



## 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 12, 2025

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 | Acts 10:34-38 | Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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

In many renditions of the Baptism of Jesus, artists connect the scene at the Jordan River with Jesus' death. A withered tree, for example, reminds us of the cross, or a mountain points to Mount Calvary. These connections show a real relationship between Jesus' baptism and his passion: his baptism marks the acceptance and beginning of his mission, which would ultimately lead to his crucifixion. For us, too, baptism is a decisive moment which destines us for – you guessed it – death! Not physical death (which will happen regardless), but a death to everything that is not of God. By making us part of God's family as his adopted children, our baptism summons us to “die” to our old life of sin and take on new life in Christ. This means turning away each day from sin so we can become increasingly fit to spend eternity with God. Like Jesus who rose both from the baptismal waters and from the tomb, we are meant, by our daily efforts to be faithful – to “rise” with him in the new life he won for us.

## **GO** EVANGELIZE

### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

After Jesus is baptized, two important events occur immediately: the Holy Spirit descends upon him while God the Father proclaims his delight in his Son: “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” Here we see the profound meaning of our own baptism and its effects. In addition to cleansing us from the stain of original sin, baptism: 1) gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit; and 2) welcomes us into God's family as his adopted children. Armed with the Holy Spirit and the assurance of God's fatherly care, we are equipped to engage in the daily struggle of dying-and-rising in Christ. We can always call on the Holy Spirit for strength when we face temptations or difficult decisions. Likewise, when we are discouraged or we confront our own weaknesses, we can look to the Father for help. Recall the words which the Father spoke to Jesus, and which he says to us in our baptism (and he doesn't take them back!): *You are my beloved son. You are my beloved daughter. With you I am well pleased.*

## **CELEBRATE**

Find the date (or approximate date) of your baptism and the baptismal dates of your immediate family members. Make a list of the dates and spend time thanking God for his fatherly care for you. Then, when someone's baptismal anniversary comes around, make sure to celebrate!

## Tell It Like It Is

The hidden days are over. When the Spirit descends on Jesus and the heavenly voice proclaims him beloved, Jesus is effectively outed as the Divine Son. Did Jesus know this was the hour when his private life would come to an end? When any dreams he may have had for a quiet domestic existence were surrendered for good? The underlying truth is that on the day of our Baptism, we each surrender the notion of a private world that's all about us. As Pope Francis puts it, "Immersing us in Christ, Baptism also makes us members of his body, which is the Church, and participants in its mission in the world." Be the beloved. Share the love. -*Preparetheword.com*

## Basketball Challenge: Revs vs Sems

Benefiting Vocations in our Diocese

**Tickets to the game:** \$10 each.

Children under 9 years of age: Free.

Altar servers: Free (must bring a photo of them wearing a liturgical alb/robe)

**Raffle tickets:** \$10 each.

1st prize: Last Supper framed art from the Holy Land.

2nd prize: Our Lady of Guadalupe framed art from Mexico.

3rd prize: Statues of St. Joseph & St. Clare, our patrons.

Tickets available after Masses Jan. 11-12 & Jan. 18-19 or online (scan QR code).



## 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 Avenue, Saratoga 95070.

*Open to all who have lost a loved one.*

Come alone, or bring a friend.

RSVP with your name, phone number and email to:

Carolyn Orasin, Parish Secretary at 1-408-867-3634 or

[c.orasin@sacredheartsaratoga.org](mailto:c.orasin@sacredheartsaratoga.org).

## Layette Ministry

I thank each of you who so generously gave to the Layette Ministry. You have given warmth and love to many babies living in the streets and cars.

Thank you, Marguerite Shour

*If any of you didn't have time to give, call Marguerite at 408-234-6188.*

## WEEKLY OFFERING - JAN. 5

-Total **\$6,955** (\$4,667 + online: \$2,288). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: \$173,088. Budget: \$175,500.

Thank you for your generosity.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 11	Sat	05 pm	Barbara Stopnick +
Jan 12	Sun	07 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento +
		09 am	Trinidad Zabala (L)
		11 am	Veronica Lee (L)
		05 pm	Arlene Norton +
Jan 13	Mon	08 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento +
Jan 14	Tue	08 am	Felix Sichon +
Jan 15	Wed	08 am	Felix & Violet Paes +
Jan 16	Thu	08 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento +
Jan 17	Fri	08 am	The Gerrard Family
Jan 18	Sat	09 am	Natalie McKeever (L)

## Fr. Reynaldo Pineda Sarmiento

It is with deep sadness and hope in the resurrection that the Diocese of San Jose announces the passing of Fr. Reynaldo Sarmiento, who returned to the Lord on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025, after a courageous seven-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving sisters and priest friends.



Fr. Reynaldo was born on Oct. 4, 1967, in Manila, Philippines. He was the youngest of five children and the only son of his late parents, Conrado (+Nov. 6, 2016) and Encarnacion (+Oct. 1, 2024).

Before embracing his vocation to the priesthood, Fr. Reynaldo had a successful career in the hospitality industry. He worked as manager in esteemed establishments such as Dusit Thani Hotel, Shangri-La Hotel, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, and TGIF Restaurant in Manila. His professional path included training in Hong Kong and Texas, preparing him for his leadership roles. Known for his radiant smile, exceptional singing voice, and passion for service, Fr. Reynaldo was admired for his dedication and warmth.

Fr. Reynaldo's family and friends remember him for his charismatic personality, generosity, and profound gratitude. A man of deep compassion, he had a special place in his heart for the homeless, often going out of his way to feed those in need.

Even before entering the seminary, Fr. Reynaldo displayed his devotion to God through his prayer life, regular Mass attendance, and service as a choir soloist at Saint Elizabeth Parish in Milpitas. His vocational journey led him to join the Carmelite Order in San Jose before discerning diocesan priesthood. He later entered St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park and was ordained a priest on June 7, 2014.

During his 10 years of ministry, Fr. Reynaldo faithfully served the Diocese with joy, dedication, and a servant's heart. His kindness, humility, and unwavering faith touched the lives of many parishioners, friends, and colleagues. He was parochial vicar at Queen of Apostles Church in San Jose, Church of the Ascension in Saratoga (2019-23) and St. Frances Cabrini Church, San Jose. He was pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in San Jose.

He is survived by his beloved sisters: Sailani Morales (Edgardo+), Estelita De Guzman (Eric), Ruth Perez (Jake), and Flordeliza Consolacion (Boyet), as well as many nieces, nephews, and countless parishioners who were blessed by his ministry and friendship.

May he rest in peace.

## Funeral Services for Fr. Rey - Jan. 17

Saint Frances Cabrini, 15333 Woodard Road, San Jose

3:00pm-5:30 pm Viewing

5:30 pm-7:00 pm Prayer Service and Eulogies

7:00 pm-8:00 pm Funeral Mass

Reception follows after Mass at the Essig Hall.