

Church of the Ascension

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Hao Dinh, Pastor
Rev. Reynaldo Sarmiento,
Parochial Vicar
Nomer Rios, Admin. Assistant
Susan Dunn, Bookkeeper

Catechetical Ministry

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

Masses

Saturday

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

Sunday

7:00 a.m. (as of Nov. 27
9:00 a.m. all Masses
11:00 a.m. are inside
5:00 p.m. the Church)

Weekday

*M—F 8:00 a.m.

Holy Days

Mass times as announced

Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 pm—4:45 pm
In Room A (facing synagogue).
Enter through exterior door.

Marriage

Arrangements made SIX MONTHS in advance. Please telephone the parish office to make an appointment with the pastor.

Baptism

Baptisms are held the First Sunday of each month at 12 noon. (Preparation seminar is required). Please contact the parish office at least ONE month in advance.

12033 Miller Avenue, Saratoga, California 95070

Office Hours: *Our office has opened to the public, with Covid restrictions.*

Mon.—Thurs. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Phone: 408-725-3939 • Fax: 408-725-3932

Web Site: www.ascensionsaratoga.org

FaceBook: www.facebook.com/Church-of-The-Ascension-102780971438932/

In case of an emergency please call 408-725-3939, then press 9



LETTER FROM BISHOP CANTÚ

Welcome: We extend our hearts and hands in Christian fellowship to you here celebrating with us, whether long-time residents or newly arrived in the parish. We thank God that you are with us. If any of the following in the apply to you, please fill out the form below and place it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office.

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

New Parishioner New Address New Phone

Send Envelopes Weekly, Not Required/Automatic
Payment, Moving/remove from mailing list

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 02, 2022**

JOURNEYING TOGETHER TO ENCOUNTER, LISTEN AND DISCERN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
We have come to the end of our Diocesan Jubilee, celebrating our 40th anniversary. We also close the Year of St. Joseph, which coincided with our Diocesan Jubilee.

Jubilee in time of Pandemic

While our celebrations were limited because of the pandemic, we made the most of them! I express my deep gratitude to Fr. Hao Dinh and the Jubilee Committee for planning and executing the various celebrations throughout the year. They had to contend with shifting COVID protocols and yet adapted joyfully and creatively.

Where do we go from here?

At the Priest Fall Convocation this past September, I invited our priests to begin to imagine what the Diocese of San José might look like in 10 years. What does God desire of us in the next 10 years? To begin to prepare ourselves and our Diocese for our 50th Jubilee, I invite us all – laity, religious, and clergy – to participate in a **Year of Prayer** to convoke the **Holy Spirit** in our discernment process.

We recall how Abraham, even at a rather mature age, was called to leave his home and embark on a journey led by God. Abraham was not privy to the specifics of God's plan, but it didn't matter: Abraham trusted God. We further recall how God attracted Moses through his fascination with the burning bush. Moses was not only overcome with the sacredness and mystery of the burning bush; he was drawn into a mission: to rescue God's people.

We too are invited to *witness* and to *hear*. To hear God speaking through his people; not in Egypt, but in Silicon Valley, in Santa Clara Valley; not 4,000 years ago, but here and now. There are two upcoming opportunities for the Church to encounter and listen to God's people here and now: the **Pope's Universal Synod** and our first-ever **Diocesan Synod**.

Diocesan Synod: Not only will we participate in the universal synod in a few months, but in preparation for our 50th anniversary, I invite us all – laity, religious, and clergy – to participate in our first Diocesan Synod, which will begin in Advent 2022. The Diocesan Synod will not be a simple process. That is why I am calling for a year of prayer in preparation for this Diocesan synodal process that our hearts might be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

The Year 2031 and Our Lady of Guadalupe

During our year of prayer, I also invite us to reflect on the fact that our 50th anniversary as a Diocese will coincide with the 500th anniversary of Mary's apparitions in what is now Mexico City. In those apparitions, Mary models what we now refer to as the "new evangelization," important for us to consider as we look to the future of our Diocese.
Yours in Christ,
Bishop Oscar Cantú

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 02, 2022



Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"

—Matthew 2:1-12

JOURNEY TOWARD GOD

In our celebration of the Epiphany, two interwoven themes are present in the readings today. God is beginning something new, and God gathers all of humanity to participate. For Isaiah, God's bright light, manifested in the people of Israel, attracts and summons people from many nations to Jerusalem.

In the letter to the Ephesians, God's grace makes the Gentiles co-heirs and co-partners in the gospel. Matthew tells the story of the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel through the birth of Jesus, and simultaneously leading foreigners to share in these same promises.

