

Church of the Ascension

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Hao Dinh, Pastor
Rev. Reynaldo Sarmiento,
Parochial Vicar
Nomer Rios, Admin. Assistant
Mark Rose, 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



LENT IS AROUND THE CORNER

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

**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 27, 2022**

LIFTING OF THE DISPENSATION OF THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION

“With improving circumstances, effective **March 6, 2022**, the First Sunday of Lent, the dispensation of the Sunday and Holy Day obligation will conclude for all Catholics within the Diocese of San José.”

—Bishop Cantú's letter/dsj.org./Feb. 08, 2022

ADA 2022

“Growing Together in Faith”

The Annual Diocesan Appeal is an annual campaign of the Diocese of San José that supports ministries and services that serve all parishes and the local community. It also gives parishes the opportunity to raise significant funds by earning rebates over their own individual parish goal.

Ascension's Parish Goal: \$73,571.

Your gift combined with the gifts of others throughout the Diocese makes its work of Evangelization and outreach programs possible. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



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LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 02

Ash Wednesday:

—2 Masses with distribution of ashes—
8:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Lent is a season for growth and spiritual renewal, a time to deepen our experience of God. Every step that takes us out of ego and selfishness takes us a step closer to God, to holiness.

How to slay the ego? The recommended way of Lent is through **PRAYER, FASTING** and **ALMSGIVING**. Easy to understand; more difficult to implement. We face so many spiritual challenges: lack of time, lack of desire, lack of knowledge of our faith; lack of purpose; and too many appealing distractions.

The important thing to consider is where do I need to change and how best to tackle that challenge. If **PRAYER** is not a part of your life—make it simple: a short “thank you, God” for your blessings, a quiet moment of thought for others, a prayer before meals. If **FASTING** is not a part of your life—make it simple: can you give up the Danish and substitute dry toast, turn off the cell phone or TV for a moment of prayer? If **ALMSGIVING** is not a part of your life—make it simple: how about a smile instead of a frown, sharing a treat, helping a neighbor, biting your tongue instead of arguing.

Lent can mold us into new and improved selves. Having walked a journey of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, Lent can mold us more aligned to our Lord and that's holiness!

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 27, 2022



“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its fruit.”

—Luke 6:39-45

WE ARE KNOWN BY OUR FRUIT

This week, Jesus tells us that we must examine our own inner selves, our attitudes and dispositions, virtues and faults, rather than judging others. What is in our hearts comes out in what and how we speak. If our hearts are filled with kindness and compassion, those qualities will be evident in our speaking, just as beautiful, wholesome fruit comes only from healthy trees. And vice-versa.

The Wisdom writer Sirach in the first reading agrees with this concept—that we will be judged by our words. Paul reminds us that the reward of discipleship is eternal life. Today's psalm of thanksgiving and praise reminds us of God's kindness and faithfulness, which we are to emulate in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We are known, each of us, by our own fruit.

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FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, AND MISSION

You are invited to reflect on the questions below. 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.

AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION

A synodal church is a participatory and co-responsible Church. How does our Church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken? How is authority or governance exercised within our local Church? How are teamwork and co-responsibility put into practice? How are evaluations conducted, and by whom? How are lay ministries and the responsibility of lay people promoted? Have we had fruitful experiences of synodality on a local level? How do synodal bodies function at the level of the local Church (Pastoral Councils in parishes and dioceses, Presbyteral Council, etc.)? How can we foster a more synodal approach in our participation and leadership? For more information, see the Diocesan website— <https://www.dsj.org/universal-synod/>

Liturgy Notes

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Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent for Roman Catholics. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation but it is a very important and symbolic celebration. Using ashes for repentance dates back to ancient times. The Hebrew Scriptures tell of individuals and even whole communities tearing their clothes and covering themselves (and sometimes their animals) in ashes to denote their acknowledgement of having sinned and their desire for forgiveness.

The ashes for Ash Wednesday are made by burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday and on this day, we have ashes smudged in the form of a cross on our head. The cross recalls our Baptism when we were signed with the cross in oil; the ashes recall our need for penance and conversion.

