

St. Anselm Catholic Church

September 14, 2025
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



The Exaltation of the Cross—Juan de Valdes Leal

97 Shady Lane, PO Box 1061, Ross, CA 94957

Parish office phone: (415) 453-2342

Parish office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00am--4:00pm

Parish email: Info@SaintAnselm.org

Parish website: www.SaintAnselm.org

Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaintAnselmChurchRossCalifornia

Clergy:
Fr. Gabriel Wankar, Pastor
ext. 103; wankar.gabriel@sfarch.org
Fr. Gabriel Achiaga -In Residence
Deacon Bernie O'Halloran
Deacon Ed Cunningham
Deacon Robert Meave

Admin Assist: Mark Wilson
AdminAssistant@saintanselm.org

Religious Education: Dan Veto D.R.E ext. 105
Dre@saintanselm.org

Director of Sacred Music: Rebekah Wu

St. Anselm School: Kim Orendorff, Principal
School Office: (415) 454-8667
School Fax: (415) 454-4730

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm,

Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am, and 5:00pm

Weekday Mass: Monday-Friday 8:30am, Rosary 8:00am

Holy Day Masses: 8:30am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Adoration: with Rosary, weekdays from 7:25—8:25 am
and First Fridays from 9 am—12 noon

Eucharist for Homebound: (415) 453-2342

Reconciliation: Before 8:30am weekday Mass, Saturday
4:00pm-4:45pm, during Adoration on First Fridays 9:00am-
12:00pm or by Appointment

Baptism: Preparation Class required. Please email
dre@saintanselm.org or call the Parish Office ext.105

Anointing of the Sick: Anytime upon request.
Contact Pastor.

Matrimony: Six months notification required prior to
desired date. Contact Pastor.

St. Vincent de Paul Help Desk: (415) 454-3303

Cursillo Information: Cathy Cunningham
(415) 453-7174

St. Anselm's Parish is a Catholic community formed by families, individuals and clergy that worship together, celebrate the sacramental life of the Church, and seek to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ everyday. We welcome, serve, and educate according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Pastor's Reflection: 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

The readings for today's Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross provide rich teachings on the Cross.

I. The Pattern of the Cross – The people had grumbled against God and Moses for the “wretched” manna they had to consume (Numbers 21:5), much like Catholics who treat the Eucharist lightly or find it boring. God sent venomous snakes among them, which caused many to die (Nm 21:6). The people repented and, to bring healing to them, God commanded a strange thing: *Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live* (Nm 21:8). Why does God do this?

II. The Palliative Quality of the Cross – In rejecting the Bread from Heaven, they rejected God. So, He made them look upon a serpent, to stir repentance and healing (Nm 21:9). Jesus takes up the theme in today's Gospel: *And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life* (John 3:14). There is something about facing our shortcomings, and our anxieties to find healing. In the cross and the sacraments are the means of our salvation and healing.

III. The Paradox of the Cross – In a world dominated by power and its aggressive use, the humility and powerlessness of the Cross accomplish anything but defeat. Yet, the Cross upsets the regular world order. At the heart of today's second reading is the declaration that Christ humbled Himself and became obedient unto death—death on the Cross. But far from being defeated, it exalted Him and brought Him victory. So astonishing is Jesus' humility that it literally undoes Satan's pride and all our collective pride. The great paradox of the Cross makes a public spectacle of every human and worldly presumption.

IV. The Power of the Cross – *So must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.* The power of the Cross is the power to save. And not only are we saved from the effects of our sins, but we are also empowered to live a whole new life. The word ‘eternal’ does not refer simply to the length of life, but also to its fullness. In the Cross, we are given the gift to live a completely new life, transformed increasingly into the freedom, joy, and blessedness of the same life of Christ.

V. The Passion of the Cross – And why all this? “For God so loved the world...” Yes, God loves the world. Despite our rebellion and our unbelief, God goes on loving us, not forcing His love upon us but inviting us and giving us every grace to turn and to come to Him. Love invites; it does not force. Love respects the will of the beloved and seeks only the free response of love in return. In the week ahead, may we come to realize that nothing is greater proof of God's love for us than the cross.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.	Sep. 15	8:30am	Michael Killelea (D)
Tues.	Sep. 16	8:30am	Shirley Della Santina (D)
Wed.	Sep. 17	8:30am	Joe McGarry (D)
Thur.	Sep. 18	8:30am	Carole Lombardi (D)
Fri.	Sep. 19	8:30am	Michele Dee (INT)
Sat.	Sep. 20	5:00pm	Peter Monahan (D)
Sun.	Sep. 21	8:00am	Claude Wundrow (D)
		10:00am	Geraldine O'Neill (D)
		5:00pm	Theresa Ward (INT)

Sick Relatives & Friends

Note: please call parish office to update names

As a community we ask God's blessing for the ill: Stan & Donna Pechalonis, Mark Gardner, Terese Marklinger, Karen Poligono, Marilyn Marklinger, Don Orlandi, Fr. Neil Healy, Jordan Roggenbuck, Matt Hansen, Jim Sweeney, Bob Hoffman, John Alkazin, Lorraine Matteucci, Deidra Carson, Fr. Bill Brown, Bryan Green, Chris Ryan, Elaine Innes, Arlene Hansen, Rose Michelle D'Haiti, John Peterson, Erin Granucci, Bruce Hubal, Charles Cavagnetto, J.R. Maricich, Isabella O'Brien, Dorothy Laddish, Penny Maioli, Gretchen Libby