With the birth of Jesus, God chose a particular people, in a particular time and place, to enter most directly into the human story. Today's readings teach that God did this in order to gather all people, all cultures, into unity with God. Like the magi, we are drawn into a journey toward God, becoming co-partners in God's work.

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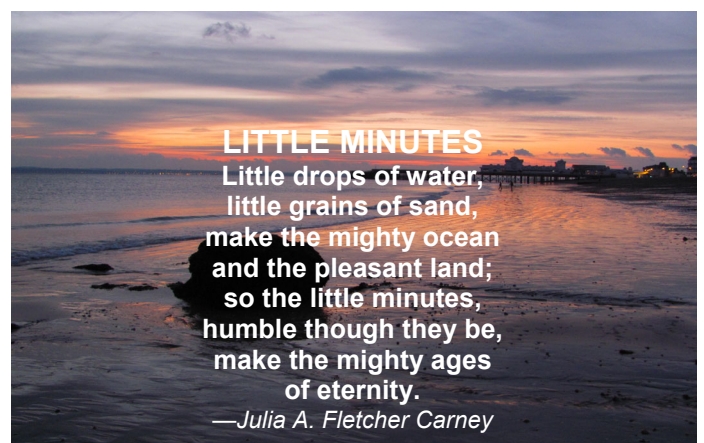
When you look at the sky and the beauty of the stars,



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throw yourself at God's feet and adore Him who in His wisdom has arranged things in this way. Similarly, when the sun goes down and when it rises, when you are asleep or awake, give thanks to God, who created and arranged all things for your benefit, to have you know, love and praise their Creator.

—St. Basil the Great



LITTLE MINUTES

**Little drops of water,
little grains of sand,
make the mighty ocean
and the pleasant land;
so the little minutes,
humble though they be,
make the mighty ages
of eternity.**

—Julia A. Fletcher Carney

Liturgy Notes

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The Visit of the Magi

There are many traditions, myths and legends about the three Magi. People don't really know whether they were kings, priests, or wise men except that Matthew's Gospel places them "from the east." Traditionally a view developed that they were Persian or Parthian from the depictions of artwork that showed them in Persian dress. However, some believe that they were from Babylon, hence astrologers following a prophetic star.

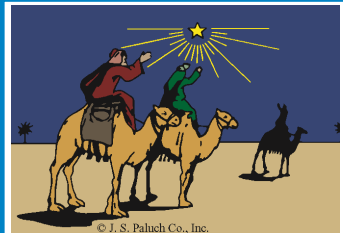
Nor do we know when they actually went to visit Jesus to pay him homage. While they are depicted at the stable, according to the Gospel of Matthew, the Magi visit Jesus in Bethlehem when he is at a house. Biblical text indicates, therefore, that they found Jesus around two years after his birth, rather than on the exact day.

Whatever legends, myths or traditions there may be, all that is known is that the Magi found Jesus, glorified him and presented him with three symbolic gifts: gold (a symbol of kingship on earth; frankincense (an incense and symbol of priestly status or gift to God); and myrrh (embalming oil and symbol of death.)

The gifts were gifts ordinarily received by a king; they were also prophetic. These gifts were not just for a king but gifts to a God: the Magi worshiped Jesus as God. The purpose of Matthew's story is to show the fulfillment of prophecy—Jesus is king of the world whose kingdom stretches to the magi's home country and beyond, right down the ages to us. We are asked to find God where God is to be found and there, be ready to bow down in adoration and to offer our gifts.

THANK YOU		
Dec. 26, 2021	Our Weekly	ate
NEED		
CO		
WE		N/A
	\$	
TOTAL	\$	N/A

While the financial information is not available this weekend, we thank you for your continuing support of the parish.



