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
*8:30 a.m. (live-streamed
3:00 p.m. (outdoors)
*5:00 p.m. (live-streamed)

Sunday
*8:30 a.m.
*9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. (outdoors)
*not public liturgies

Weekday
*M—F 8:00 a.m. (live-streamed)

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
FaceBook: www.facebook.com/Church-of-The-Ascension-102780971438932/

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

LENTEN MESSAGE FROM BISHOP CANTÚ

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 28, 2021

A LENTEN MESSAGE FROM BISHOP OSCAR CANTÚ

February 17, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The entire world has been through a difficult, if not devastating, year!

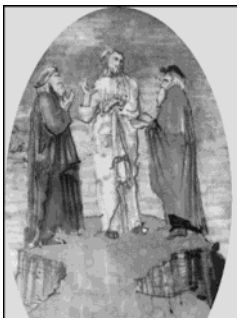
We would do well to take the advice Pope Francis offers us for Lent this year. He says, "[in] Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with 'speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation, and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn' (Fratelli Tutti, 223). In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to **be kind**, to be 'willing to set everything else aside to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference' (ibid., 224)" (Lenten Message, 2).

Wise advice from our Holy Father! Be kind to one another. We have all been through a lot, and, as the experts remind us, this pandemic is not over. It has been a difficult journey, one in which we have all encountered rough seas. While some have weathered the storm in the safety of a large, sturdy ship, others have roughed the seas in dinghies and rafts. Acts of kindness, large and small, shine the light of hope through the darkness and reassure us that we are not on this journey alone.

And that is what Lent offers us in this year of continued pandemic: **Hope.** It is Christ Jesus who is our hope (cf. 1Tm 1:1). In Jesus Christ risen, we gain strength and hope in a difficult journey. In Lent, we are invited to journey ever more closely with Christ, who is always with us. We do so through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

In **prayer**, we dialogue with Jesus: we pour out our heart to him, and we listen to his words of comfort. We are consoled by his presence. **Fasting** makes our relationship with Jesus quite real and helps us be in solidarity with those who are in need. As a pastor, I have encountered so many parents who sacrifice quietly for their children as a matter of course. They do so, not because we Christians like to suffer. Rather, when we love someone, we don't think twice about making sacrifices for them. Likewise, it is essential that our love for Christ not remain simply an idea, but that it be concrete, symbolically sharing what we give up with

Continued...



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 28, 2021

Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white.

— Mark 9:2-10

THE HISTORY OF SALVATION

The first reading today continues the "history of salvation" narrative that we hear throughout Lent this year. Today's story was among the best-loved in the Jewish tradition (surely Joseph told the story to young Jesus as he formed him in the ways of their faith); the early fathers of the Church were very fond of it as a means of explaining the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

The overall tone of the first reading, psalm, and second reading seems a little incongruous with the dazzling Gospel, until we remember that the Transfiguration was placed as the Gospel for this Sunday precisely to remind us of the glory that awaits those who live faithfully and obediently to the will of God. In the life of Jesus, it is a preview of the glory of his resurrection; for us it is a glimpse of the destiny of those who continue, as we heard in last week's Gospel, to repent and believe in the Good News.

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The main reason we should imitate the saints is that they all became saintly by imitating Christ. It is Christ, first and foremost, whom they help us imitate, by showing how a life centered on Christ is possible anywhere in the world at any time in history.

— Dr. Kevin Vos

Message from Bishop Oscar Cantú Continued…

others. This is **almsgiving** ! Something that genuinely pleases God: when we reach out to those in need– acting in kindness and giving hope!

In this Lent, as Pope Francis encourages us, let us bring hope to others through simple gestures of kindness, "words of comfort," and through our daily practice of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. As we journey with Jesus through the desert these 40 days of Lent, we do so as a community of faith. Thus, we will "journey together in hope!"

With my prayers for you this Lent!

Yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Oscar Cantú
Bishop of San José

Our Parish Goal: $67,864

The 2021 theme is "Journeying Together in Hope."

Thank you to the families that have pledged their support for the ADA. We are over **72%** of our goal; however we are still short of the parish goal. Can you help? Please prayerfully consider a pledge within your means.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

A 40-Day Journey

AS WE WALK THE 40 DAYS OF LENT, WE EMBRACE THE THREE DISCIPLINES OF LENT

Take advantage of the various resources on the **Ascension website** to help with your Lenten journey:

- **Lent for Youth** "Ashes to Glory: (Wednesday nights beginning February 24)
- **Pray as you Grow**: "Growing Back Better" (a Lenten retreat with 7 weekly reflections)
- **A Heart Renewed** (Daily Lenten prayer from the Jesuit School of Theology)
- **Virtual Lent Retreat** (February 26)
- **Rosary Reflections** (meditations on the mysteries)
- **Stations of the Cross** (virtually)
- **Sacred Space (**features a daily prayer during the 40 days of Lent)
- **CRS** (Catholic Relief Services) **Rice Bowl Program**

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Wednesday	**St. Katherine Drexel** (20th cent. American nun & religious foundress, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament; patroness of philanthropy, racial justice)
Thursday	**St. Casimir** (15th cent. Polish prince; patron of Lithuania)
Friday	**First Friday**
Saturday	**First Saturday**

