

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.*

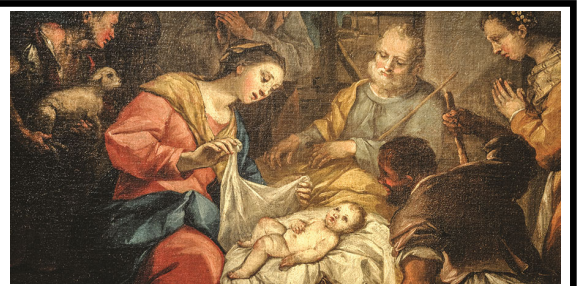
Mon.—Thurs. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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



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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 19, 2021**

CHRISTMAS SEASON

(Mass Schedule: 12/24/21—01/01/22)

December 24th (Friday)

—8:00 am

Christmas Vigil—5:00 pm (Family Mass)
& 7:00 pm**December 25th** (Saturday)**Christmas Masses**

—8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

NO Confessions & Evening Mass**December 26th** (Sunday)**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**—7:00, 9:00 & 11 am
& 5:00 pm**December 27—31** (Monday to Friday)**Daily Mass**

—8:00 am

January 01 (Saturday)**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

—9:00 am

NO Confessions**The Epiphany of the Lord****Vigil Mass**

—5:00 pm

*The parish office will be closed
from December 24, 2021 to January 02, 2022.
Regular office hours will resume on January 3rd.***Fr. Hao, Fr. Rey and Ascension's Parish
Staff wish all parishioners and their
families a blessed, joyous and
Christ-centered Christmas Season.****4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 19, 2021**

Elizabeth said, "...at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ear, the infant in my womb leaped for joy."

—Luke 1:39-45

AUDACITY

There is a spirit of audacity in our readings today. During a time of injustice and threat of invasion, the prophet Micah boldly announces that the God of insignificant Israel will raise up a leader from backwater Bethlehem, and this leader will bring justice and peace to the whole world. In the Gospel, Elizabeth and Mary, marginalized women, brazenly celebrate that their sons will be world-changing instruments of God. We further learn that this audacity is rooted in trust in God.

The author of Hebrews describes the faithful obedience of Jesus. Mary is shown as the exemplar of faithful trust in God. This is the way God often seems to work, in the ordinary and marginalized in our world. Those who seem weak have learned to trust in God's strength. These have the audacity to become instruments of God's peace and justice.

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**All the darkness of the world cannot put out the light
of one small candle.**

—Anonymous

AN IRISH CHRISTMAS BLESSING

God grant you lightness in your step,
A smile on every face you meet,
Loved ones gathered at your hearth,
and at your door; good friends to greet.
A holy hymn upon your lips,
A window candle burning bright,
And may the Good Lord bless your heart.
And come to dwell there Christmas night.

Liturgy Notes

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Advent Waning; Anticipation Dawning

Today is the last weekend of Advent. We light the last purple candle, called the “**Angels’ Candle**.” It represents **Peace** and urges us to rejoice with the angels, singing “peace on earth, goodwill to men.” With four candles lit, the circle is complete. We are “lit up” in anticipation of the coming of the “Light of the World.”

Our preparations are in order, our hearts are ready for a birth. Are we different, better, because of Advent. Have we learned something about ourselves? Does it translate into how better to relate to our God, to one another, and especially to those we don’t like? Are we a candle in the world?



There is something special in the symbolism of candles and light. As long as one candle flickers, there is something beyond the darkness; as long as one candle flickers, other candles can be relit from it; as long as one candle flickers, there is HOPE. As long as one candle flickers, Faith has a chance.

Let us all pray earnestly to be a candle in the darkness.

THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!

—from *God’s Word is Our Joy, Vol 1. by Lucien Deiss, CSSp., World Library Publications, p.73*

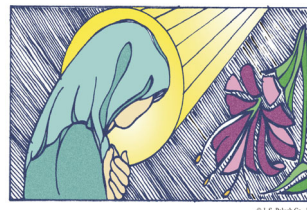
SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday	St. Peter Canisius (16th cent. Dutch Jesuit priest; patron of Catholic press, Germany)
	Winter begins
Tuesday	St. John of Kanty (15th cent. Polish priest, theologian & teacher; patron of Poland)
Saturday	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

THANK YOU

Dec. 12, 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.



“Behold, I am the
handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me
according to your
word.”
— Luke 1:38

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Wednesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Thursday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Friday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Saturday:	Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Dec 18	Sat	9 a.m. Carol McLafferty (L)
		5 p.m. Maxine Stice +
Dec 19	Sun	7 a.m. All Parishioners
		9 a.m. All Parishioners
		11 a.m. John Sudano +
		5 p.m. Ben Angeleri (L)
Dec 20	Mon	8 a.m. Rafael David +
Dec 21	Tue	8 a.m. Joan Vanderhorst (L)
Dec 22	Wed	8 a.m. Joseph Stolz (L)
Dec 23	Thu	8 a.m. All Parishioners
Dec 24	Fri	8 a.m. All Parishioners
		5 p.m. All Parishioners
		7 p.m. All Parishioners
Dec 25	Sat	8 a.m. All Parishioners
		9:30 a.m. All Parishioners
		11 a.m. All Parishioners
Dec 26	Sun	7 a.m. All Parishioners
		9 a.m. All Parishioners
		11 a.m. The Nora Family
		5 p.m. The Diem Family

EVENTS

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



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

The best things are nearest: breath in your nostrils, light in your eyes, flowers at your feet, duties at your hand, the path of God just before you. Then do not grasp at the stars, but do life's plain, common work as it comes, certain that daily duties and daily bread are the sweetest things in life.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

CATHOLIC YOUTH FAITH FORMATION CORNER

5PM FAMILY MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE



Music anyone? Does your family like to sing? Do you play the piano or guitar? Email or call me if you can help.

CATHOLIC GIFTS

Make this year less commercial, more spiritual. Try a gift that's unique, special and reflects your family's desire to stay close to God.

Ideas from these sites:

www.printeryhouse.org

www.ctainc.com



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

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