We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.
—Matthew 2:2

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
- Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30; Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Monday** **The Most Holy Name of Jesus** (the reverence with which Christians have regarded the Holy Name of Jesus goes back to the earliest days of Christianity)
- Tuesday** **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** (19th cent. American sister, foundress of Sisters of Charity; patroness of Catholic Schools)
- Wednesday** **St. John Neumann** (19th cent. Bohemian missionary, bishop of Philadelphia; patron of Catholic education)
- Thursday** **St. André Bessette** (20th cent. French-Canadian brother of the Congregation of the Holy Cross; patron of family caregivers)
- Friday** **St. Raymond of Penyafort** (13th cent. Spanish Dominican friar; patron of canon lawyers)
- First Friday**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- | | | | |
|--------|-----|---------|-------------------------|
| Jan 01 | Sat | 9 a.m. | All Parishioners |
| | | 5 p.m. | All Parishioners |
| Jan 02 | Sun | 7 a.m. | All Parishioners |
| | | 9 a.m. | Paul Allen (L) |
| | | 11 a.m. | Trinidad Zabala (L) |
| | | 5 p.m. | Greg Borromeo (L) |
| Jan 03 | Mon | 8 a.m. | Angie Datu & Family |
| Jan 04 | Tue | 8 a.m. | Adelaida Sichon + |
| Jan 05 | Wed | 8 a.m. | Joseph Borromeo (L) |
| Jan 06 | Thu | 8 a.m. | All Parishioners |
| Jan 07 | Fri | 8 a.m. | All Parishioners |
| Jan 08 | Sat | 9 a.m. | Jennifer Zhang (L) |
| | | 5 p.m. | Dorothy Chrisman (L) |
| Jan 09 | Sun | 7 a.m. | All Parishioners |
| | | 9 a.m. | Emanuela Lenarduzzi (L) |
| | | 11 a.m. | The Zabala Family |
| | | 5 p.m. | Bob & Mig Leano (L) |

EVENTS

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



The magi fell to the ground and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Mt 2:11

Scripture from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB), © by the Lockman Foundation.

**Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!
Your light has come, the
glory of the Lord shines
upon you.**

—Isaiah 60:1



CATHOLIC YOUTH FAITH FORMATION CORNER

Volunteers Needed

Our Faith Formation program has long been served by volunteers for many years. We would like to invite YOU to consider sharing your time and talent with our children. Do you like working with young parishioners? Are you excited about growing in your faith and sharing that with them?

Please pray about joining the Youth Faith Formation Team. All ages are welcome. We all have unique gifts to share. Working together leads to a stronger community!

Please regularly check our **CFF (Catholic Faith Formation) CALENDAR**, so your family doesn't miss anything!

For information, email Loy at: loy.oppusmoe@dsj.org or call her at the parish office at (408) 725-3939.

PARISH GROUP CONTACTS

Administration and Communications

Pastoral Council	John Pozniak	408-230-6006
Finance Council	Doris Atkinson	408-725-3939
Building & Grounds	Ron Schoengold	408-309-9830
Sunday Bulletin	Mary Park	408-446-3647
Webmaster	Ha Truc Dinh	408-891-8382
Email Manager	Fr. Hao Dinh	408-725-3939
Wedding Coordinator	Arline Schoengold	408-725-8873

Liturgy

Eucharistic Ministers	Arline Schoengold	408-725-8873
Lector Training	Wilma Brisendine	408-725-3939
Ushers	Tom Gaynor	408-839-3473
Altar Servers	Fr. Rey Sarmiento	408-725-3939
Musicians - 5 p.m. Sat	Fr. Rey Sarmiento	408-725-3939
Musicians - 9 a.m.	Cheryl Snyder	408 674 4361
Musicians - 11 a.m.	Barbara Mandal	408-921-7319
Musicians - 5 p.m. Sun	Fr. Rey Sarmiento	408-725-3939

Catechetical Ministries

Youth Faith Formation Coordinator	Loy Oppus-Moe	408-725-3939
Baptism Preparation	Fr. Hao Dinh	408-725-3939
Marriage Preparation	Fr. Hao Dinh	408-725-3939
Faith & Scriptures	Gene Plevyak	408-257-3490
RCIA	Fr. Hao Dinh	408-725-3939

Community and Service

Men's Club	Chuck Schoppe	408-867-9229
Handcrafters	Ruby Hauffe	408-725-3939
Couples Bridge	David Tong	415-606-1476
Young Adults	Doris/Michael Atkinson	408-725-3939
CONNECT	Don Van Buren	408-996-2619
Communion to Sick	Fr. Rey Sarmiento	408-725-3939
Marriage Encounter	Tony/Dale Fadelli	408-253-1533
Engaged Encounter	Fr. Hao Dinh	408-725-3939
Cursillo	Gene/Elaine Plevyak Harry Stice	408-857-1075 408-996-7842
Knights of Columbus	John Pozniak	408-230-6006
Serra Club	Bruce Newnan	408-293-8004
Pastoral Visit Team	Wilma Brisendine	408-725-3939
Ascension Cares	Peggy Schoppe	408-867-9229
Charismatic Prayer Group	George Sharp	408 623-3014
Fil-Am Organization	Marie Maraschin	408-218-2704
Chinese Catholic Community	Janet Lau	408-725-3939