

# 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. (in the church)  
5:00 p.m. (drive-in)

### **Sunday**

7:00 a.m. (all Sunday  
9:00 a.m. Masses are  
11:00 a.m. inside the  
5:00 p.m. church)

### **Weekday**

\*M—F 8:00 a.m. (in the church)

### **Holy Days**

Mass times as announced

## Reconciliation

By appointment

## 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 is currently not open to the public, yet we monitor phone calls and voice messages, especially Mon.—Thur. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

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

**Web Site: [www.ascensionsaratoga.org](http://www.ascensionsaratoga.org)**

**FaceBook: [www.facebook.com/Church-of-The-Ascension-102780971438932/](http://www.facebook.com/Church-of-The-Ascension-102780971438932/)**

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



**POWER IN PRAYER**

**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 ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

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Email address \_\_\_\_\_

New Parishioner  New Address  New Phone

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

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
JULY 11, 2021**

### THE AMERICAN CREED

I have always loved how, in God's providence, the Church celebrates the memorial of St. Junípero Serra three days before our nation celebrates its independence on July 4. It is fitting, because St. Junípero was not only the Apostle to California, he was also one of America's founding fathers, a fact that Pope Francis recognizes, even if many of our own historians still do not.

I am still struck at how the Catholic beginnings of this country are ignored in the telling of American history, even in otherwise excellent books. As I pointed out in my own 2013 book, "Immigration and the Next America," such histories are not wrong, but they are incomplete.

History is what holds us together as one nation. How we remember our past shapes how we understand where we are at in the present, and helps define our meaning and purpose as a people.

We are in a period of deep division in our country. Not surprisingly, our anxieties about the present are playing out in fierce debates — in school boards, legislatures, and the media — over the meaning of American history and how to tell our national story. Recovering the story of America's "other" founding — which occurred more than a century before the Mayflower, Madison, and Jefferson — can help us see beyond our present polarization.

Beginning in the 1500s, missionaries from Spain were proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ to indigenous peoples from present-day Georgia and Florida to Texas and lower California. French missionaries were consecrating the lands from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico to the Virgin Mary.

It is true, these missionaries had no hand in developing America's founding documents or institutions. But their mission gives witness to the authentic American spirit that runs through our history and finds expression in the "letter" of our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. For the most part, America's Catholic missionaries, like St. Junípero, were "doers," men and women who preached through lives of self-sacrifice and service, rather than in eloquent speeches and letters.

The missionaries had profound respect for the indigenous peoples they served, learning their languages and traditions and defending them against the lusts and avarice of exploiters. Enduring hardships and dangers, they testified to their belief that Jesus Christ is the greatest gift they could ever offer to their neighbors.

They also witness to what Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others have called the "American creed" — the belief expressed in those founding documents that all men and women are endowed by God with a sacred dignity and undeniable rights to life, liberty, and equality...

The missionaries' example offers a deeper perspective to our current debates about race and group identity.

Individual identity for the missionaries is rooted in being a child of God and a brother or sister to everyone else. The



**15TH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
JULY 11, 2021**

**Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits.**

—Mark 6:7-13

### GOD CHOSE US

Who chose first, God or you? That is the question explored in today's three readings. The second reading, from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, reads almost like a hymn. It praises God for choosing us, for calling us to serve, and for blessing us in our service. Paul makes it clear how honored we are and how special is the call to live as children of God. This is through no doing of ours.

The first reading and the Gospel use prose rather than poetry to describe the same truth: God did the choosing, not us. When the prophet Amos was berated for being a prophet, he retorted that the whole thing wasn't his idea in the first place. Neither did the twelve apostles in today's Gospel ask for their calling. Jesus sent them forth, two by two, to do the work of his kingdom.

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### cont.../The American Creed

Jesuits in upstate New York and the Franciscans in California envisioned communities that were multiracial and multicultural, reflecting the Christian belief that the human race is one family made up of a wonderful diversity of races and languages, tribes and peoples.

Finally, America's other founding can help us to not become prisoners of our past, defining the nation's future by the hypocrisy and injustices of our ancestors. The missionaries' own failings remind us that we are all sinners — decent people who want to do the right thing but very often do not.

In our current debates, we could use a little of their humility and realism about the human condition. It could help us to realize that America is not a nation whose founding ideals are false, but a nation whose founding promises have yet to be fully achieved. The ongoing work of fulfilling America's promise falls to you and me.

That is why I am excited for our upcoming Jubilee Year to commemorate the 250th anniversary of St. Junípero Serra's founding of Mission San Gabriel Arcángel. I pray this Jubilee will inspire us to continue the work of those first missionaries — to be saints and missionary disciples proclaiming Christ and building an America that lives out its founding principles of equality, freedom, and dignity for every person.

—Archbishop José H. Gomez, President of the USCCB

# Liturgy Notes

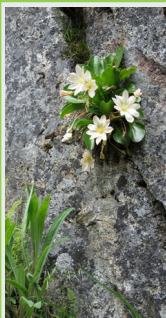
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## Our Lady of Mount Carmel/Brown Scapular

The first Carmelites were Christian hermits living on Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land in the 12th & 13th centuries. The chapel they built in their hermitage was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and thus Our Lady of Mount Carmel became their patroness.

Since the 14th century, the Carmelites have celebrated July 16th as their patronal day for, according to tradition, on that day in 1251, Our Lady gave an early Carmelite, St. Simon Stock, the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, also known as the Brown Scapular.

