” “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective.” “Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid.’” See how, in each example, hearts are transformed from shame and guilt to courage and confidence. The readings explain how as each person is freed, they are compelled to act boldly. So, what changed? The same thing that can happen in our own lives: as we acknowledge our sin, we open ourselves to the flow of grace. We allow the Lord to heal and free us, making us radiant and setting our hearts on fire with love.

### **PLAN**

Choose one virtue you’d like to cultivate in order to root out a sinful habit. Then make a plan to practice that virtue. It can be as simple as “I will always pray to the Holy Spirit before I talk to that person at work who bothers me.” Make sure your plan is: (1) specific [“I will never sin again” doesn’t count], and (2) doable [“I will pray every day for six hours to grow in patience” is not possible for most people]. Finally, offer your plan to God and ask him for whatever strength, grace, and healing you need to grow in that virtue.

## 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

## Tell It Like It Is

The hidden days are over. When the Spirit descends on Jesus and the heavenly voice proclaims him beloved, Jesus is effectively outed as the Divine Son. Did Jesus know this was the hour when his private life would come to an end? When any dreams he may have had for a quiet domestic existence were surrendered for good? The underlying truth is that on the day of our Baptism, we each surrender the notion of a private world that's all about us. As Pope Francis puts it, "Immersing us in Christ, Baptism also makes us members of his body, which is the Church, and participants in its mission in the world." Be the beloved. Share the love.   
 - *Preparetheword.com*

## ABCs of Fostering Vocations - Part 2

Challenge teens and young adults to consider a Church-related vocation. Tell them about the gifts in ministry you see in them. Encourage them to participate in at least one special vocation event (ordination, vocation retreat, Focus 11, etc. - *Focus 11 is a vocation initiative in Detroit*).

Cultivate an attitude of service by responding as a family to the needs of others. Seek out those in need and find ways to care for them.

**D:** Discuss your own vocation to family life, explaining that God calls some people to priesthood or religious life, some to marriage, and some to life as single laypeople. You can talk about vocations firsthand! *(To be continued)*

## Annual Diocesan Appeal 2025

Your ADA gift enables the Church in this county in her collective mission. Only your gift, combined with the gifts of others throughout our Diocese, can make all of this possible.

Please consider a gift to the ADA to help support the services that our parishes rely on. Thank you.



## Funeral

**Audry Lynch** died on 1/15. May she rest in peace. Her funeral: 2/13 at 10:00am - Ascension Church. Vigil service: 2/12 at 6:00pm - Alameda Funeral Home, 12341 Saratoga Sunnyvale Rd, Saratoga.

## Second Collection — Feb. 9

This Sunday's second collection will support the Church in Latin America. Thank you for your donations.

## WEEKLY OFFERING - FEB. 2

-Total **\$10,112** (\$9,254, including \$4,800 annual donation + online: \$858). Goal: \$6,500.  
-YTD: **\$199,271**. Budget: \$201,500. Thank you.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 08	Sat	05 pm	Maxine Stice +
Feb 09	Sun	07 am	Josephine Gembala +
		09 am	Vidal De La Vega +
		11 am	Toyo Kushigemachi +
		05 pm	Arlene Norton +
Feb 10	Mon	08 am	Natividad P. Rios +
Feb 11	Tue	08 am	Gibu Alcasid +
Feb 12	Wed	08 am	Gaudencia Santiago +
Feb 13	Thu	08 am	Christopher Wong (L)
Feb 14	Fri	08 am	The Gerrard Family
Feb 15	Sat	09 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento +

## Why Make a Retreat?

- Getting a break from the busyness or routine.
- Being in awe with nature.
- Making connections with others.
- Remembering what is essential.
- Renewing your spirituality.

Register for the **March 1 Retreat** at Mount Saint Joseph Carmelite Monastery. **See details below.**



## An Interior Pilgrimage in the Year of Hope, with Mary

*Get away for a day... Journey along the path of faith...*

**Saturday, March 1, 2025 | 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM**  
**Mount Saint Joseph Carmelite Monastery**

12455 Clayton Rd, San Jose

Retreat Facilitator: Fr. Hao Dinh

Featured Speaker: Fr. Julius Ntalo, OCD, a Discalced Carmelite from Uganda.

Retreat includes time for featured talks, group discussions, reflections, and Holy Mass.

Registration Fee: \$50 per person (includes lunch) Register today, as space is limited: 30 seats are reserved for Ascension parishioner registrations until February 15; all other registrations from neighboring parishes are also welcome now until all remaining seats are filled. The last day to submit your completed registration is February 23.

For more details, scan the QR code, or see the flyer in our church.



## Maintenance Updates

-**Wayne Purdy** has retired from his maintenance position in our parish in January. We appreciate his dedicated service to our community in the past year and a half.

-**Charlie Nguyen** is now our new maintenance supervisor. He officially joined the parish staff on February 4. Welcome on board, Charlie.

-The **Ascension of Christ statue** was lifted back into place on January 24 after being repaired and restored. The cost was born by a former parishioner.

## Valentine's Lunch

Last Sunday, around three dozen seniors enjoyed lunch and entertainment in the hall, served by our Youth Faith Formation team. Thank you to all who made it possible.

## Seasons of Hope Grief Discussion Group

Faith-based conversation for those who lost a loved one. Wed, Feb 19, 26, Mar 5, 12, 19, 26 (1:00pm – 2:30pm) Sacred Heart Parish Center - Transfiguration Room 13716 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga. RSVP to Carolyn Orasin at 1-408-867-3634 or c.orasin@sacredheartsaratoga.org.