For the Repose of the Soul: Pauline O'Brien-DeLury, Susan Catinella, Sal Catinella, Linda Biesheuvel, Pat Daly, Katherine Elizabeth Devcich, Catherine Ward, Theresa Sullivan, Mike Killelea

For Our Military: Matthew Kerry O'Brien, Robert Gebhardt, Tyler Lopez, Alex Boatwright, Elizabeth Baumsteiger, Christian Miller, Robert Kent, Shane Morgan, Daniel Lowe, and Rob Manifold

The Pope's Monthly Intentions

September— For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

The 2025 Church Restoration Campaign

Our remaining goal is \$700,000

This campaign requires all of us to consider a contribution from our hearts.

Questions: call/email, Steve Easley, Chairman of the Parish Finance Council

415-272-6147/ steve@meridiancommercial.com

SAVE THE DATE AND COMMUNITY NOTES

- **Religious Education for Children**
The St. Anselm Religious Education program will begin later this month. Classes for Pre-K to 7th grade meet Sunday mornings at 9 am and conclude in time to attend the 10 am Mass. The Confirmation preparation classes for students in 8th+ grade meet on Sunday evenings and include attending the 5 pm Mass. Visit SaintAnselm.org to learn more and sign up.
- Dear Parents, Rebekah Wu, our Director of Sacred Music has announced the formation of the **St. Anselm Children's Choir** for the 2025–2026 school year. **Regular Rehearsals** Fridays, 3:30–5:00 PM Beginning September 4, 2025. **Liturgical Participation One 10:00 AM Sunday Mass per month** from September 28, 2025 (26th Sunday in Ordinary Time) through May 31, 2026. If your child is interested in joining (including those who do not attend St Anselm School), please contact her at musicdirector@saintanselm.org
- ♦ The Ritter Center Food Drives will resume this month, **September 27-28**. Thank you for your support for this important ministry.
- ♦ Every Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:00 pm Deacon Bob will lead a discussion of the upcoming Sunday readings. **You may attend in-person (Centennial Hall) or via Zoom**. Contact Deacon Bob to get a copy of the readings in advance and the Zoom link. ppc.stanselmross@gmail.com



One time donation



Recurring donation



Registration

St. Anselm Planned Giving

Consider listing St. Anselm's as beneficiary in your Will (advisable to have one). It preserves the mission and values of the church in its ministry.

Contact Steve Easley for information
steve@meridiancommerical.com | 415-272-6147

Upcoming second collection on September 21
Priest's Retirement

2025 Annual Appeal: \$49,544 collected; goal of \$71,409
2025 Church Restoration Goal—\$ 3,500,000

Singing and Music – An Essential Part of the Catholic Liturgy.

The origins of singing in the Roman Catholic liturgy are deeply rooted in Jewish worship, especially the synagogue tradition, where psalms, Scripture, and prayers were chanted. The Gospels tell us that after the Last Supper, Jesus and His disciples “sang a hymn” before going out to the Mount of Olives (cf. Matthew 26:30).

Early Christians continued this practice, and by the 4th century, communal singing had become a structured part of the Mass. This eventually gave rise to Gregorian Chant, named after Pope St. Gregory the Great (6th century), which formed the foundation of Roman Rite music.

The tradition of singing psalms and hymns has never been about performance but about giving glory to God and fostering the unity of the Church in prayer. As the Church's tradition reminds us: “*He who sings prays twice*” (often attributed to St. Augustine).

The Second Vatican Council teaches that sacred music is an “*integral part of the liturgy*” because it expresses the soul of the Church's prayer (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 112). It calls all the faithful to participate actively through “*acclamations, responses, psalmody, antiphons, and songs*” (30), reminding us that “*liturgical services are not private functions but celebrations of the Church*” (7).

According to *Musicam Sacram* (#4), the aim of liturgical music is “*the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful*.” When music is treated as a performance, the congregation often falls silent. But when the choir sings with the assembly and for the Church's prayer, something sacred and unifying takes place (cf. *Why Catholics Can't Sing*).

In the Roman Catholic tradition, songs for each Mass are prayerfully chosen to reflect the readings, season, and liturgical theme, forming one seamless act of worship. Special care is given to selecting music that the whole congregation can sing with ease and confidence. This includes keeping the pitch accessible—not just for the cantor or choir, but for the entire assembly.

We are all called to sing at Mass—not as spectators, but as full participants in the Church's prayer. Let us not remain silent when the Church is at prayer. Let us sing *to the Lord*, for He is good!

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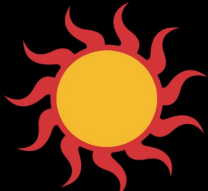
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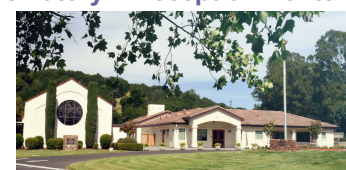
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