The scapular is a Marian garment in miniature. It is both a sign of belonging to Mary and a pledge of her motherly protection, not only in this life but after death. It is also a sign of devotion to and trust in her Immaculate Heart and a desire to be like her by imitating her virtues.



### INSPIRATIONAL SPOT

Hope looks for the good in people instead of harping on the worst.

Hope opens doors where despair closes them.

Hope discovers what can be done instead of grumbling about what cannot be done.

Hope draws its power from a deep trust in God and the basic goodness of human nature.

Hope regards problems, large or small, as opportunities.

Hope is a good loser because it has the divine assurance of final victory.

—Fr. James Keller, MM, founder of the Christophers

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Tuesday** **St. Henry** (11th cent. German duke of Bavaria, king of Italy & Germany & Holy Roman emperor; patron of Benedictine Oblates)
- Wednesday** **St. Kateri Tekakwitha** (17th cent. Algonquin-Mohawk laywoman & virgin; patroness of ecologists, ecology)
- Thursday** **St. Bonaventure** (13th cent. Italian Franciscan bishop, theologian & Doctor of the Church; patron of bowl disorders)
- Friday** **Our Lady of Mount Carmel** (title of the Blessed Virgin Mary as patroness of the Carmelite Order)

### THANK YOU

July 04, 2021	Our Weekly Offering	Date
NEEDED		
COLLECTED		
WESHARE		N/A
TOTAL	\$	N/A

Due to holiday transmission, the financial information is not available this week.



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Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.  
— Psalm 85

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Ex 1:8-14, 22; Ps 124:1b-8; Mt 10:34 — 11:1
- Tuesday:** Ex 2:1-15a; Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 11:20-24
- Wednesday** Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Ps 103:1b-4, 6-7; Mt 11:25-27
- Thursday:** Ex 3:13-20; Ps 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-27; Mt 11:28-30
- Friday:** Ex 11:10 — 12:14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-18; Mt 12:1-8
- Saturday:** Ex 12:37-42; Ps 136:1, 23-24, 10-15; Mt 12:14-21
- Sunday:** Jer 23:1-6; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- |        |     |         |                          |
|--------|-----|---------|--------------------------|
| Jul 10 | Sat | 9 a.m.  | Natalie McKeever (L)     |
|        |     | 5 p.m.  | All Parishioners         |
| Jul 11 | Sun | 7 a.m.  | All Parishioners         |
|        |     | 9 a.m.  | All Parishioners         |
|        |     | 11 a.m. | Cesar Munita +           |
|        |     | 5 p.m.  | Nicanor & Luiz Beltran + |
| Jul 12 | Mon | 8 a.m.  | Leslie James Fairhall +  |
| Jul 13 | Tue | 8 a.m.  | Kathy Atkinson (L)       |
| Jul 14 | Wed | 8 a.m.  | All Parishioners         |
| Jul 15 | Thu | 8 a.m.  | Gloria Gonzales +        |
| Jul 16 | Fri | 8 a.m.  | All Parishioners         |
| Jul 17 | Sat | 9 a.m.  | Angie Datu & Family      |
|        |     | 5 p.m.  | David Braddi +           |
| Jul 18 | Sun | 7 a.m.  | All Parishioners         |
|        |     | 9 a.m.  | All Parishioners         |
|        |     | 11 a.m. | All Parishioners         |
|        |     | 5 p.m.  | All Parishioners         |

## EVENTS

### The Little Ones

Jim Burrows

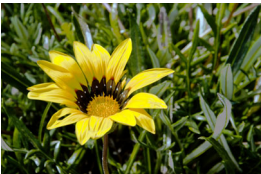


Then Amos replied to Amaziah, "I am not a prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet; for I am a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs. But the Lord took me from following the flock and the Lord said to me, "Go prophesy to my people Israel." Am 7:14-15

Scriptures from the New American Standard Bible © U.S.A.S.B. © by the Lockman Foundation.

### UPCOMING GRIEF EVENT: SURROUNDING OURSELVES WITH LOVE July 14, 2021: 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

This is a welcoming space to explore your grief and gain a better understanding of the emotions you are going through and how you might grow with a foundation of knowledge and prayer. Events are in person or online at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.



**RSVP by July 9th to 650-288-1506  
or [ccoutreach@dsj.org](mailto:ccoutreach@dsj.org).**

Request online link and materials by contacting the CFCS San Jose Outreach Team  
(Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services, a ministry of the Diocese of San Jose)

### THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER

Each week, you see names listed in our bulletin under Mass Intentions for whom Masses are being celebrated. Often, the + next to each name indicates that the person being prayed for is deceased. But, there are many other reasons to request a Mass.

Masses are celebrated to mark birthdays, a new baby in the family, wedding anniversaries, for other milestones and for healing or comfort for a sick loved one. Masses are also celebrated in thanksgiving or for someone for whom you are grateful.



Whenever individuals request that a Mass be celebrated for someone, living or deceased, the power of communal prayer is put to work on their behalf.

If you would like to request a Mass be celebrated for someone dear to you, please call the parish office.

## 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
Rosary Group	Evelyn Tanner	408-867-1600

### 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

# Protecting Seniors Nationwide



Medical Alert System

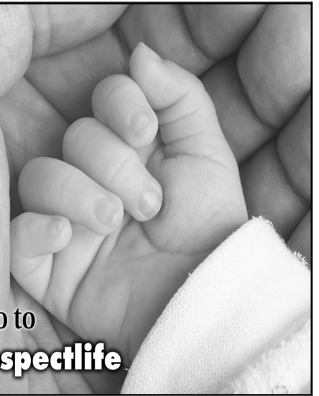
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