

July 14, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Am 7:12-15 | Eph 1:13-14 or 1:3-10 | Mk 6:7-13

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

Have you ever considered the task before you and thought, *No way am I equipped for this?* There are certainly times when it seems God is calling us to more than we are prepared for. The prophet Amos never expected to be God's mouthpiece. He was a simple shepherd and a "dresser of sycamores." Yet, Amos listened when God *chose him* "from following the flock" and instructed him to speak to Israel, even if he may have thought the whole idea quite silly. "Do you really mean *me?*" we might imagine him saying. We see this theme of God calling those we might least expect to important missions on countless occasions throughout Scripture: Moses had a speech impediment; Rahab was a prostitute; David was a young boy; Ruth was a foreigner; Matthew was a despised tax collector; Paul persecuted the early Christians; and the list goes on. On every occasion, however, trusting in God and listening to his voice was enough for each of these individuals to fulfill the role they were called to, even if they considered themselves the most unlikely candidate for the cause.

## GO EVANGELIZE

### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In this week's Gospel reading from Mark, Jesus calls for the Twelve and sends them out on mission with specific instructions. The key here is that he gives them *his authority*. They are able to accomplish seemingly impossible things - "preaching repentance, driving out demons, curing the sick" - not through their own power, but through the authority they had in Christ and by being obedient to the precepts he gave them. This is a lesson for all of us - to heed the commands of Christ and rely on his authority, not on our own power. We can live the impossible only through him. Pay close attention to the words from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians when in doubt: "In him *we were also chosen*, destined in accord with the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ."

**PRAY** Today's Scripture makes it clear that it is through Christ in us that we can accomplish all things for his glory. We do not act on our own, but we give permission for God to act in us. I offer you a challenge this week in your prayer life: Instead of asking God to remove what appear to be impossible obstacles for you to face, try praying for the graces sufficient to fulfill your role in them.

## 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

The Prophet Amos by Eugene Byrne, CCO



## Each One, Bring One

A lot of things in life are lonely. Being sick, being wrong, and being broke are hours difficult to share with anyone not inside the experience. Happily, religion isn't intended to be a solitary undertaking. Jesus formed a community before he engaged his ministry, and he urged his followers to go out in pairs. If you're struggling to ground your prayer life, make a deeper commitment to Bible study, or get a work of service or justice off the ground, remember: Companions in faith make the way more joyful and fruitful. - *Preparetheword.com*

## Quotes

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." - *Mother Teresa*

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

- *Margaret J. Wheatley*

## Our Inheritance in Christ

The Letter to the Ephesians [today] notes that in Christ we've already been given "every spiritual blessing in the heavens." Not enough for you? How about redemption, the forgiveness of sins, riches of grace, wisdom, and insight? Ephesians piles on the advantages we inherit "in Christ." This insider phrase is lingo for church, the Mystical Body in which we live and move and have our being. Evidently being church is sufficient. With a walking stick and sandals, the disciples preach repentance, drive out demons, and cure the sick. - *Alice Camille*

## This Week - July 15 - on FORMED

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick... unites the sick to the sufferings of Christ and gives them the strength of Christ to endure their sufferings but also to transform their sufferings into redemptive suffering. For those who are dying, this sacrament prepares them for their journey to Heaven.

Registering for FORMED is easy:

- Go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup).
- Select our parish by entering name, city and/or zip code.
- Enter your name and email address.



## Funerals & Memorials

- **Christopher Kelley**: July 19 (Friday), 11am at Ascension.

## WEEKLY OFFERING - JULY 07

### NEW FISCAL YEAR

- \$6,354** (baskets: \$3,451; online: \$2,903). Goal: \$6,500.
- YTD: **\$6,300**. Budget: \$6,500.
- Peter's Pence (latest): **\$1,975**.
- Building Fund: **\$555.55**.
- Flower Fund: **\$200**.

Thank you for your generosity.

## MASS INTENTIONS

July 14	Sun	07 am	Cora Austria +
		09 am	Roberto Tada +
		11 am	Remedios Doria +
		05 pm	Kathy Atkinson & Family
July 17	Wed	08 am	David Braddi +
July 20	Sat	09 am	The Weeks Family

## Agnus Day Comic Strip - Amos 7:7-13

Agnus Day appears with the permission of [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org)



## Prophecy Rules This Month

Truly there is no season when the bracing and challenging words of the prophets are not needed. This month, prophecy rules in the daily Mass readings, as we hear from Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, and Jeremiah in turns. Special feasts include Thomas the Apostle (3), Mary Magdalene (22, often called the Apostle to the Apostles or the Apostle of Easter), and James the Apostle (25). We also highlight three remarkable siblings who were close to Jesus on the relatively new memorial of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany (29).

In addition, we honor many who attained sainthood or beatification on our soil, including Junípero Serra (1), Blessed Charlie Manuel Rodríguez Santiago (13), and Blessed Solanus Casey (30). Kateri Tekakwitha (14) and Blessed Stanley Rother (28) have memorials superseded by the Sunday observance this year, yet their examples fill out an abundance of reasons to celebrate our nation on Independence Day (4). - *Alice Camille*

## Keep It Simple

My family and I were on a walk while at my parents' cottage on a small lake in Southwest Michigan when we got a lesson about life. Around the bend in the lake we met an old couple sitting on rickety lawn chairs fishing. Their equipment consisted of a small, cheap tackle box, a plastic margarine container full of night crawlers, a five-gallon plastic bucket to hold their catch, and two long bamboo poles that carried their lines out beyond the shallows and seaweed. "How's the fishing?" I asked. "Fantastic," the man said, nodding to the bucketful of fish thrashing about in the shallow water.

Across the road was a much larger lake where a fisherman was calling it quits. He was cranking his expensive bass boat onto his trailer. He wore a vest with about 27 pockets, each bulging with gear. He took six or seven fiberglass rods out of the boat and placed them in the back of his SUV, and then followed suit with two shiny multi-drawer tackle boxes and other gear.

"Ain't no damned fish in this lake," he snarled as he gunned the engine, pulling his still-dripping boat up the boat ramp and onto the highway.

The apostles were sent out into the world with just a single tunic and a walking stick. As fishers of people, despite their lack of fancy gear, they brought in quite a haul.

- *Tom McGrath*

## Young Adult Basketball

The young adult group is hosting an open gym basketball on Saturday, July 27th from 8am to 10am at Worner Hall. If you have any questions feel free to email Gabriel at [gabriel.d.doria@gmail.com](mailto:gabriel.d.doria@gmail.com).