

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



January 26, 2025

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 | 1 Cor 12:12-30 | Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Late 19th-century English author G.K. Chesterton famously wrote, “Catholic doctrine and discipline may be walls, but they are the walls of a playground.” We can think of God’s commandments serving as rules governing primary school recess: by providing us with a structure in which we can explore, play, stumble, and get up again, they allow us to discover who God created us to be without wandering far from his love. The mosaic law that served the Jews in today’s first reading had given them the necessary parameters to live and grow within the covenantal relationship they had with God. Their unfaithfulness had led them astray, but upon their return from exile in Babylon they wept when hearing God’s word for the first time in generations. They knew the power of God’s commandments to keep them safe and secure in his love, and recognized all they had lost by wandering. Their sorrow was turned to joy in the knowledge that God rejoiced in their return to him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Just as Ezra “opened the scroll so that all the people might see it” in today’s first reading, Jesus also “unrolled the scroll” and then rolled it back up so that all might see *him*. Ezra held the law in his hands, Jesus is the fulfillment of the law in himself. Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing,” were an infusion of new life breathed into a new creation by God who is outside of time. All things, all mistakes, all failures brought about in our human pride and disobedience were being refashioned into new brick and mortar to build God’s kingdom in and through Christ. Jesus, with his commandment to love one another as he loves us, gives us structure and a true freedom to discover who God created us to be, while helping us not wander far from this playground the Lord has given us. Knowing what holds us together, and relying on it to guide us, enables us to help build the kingdom even more for the glory of God and the good of others.

LEARN

Research a Catholic teaching you do not fully understand for example, why Catholics attend Mass on Sundays. Ask God for the light to see how this teaching is life-giving instead of life-limiting. If you have the opportunity, share what you’ve learned with someone.

Hidden Lives

Humans are afflicted with the desire to make lists, categorize, arrange according to significance, and especially to assign importance among people. But we never see the whole picture, so how can we know who is more important, or which ability or action has the greatest potential for good? In Middlemarch George Eliot reminds us: "For the growing good of the world is partly dependent upon un-historic acts, and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life and rest in unvisited tombs." Remember, we are all part of the Body of Christ; we are all necessary and important.

- Preparetheword.com

Catholic Schools Week

January 26 - February 1

This annual week celebrates the vital role that Catholic education plays in forming the minds, bodies and spirits of students across the nation. The 2023-26 theme is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community."

The Diocese of San Jose has 28 elementary schools, 6 high schools, and 8 preschools.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821), who opened the first Catholic school in Baltimore in 1810, is the patron saint of Catholic schools in the United States. She was the first American to be declared a saint.

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 with your name, phone number and email to:

Carolyn Orasin, Parish Secretary at 1-408-867-3634 or
c.orasin@sacredheartsaratoga.org.

World Day of the Sick

Saturday, Feb 8

-Ascension Church:

9am Mass with Anointing of the Sick

-St. Joseph's Cathedral:

9:30 am: Rosary

10:00 am: Mass with Anointing of the Sick

sponsored by the Order of Malta

Attendees receive Lourdes water, holy medals & cards.

Special Collections

-Jan. 26: For Ascension Faith Formation Fund.

WEEKLY OFFERING - JAN. 12

-Total **\$5,091** (\$3,226 + online: \$1,865). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: **\$184,680**. Budget: \$188,500.

-Collection for LA Wildfire Relief: **\$5,573**.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 25	Sat	05 pm	Paul Lenarduzzi +
Jan 26	Sun	09 am	Allan Victor De La Vega +
		11 am	Jennifer Zhang (L)
		05 pm	Jessica Fedeli +
Jan 27	Mon	08 am	The Gerrard Family
Jan 29	Wed	08 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento (+)
Feb 01	Sat	09 am	Arlene Norton +

Holy Father's February Prayer Intention

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Jubilee of Communications

January 24-26

The Holy See has designated a number of Jubilee Days throughout 2025. The Jubilee of the World of Communications will be held from January 24 - 26, 2025. We remember the words of Pope Francis in his message for the 27th World Day of Social Communications: "We have a pressing need in the Church for communication that kindles hearts, that is balm on wounds and that shines light on the journey of our brothers and sisters. I dream of an ecclesial communication that knows how to let itself be guided by the Holy Spirit, gentle and at the same time, prophetic, that knows how to find new ways and means for the wonderful proclamation it is called to deliver in the third millennium. A communication which puts the relationship with God and one's neighbour, especially the neediest, at the centre and which knows how to light the fire of faith rather than preserve the ashes of a self-referential identity. A form of communication founded on humility in listening and parrhesia (*) in speaking, which never separates truth from charity."

(*) *Parrhesia* is a Greek word for candidness, boldness.

Annual Diocesan Appeal 2025

Kick-off: February 2



Your ADA gift enables the Church in this county in her collective Evangelization and Outreach, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Catechesis and Faith Formation, the Hispanic Apostolate, Social Justice Ministry, the Institute for Leadership in Ministry, the Formation and Training of Seminarians and Deacon Candidates, and the Ongoing Formation of those already ordained. 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 day-to-day services that our parishes rely on for support. Thank you.



Acknowledgments

More than one hundred people participated in the 9am Memorial Mass last Saturday, then a reception, at Ascension to remember and pray for Fr. Reynaldo Sarmiento and his family. His two sisters from the Philippines stopped by Ascension to thank our parish for our prayer and support. His coffin was taken to Manila for burial on January 25. We appreciate our ministers, especially the music group lead by Cesar Quiason, and the hospitality team headed by Marie Maraschin.