



June 16, 2024

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 17:22-24 | 2 Cor 5:6-10 | Mk 4:26-34

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

If we walk through the woods on a beautiful spring day, we'll see the signs of life bursting forward. Green shoots coming up from the ground, leaf buds poking out from the branches of a tree – even the birds and animals are busily scampering. Life, growth, and new beginnings are all around. Today's readings have a common theme of nature as one of the ways we can experience God's design. Like the crowds Jesus taught, we may not know the exact cause of what makes a plant grow from a tiny seed to a towering tree, but that's OK – we don't have to know. As St. Paul writes, "we walk by faith, not by sight." We trust the Lord to lead and guide us. And, like the harvester in the parable, we can observe, tend, and act when the time is right to bring in the harvest, for, as Paul continues in his letter: "We aspire to please [God]."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

What does it look like to play an active role in bringing in the harvest? Faith is a lifelong journey, and everyone is in a different place. The delicate shoot needs different care than the full-grown tree. In prayer, God can speak to us to help us discern the best way to help the people he has put in our lives. Perhaps we offer encouragement, or a shoulder to lean on. Maybe someone needs a friend to converse with. No matter where or who we are, each one of us can be like the harvester that Jesus references, observing and acting as appropriate, helping support the seed of faith God plants in each person. And as we heard in the Gospel today, the smallest seed can become the largest of plants; therefore, our work is plentiful as laborers working to help build God's kingdom here on earth.

PRAY Pray for the wisdom to recognize where you are in your journey, what you need to keep growing, and how you can offer to help others.

Lord God, fill me with your gifts and put your words in my mouth, that through them, others may be filled with the power and warmth of your love. Amen.

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

Confessions (Sat) 4:00-4:45pm

Surprising Yields Ahead

Many have been glad to shake off the past year with good riddance. We're quick to write off difficult situations as sinkholes of our personal efforts, with nothing to show for our suffering. Every plague, war, and famine of history has caused its multitude of lost lives, endless grief, and economic devastation. Yet Jesus promises us that underneath the soil of human experience, the kingdom of God is always at work, pushing new life and fresh hope into existence. Many are working hard right this moment to promote a new vision for humanity. Commit to the new seed of Kingdom Coming. - *Preparetheword.com*

Pope Francis on Education

"How do we help our young people not to see a university degree as synonymous with higher status, with more money or social prestige? It is not synonymous with that. How can we help make their education a mark of greater responsibility in the face of today's problems, the needs of the poor, concern for the environment?"

"Education is not about knowing things or taking lessons but about being able to use three lingos: those of the head, the heart, and the hands... learning so that you can think about what you feel and do, can feel what you think and do, and can do what you feel and think. Unity within a person."

"Perhaps the mission of the university is to train social poets, men and women who, upon learning the grammar and vocabulary of humanity, have a spark, a brilliance that allows them to imagine the unknown."

Prayer for Fathers by Pope Francis

I ask for you the grace to be ever closer to your children, allow them to grow, but be close!

They need you, your presence, your closeness, your love.

May you be for them as St. Joseph was: guardians of their growth in age, wisdom and grace.

May you guard them on their journey: be educators and walk with them.

Thank you for all you do for your children: thank you.

May St. Joseph bless you and accompany you.

St. Joseph's Cathedral Guided Tours

Did you know that the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph offers guided tours during the week? The cathedral parish is asking for volunteers to become docents. The more guides they have, the more tours they will be able to offer. For more info, contact Anita Romero, St. Joseph's Docent Council, at 408-460-4796.

WEEKLY OFFERING - JUNE 9

-\$14,715 (online: \$2,676; baskets: \$12,039 including 3 annual or semi-annual gifts totaling \$7,100). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: \$307,644. Budget: \$318,500.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

June 15	Sat	05 pm	Maxine Stice +
June 16	Sun	07 am	Edward Gembala +
		05 pm	Joseph Fiorentino +
June 17	Mon	08 am	Hans Pereira (L)
June 20	Thu	08 am	The Weeks Family

Ascension Commemorative Book

To honor our Church of the Ascension's 60th Anniversary, we plan to publish a commemorative book that will include the parish's history, stories, historic documents and pictures, and photos of our parish families.

For this project, we need volunteers with skills for

-Photographs

-Photo session coordination

-Layout & Artworks

-Content editing.

Please contact Fr. Hao at ascensionpastor@dsj.org if you, or someone you know, can work on this book.

Catechetical Ministry Update

After the meeting on Catechetical Ministry on June 8, three parishioners signed up to be part of the ministry!

You may become (1) a catechist, or (2) a catechist aide/substitute, or (3) a supporter who can help with certain tasks (snack set-up, bulletin boards, decorations, photos, technology, events, etc.).

You can be involved in this ministry weekly, monthly, etc., as your schedule allows. No time/talent contribution is too small. Our young parishioners need *you!*

Our next Catechetical Ministry meeting is June 22, Saturday, from 9:30am - 10:30am in the hall classrooms (facing the church's main entrance).

Please (1) sign up at the tables near the church's main entrance, or (2) call the parish office at 408-725-3939 x102 (Sharlene Pereira).

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)



Calling all young Catholic men (ages 13-17) who is seeking to deepen their faith and see what God's call in their lives. The Quo Vadis overnight retreat (June 28-29) offers guidance and time in prayer,

as well as classic camp activities like sports, hiking and great food. You will have the chance to meet and hang out with priests, college men and diocesan seminarians, who serve as group leaders and help run the retreat. Scan QR code for registration and info.