Fasting—Fasting is one of the most ancient practices linked to Lent. It is observed on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** by all Catholics who are 18 years old but not yet 60. Fasting means one full meal and two smaller ones and no snacking in between meals! If giving up food is health-adverse, avoiding certain food or other pleasures is an alternative.

Abstinence—The Church asks all Catholics 14 years and older to abstain from meat on **all the Fridays of Lent**. It is a spiritual link to those whose diets are sparse and simple. Avoiding meat while eating lobster misses the whole point!

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Tuesday** **Mardi Gras** (the last night of feasting before the sacrifices and fasting of the Lenten season).
- Wednesday** **Ash Wednesday** (day of fasting and abstinence)
- Thursday** **St. Katharine Drexel** (20th cent. American nun & religious foundress, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament; patroness of philanthropy, racial justice)
- Friday** **St. Casimir** (15th cent. Polish prince; patron of Lithuania)
First Friday (day of abstinence)
World Day of Prayer (World Day of Prayer takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year; it is a global ecumenical prayer movement led by Christian women for peace and justice)
- Saturday** **First Saturday**

THANK YOU

Feb. 20, 2022	Our Weekly Offering	Fiscal Year to Date
NEEDED	\$5,400	N/A
COLLECTED WESHARE	\$2,692 \$1,715	N/A
TOTAL	\$4,407	N/A



As the test of what the potter molds is in the furnace, so in tribulation is the test of the just.
—Sirach 27:5

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** 1 Pt 1:3-9; Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9, 10c; Mk 10:17-27
- Tuesday:** 1 Pt 1:10-16; Ps 98:1-4; Mk 10:28-31
- Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25
- Friday:** Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
- Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32
- Sunday:** Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2, 10-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks.
—St. Ambrose of Milan

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Feb 26 Sat 9 a.m. All Parishioners
5 p.m. Clara Smith (L)
- Feb 27 Sun 7 a.m. All Parishioners
9 a.m. Terry Lynch +
11 a.m. Marietta Sokol +
5 p.m. Soledad Serrano +
- Feb 28 Mon 8 a.m. All Parishioners
- Mar 01 Tue 8 a.m. Anthony Cuong Vu +
- Mar 02 Wed 8 a.m. All Parishioners
7 p.m. All Parishioners
- Mar 03 Thu 8 a.m. Christian Herrera +
- Mar 04 Fri 8 a.m. All Parishioners
- Mar 05 Sat 9 a.m. All Parishioners
5 p.m. Julie Ann Smith +
- Mar 06 Sun 7 a.m. All Parishioners
9 a.m. All Parishioners
11 a.m. Bill & Pat McSweeney +
5 p.m. All Parishioners

EVENTS

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows

OUR HEARTS HAVE
UNLIMITED STORAGE
CAPACITY FOR GOODNESS.
CLOUD STORAGE
NOT NEEDED.



Jesus told his disciples:

“The good person out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil one out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.” Lk 6:27-28

Scripture from the New American Standard Bible © by the Lockman Foundation.

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LITTLE BLACK BOOK FOR LENT

This inspirational book of daily six-minute meditations on the Sunday Gospels of Lent is available for a donation.

Please pick one up; share one with a friend!

LENTEN GIFT OF READING PROJECT

The Youth Faith Formation families have adopted the **Gift of Reading Project** as their Lenten service activity beginning March 1, 2022 through Palm Sunday. This project will help children who participate in an after-school program hosted by CORAL (Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning), a service group launched by Catholic Charities in 2003.

All are invited to drop off new and gently used books (K-12 age-appropriate books) into the white boxes near the main doors to the church. Thank you for supporting our youth!

ROSARY & FAITH TALK

Guadalupe Hope Society invites you to their monthly

Rosary & Faith Talk Luncheon
Friday, March 11th, 2022
11:30 am - 1:00 pm



Rev. James Okafor, Parochial Vicar of St. Frances Cabrini Parish, will lead a Rosary for the unborn and their parents and share a faith talk.

This event will be in-person & virtual on Zoom

Please register to attend in person or virtually (due to CDC guidelines, seats are limited at the hall):
(408) 447-5433 or email
admin@ghswomenscenter.com.

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	Open	
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
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