

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



CHRISTMAS SEASON COMES TO AN END

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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD
JANUARY 09, 2022**

OUR LADY OF HOPE



1,000 Colorado homes were destroyed by fire; Tom Greany and his wife, Kat, lost their home, but he writes in a blog for the *National Catholic Register*:

“When we arrived

at our home, it was completely destroyed...When we climbed down into the smoldering rubble of what had been our home, almost nothing was recognizable. A few pots and pans. Twisted steel I-beams, disconnected from the foundation, had fallen onto the ash...

But Mary remained. Covered by black soot on the right half of the statue's body, the Marian image was unscathed. Bricks appeared to have fallen all around; some probably even hit the statue. But it didn't even fall over. At the feet of the statue, beneath the debris, are many heart-shaped stones that Kat and I have collected on our many hikes, reminding us that we have consecrated our lives to Jesus through Mary and that her Immaculate Heart and his Sacred Heart will protect and sustain us through anything.

The statue is a symbol. Amid the smoldering ruins that hours earlier had been an inferno, Mary remained — as she will in our lives, interceding for us through the darkest of times, praying for us to Jesus Christ, her Son, Our Lord and Savior.”

—Tom Greany/Blogs/January 3, 2022



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 09, 2022

A voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

—Luke 3:22

ON THE CUSP OF A NEW CREATION

The Advent/Christmas cycle that began on November 28 ends with the Baptism of the Lord. It was on the Fourth Sunday of Advent this past December that we first heard of the two cousins, John and Jesus, meeting. Then it was in the womb of their mothers, Elizabeth and Mary. Now the cousins meet again on the shore of the Jordan River. John is already well known--so much so that people had begun to wonder if he was the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus, on the other hand, is about to begin his ministry.

One could say that Jesus entered the waters of the Jordan as a private person and came out of them as a public one. The voice from heaven left no doubt about that. As we come to the end of the Christmas season our readings echo Isaiah and Titus (see Advent and Christmas Day readings) and together with today's Psalm 104 they point us to Pentecost. We are on the cusp of a new creation. —Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**Temper is what gets most of us into trouble.
Pride is what keeps us there.** —Anonymous

THANK YOU—LAYETTE SHOWER



I thank each of you who so generously gave to these needy infants, living on the streets, in cars, and garages. Your support has made it possible for us to continue this ministry even through two years of Covid-19. I thank you for the items so lovingly knitted, crocheted, sewn and purchased. All has been graciously accepted!

In appreciation, Marguerite A. Shour



Thank you to the following who have shared their time, talent, and resources for making our Advent and Christmas liturgical environment possible:

Mertz Care Home, Inc. * Ed & Teresa Ng * Anne Thanh
Cheryl Vicencio * Steve Koomas * Fr. Michael Syjuco
Fr. Jhay Galeon * Tony Stolz * Kimcuc Nguyen
Kim B Nguyen * Fil-Am Organization
Joseph and Angie Datu

*May God continue to bless you
for your kindness and generosity.*

Merry Christmas & A Blessed New Year!

*With gratitude,
Fr. Rey Sarmiento*

Liturgy Notes

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A Changing Calendar

Merry Christmas! Today is still within the Christmas season. Sunday's Gospel of the Baptism of the Lord recounts the final event we celebrate in the Christmas season. Within a span of weeks, it seems the babe has grown into a toddler, a youth lost in the temple and now a young man following a calling to be an itinerant preacher. Jesus' Baptism inaugurates his prophetic mission and the messianic age.

After the Baptism of the Lord, the Church transitions from Christmas into a short period of Ordinary Time, reflecting on Christ's entry into ministry. When we think of "ordinary" we may associate the word with unimportant, insignificant; in the Church's Ordinary Time, however, we focus on the extraordinary—the public ministry of Jesus, during which time Jesus formed His disciples in membership in the Kingdom of God.

From the purple colors of Advent and the red and white of Christmas, we return to the comforting colors of green, the color of creation, of growth, of new opportunities. Beginning with Jesus' Baptism and his first miracle at Cana, events unfold as Jesus announces himself as prophet and messiah and chooses the 12 apostles. During His public ministry, Jesus models how His "way" can be lived in the simple and ordinary ways of life.

FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, AND MISSION

Each week through February, there will be a question based on the Synod. You are invited to reflect on them prayerfully – but it's not a test! Beginning in late February, the Diocese will sponsor a series of listening sessions, allowing all of us to share our insights. The outcomes of those sharing sessions will be collated and sent to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops by June. The USCCB will incorporate the reports of all the dioceses into a final report which will go to the Vatican.

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

In the Church and society, we are side by side on the same road. In our local Church, who are those who "walk together"? Who are those who seem further apart? How are we called to grow as companions? What groups or individuals are left on the margins?

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Thursday **St. Hilary** (4th cent. French Bishop, defender of the Church against heresy of Arianism & Doctor of the Church; patron of lawyers)

THANK YOU

Jan. 02, 2022	Our Weekly Offering	Fiscal Year to Date
NEEDED	\$5,400	N/A
COLLECTED WESHARE	\$6,021 \$ 736	N/A
TOTAL	\$6,757	N/A



John said, "One mightier than I is coming; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."
—Luke 3:16

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20
- Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
- Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
- Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
- Sunday:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- 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)
- Jan 10 Mon 8 a.m. Noel Park (L)
- Jan 11 Tue 8 a.m. Rosaria Fiorentino +
- Jan 12 Wed 8 a.m. Maria Flores (L)
- Jan 13 Thu 8 a.m. Joseph Fiorentino +
- Jan 14 Fri 8 a.m. Felix Sichon +
- Jan 15 Sat 9 a.m. The Brazzano Family
5 p.m. Nancy Forestale +
- Jan 16 Sun 7 a.m. All Parishioners
9 a.m. Rosaria Fiorentino +
11 a.m. Mark Anthony Baylon +
5 p.m. Bette Fiorentino +

EVENTS

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows

DON'T BE AFRAID TO PRAY
LIKE JESUS. IF THE HEAVENS
OPEN AND YOU HEAR GOD
SPEAK, THAT WOULD BE COOL!



Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while he was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are my beloved Son, in you I am well-pleased." Lk 3:21-22

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

**Sin is not hurtful because it is forbidden,
but it is forbidden because it is hurtful.**

—Benjamin Franklin

MEN'S CLUB IN-PERSON MEETING

Friday, January 14th, 6:00 p.m.

Worner Hall/Lounge Room

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 or maryspark@sbcglobal.net
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
Music Ministry	Nomer Rios	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
Rosary Group	Virginia Anaya	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
Fil-Am Organization	Marie Maraschin	408-218-2704
Chinese Catholic Community	Janet Lau	408-725-3939