THANK YOU		
Feb. 21, 2021	Our Weekly Offering	Fiscal Year to Date
NEEDED	$5,400	N/A
COLLECTED WESHARE	$2,315 $1,713	N/A
TOTAL	$4,028	N/A

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.
— Psalm 116

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

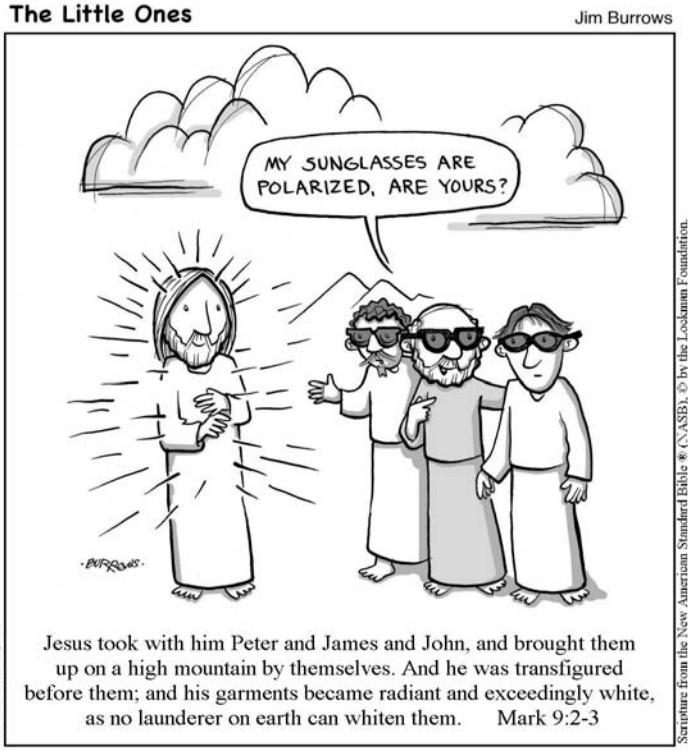
Monday:	Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8 -13; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday:	Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday	Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday:	Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday:	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday:	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday:	Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

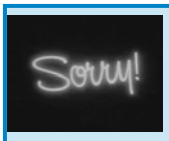
MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Feb	27	Sat	8:30 a.m.	Terry Lynch +
			3 p.m.	The Nora Family
			5 p.m.	Joseph Fiorentino, Jr.
Feb	28	Sun	8:30 a.m.	All Parishioners
			9 a.m.	All Parishioners
			11 a.m.	Caesar Quicho +
Mar	01	Mon	8 a.m.	Burnie Stolzman +
Mar	02	Tue	8 a.m.	John Jeppi +
Mar	03	Wed	8 a.m.	Eufemio Fontanilla +
Mar	04	Thu	8 a.m.	Virginia Duzowski +
Mar	05	Fri	8 a.m.	Arturo Zabala +
Mar	06	Sat	8:30 a.m.	Virginia Narcisa +
			3 p.m.	Anna Waite
			5 p.m.	Ko Kwai Chow +
Mar	07	Sun	8:30 a.m.	Lisa Montgomery +
			9 a.m.	All Parishioners
			11 a.m.	Adriana White +

Note: Sat 5PM (live-stream), Sun 8:30 AM & 9 AM are not outdoors/public liturgies

EVENTS





NO BULLETINS LAST WEEKEND

Our Publisher regrets that bulletins did not arrive last week due to the severe weather conditions (bulletins are published in Illinois). If you have not done so, please register for email delivery and you will not miss a copy. Alternately, bulletins appear on Ascension's website.

PRAYER WALL

We invite you to share your needs in the Prayer Wall on our new parish website www.ascensionsaratoga.org.

Anyone can post a prayer request and thus more parishioners can pray for our intentions. We're limited to a total of 10 requests at a time. Older requests will drop off as new requests are added when that limit is reached.

"ASCENSION CARES" MINISTRY

Our concern for our parish family increases the longer we are unable to gather together. To help us stay in touch we have started a new ministry called **Ascension Cares.** We reach out by phone calls and emails to let you know we're thinking about you; we take your prayer requests and share those with our prayer circles. Please contact one of the people below to join us in staying connected:

Ministry Coordinator — Peggy Schoppe 408-867-9229
Chinese Community — Janet Lau 408-725-3939
Fil-Am Community — Marie Maraschin 408-218-2704
Men's Club — Chuck Schoppe 408-867-9229
Prayer Requests — Coco Vidaurri 408-866-5732

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
Charismatic Prayer Group	George Sharp	408 623-3014
Fil-Am Organization	Marie Maraschin	408-218-2704
Chinese Catholic Community	Janet Lau	408-725-3939

Web Site

www.ascensionsaratoga.org

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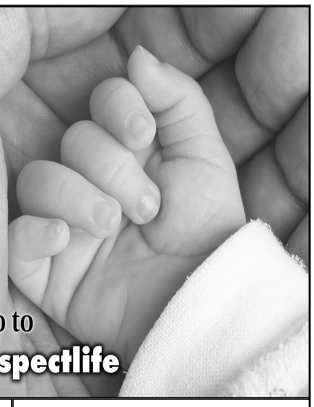

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