

Church of the Ascension

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ascensionsaratoga.org

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Hao Dinh, Pastor
Rev. Reynaldo Sarmiento,
Parochial Vicar
Nomer Rios, Administrative
Assistant
Mark Rose, Bookkeeper
Wayne Purdy,
Maintenance Supervisor

Catechetical Ministry

Loy Oppus-Moe,
Youth Faith Formation
Coordinator
RCIA Rev. Hao Dinh,
Pastor

Masses

Saturday

9:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m. (Vigil)

Sunday

7:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

Weekday

M—F 8:00 a.m.

Holy Days

Mass times as announced

Reconciliation

Saturday
4:00 pm—4:45 pm

July 31, 2022 — EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Do not spend your life toiling for material gain
(Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23).

Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 90).

Second Reading — Christ has raised you to new life, so seek now what is above
(Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11).

Gospel — Be on guard against all greed, for your life does not consist of earthly
possessions, but of the riches of the reign of God
(Luke 12:13-21).

THE CENTER OF A MEANINGFUL LIFE

Today's readings invite us to reflect upon some of life's deepest questions, and to explore the meaning of faith. We hear of the universal human search for meaning in our lives in the book of Ecclesiastes. In Luke's Gospel, we hear Jesus' parable about one who foolishly seeks ultimate security through the accumulation of wealth. In Colossians, faith in the crucified and resurrected Christ is proclaimed as the path to a richly purposeful and meaningful life.

The path of Christian faith places our work, our sufferings, and our limitations within the larger picture of God's purposes for all of us. In Jesus, God is revealed as our companion in human suffering and limitation. God's love is at the center of a meaningful life. We place our trust in this loving God, who created us to share in this love, and to share this love with others.

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Church of the Ascension: Youth Faith Formation Program

We look forward to working with you and with all children and youth in our parish, sharing and growing together in our faith and in our relationship with the Lord.

To enroll your child/ren, please complete the registration form (found on our website) for the program which goes from September 2022 through May 2023.



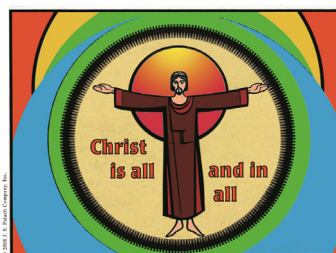
Youth Faith Formation includes sacramental preparation:

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist - typically 2nd graders or older

Sacrament of Confirmation - typically 8th graders or older

For information, please contact: Loy Oppus-Moe (408) 621-1587
or email her at loy.oppusmoe@dsj.org

Nothing . . . is sweeter than
love; nothing higher, nothing
stronger, nothing larger,
nothing fuller, nothing better,
in heaven or on earth.
—Thomas à Kempis



The most deadly
poison of our
times is
indifference.
—St. Maximilian
Kolbe

Sin: Missing the Mark

We often think of sin as a transgression of the Ten Commandments, a church law, or anything that we know is not right by any standard. But sin can also be a failure to do what is right. When we sin, we are “missing the mark,” i.e. falling short of God’s standard. Sin is a conscious decision to avoid doing the right thing, taking instead a convenient shot to the side of center. That shot to the side takes us off the path to God and steers us away from good. A first missed mark can be a painful decision; it may be convenient, a compromise, a means of saving face, or a desire to join with in with others. A second miss is easier to rationalize and so the misses continue further and further afield, taking a person deeper into sin. Sin is ultimately a rebellion against God and with each “missed mark” the heart becomes hardened, the rationalization for sin stronger, and the voice of God and goodness is silenced.

Great sinners are not born thus, just as great saints are not born thus: it is the daily decisions of which action to take which determine our directions. Often these decisions have become routine, not detectable as faults or sins—they simply are! Tyron Edwards wrote: “Thoughts ... go forth in action, actions form habits, habits decide character, and character fixes our destiny.” Our destiny can be “smoking” or “non-smoking.” Thank God for the opportunity of forgiveness and redemption to be found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is a place of rebirth where we can experience the joy of forgiveness, the thrill of a new beginning, the assurance of God’s love.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday	St. Alphonsus Liguori (18th century Italian bishop, founder of the Redemptorists & Doctor of the Church; patron of confessors, moralists)
Tuesday	St. Eusebius (4th cent. Italian bishop; patron of Vercelli, Northern Italy) St. Peter Julian Eymard (19th cent. French priest, founder of two religious institutes)
Thursday	St. John Vianney (19th cent. French parish priest, known as the “Cure d’Ars”; patron of parish priests)
Friday	Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major (built in the 4th cent. It is the largest church in Rome dedicated to the Virgin Mary) First Friday (recognizes the Sacred Heart of Jesus. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17th century, received several promises to those who practiced First Fridays Devotions.)
Saturday	The Transfiguration (Jesus with his apostles, Peter, James, John, goes up a mountain to pray; there he becomes radiant in glory and speaks with Moses and Elijah about his upcoming death)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

July 30	Sat	9 a.m. Jerome & Anna Dao + 5 p.m. Cris Borromeo (L)
July 31	Sun	7 a.m. All Parishioners 9 a.m. The McKeever Family 11 a.m. All Parishioners 5 p.m. All Parishioners
Aug 01	Mon	8 a.m. Janet Piazza +
Aug 02	Tue	8 a.m. Pedro Hernandez +
Aug 03	Wed	8 a.m. Dina Rendic +
Aug 04	Thu	8 a.m. All Parishioners
Aug 05	Fri	8 a.m. All Parishioners
Aug 06	Sat	9 a.m. Kathy Sital (L) 5 p.m. Andrea Beltran +
Aug 07	Sun	7 a.m. All Parishioners 9 a.m. Jerome & Anna Dao + 11 a.m. Mary Hawkes (L) 5 p.m. Helen Sheahan +

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

- If you or someone you know, who is unbaptized and older than 7 years, or a baptized Christian and would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, call us.
- If you are a baptized Catholic, but for one reason or another never completed your Sacraments of Holy Communion and/or Confirmation, you're not alone; call us.

"The sacraments of Christian Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist - lay the foundations of every Christian life." (Catechism, 1212).
Please speak with Fr. Hao at the Parish Office at (408) 725-3939 for more information. We are forming our next RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) which will begin in late August.

THANK YOU

July 24, 2022	Our Weekly Offering
NEEDED	\$5,400
COLLECTED WESHARE	\$3,856 \$ 543
TOTAL	\$4,399

Don't tell me that worry doesn't do any good. I know better. The things I worry about never happen.
—Anonymous