

Church of the Ascension

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ascensionsaratoga.org

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Hao Dinh, Pastor
Rev. Reynaldo Sarmiento,
Parochial Vicar
Nomer Rios, Administrative
Assistant
Mark Rose, Bookkeeper
Wayne Purdy,
Maintenance Supervisor

Catechetical Ministry

Loy Oppus-Moe,
Youth Faith Formation
Coordinator
RCIA Rev. Hao Dinh,
Pastor

Masses

Saturday

9:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m. (Vigil)

Sunday

7:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

Weekday

M—F 8:00 a.m.

Holy Days

Mass times as announced

Reconciliation

Saturday
4:00 pm—4:45 pm

July 24, 2022 — SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Abraham bargains with God to spare the city
(Genesis 18:20-32).

Psalm — Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me (Psalm 138).

Second Reading — Buried with Christ in baptism, we were also raised with him; all
our transgressions are forgiven
(Colossians 2:12-14).

Gospel — Jesus speaks of God's sure response to those who pray
(Luke 11:1-13).

CONVERSATION WITH GOD

Prayer is our focus this weekend. In the Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples, and us, the Lord's Prayer, which we have cherished through the centuries. The first two words encompass much about our faith—unity among all Christians (Our), and a sense that we are in a deeply bonded relationship with God (Father).

In Genesis, we see Abraham in conversational prayer, in his creaturely humility before his Creator, seeking mercy and compassion for the innocent. The psalm is a lyrical prayer of thanksgiving and praise for the God who answered the sincere prayers of a people who had called out for help, showing them mercy. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples want to pray like Jesus, with the same intimacy—to experience God as Abba in the depths of their being.

Do we try to talk to God? Do we listen for answers? This relationship is always a work in progress.

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Church of the Ascension: Youth Faith Formation Program

We look forward to working with you and with all children and youth in our parish, sharing and growing together in our faith and in our relationship with the Lord.

To enroll your child/ren, please complete the registration form (found on our website) for the program which goes from September 2022 through May 2023.

Youth Faith Formation includes sacramental preparation:

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist - typically 2nd graders or older
Sacrament of Confirmation - typically 8th graders or older

For information, please contact: Loy Oppus-Moe (408) 621-1587
or email her at loy.oppusmoe@dsj.org

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY: JULY 24, 2022

The theme chosen by the Holy Father for the occasion is "*In old age they will still bear fruit*" (Psalm 92:15) and intends to emphasize how grandparents and the elderly are a value and a gift both for society and for ecclesial communities.

The theme is also an invitation to reconsider and value grandparents and the elderly who are too often kept on the margins of families, civil and ecclesial communities. Their experience of life and faith can contribute, in fact, to building societies that are aware of their roots and capable of dreaming of a future based on greater solidarity.

Prayer

In this week's Gospel, a disciple asks Jesus how to pray. In answer, Jesus gives us the "Our Father" or "The Lord's Prayer." The *Catechism* clearly defines prayer as a "vital and personal relationship with the living and true God" (CCC, no. 2558). Prayer is **a conversation with God**, and every conversation begins by addressing the person to whom you are speaking by name. Jesus begins with "Our Father in heaven." He focuses on a distinct person — the Heavenly Father with whom he has a personal relationship. Through prayer, we too establish a personal relationship with God, a relationship that God pursues with us.

Fellowship with God is at the heart of prayer. In fact, prayer is "talking to God," the communication of the human soul with its creator. Prayer can be audible or silent, private or public, formal or informal. In prayer we turn to God as "father," His children humbly seeking His will. Prayer, then, is not a monologue—it awaits a response from God, whether as an answer to our prayers, or an inspiration or insight.

Too often we lose sight of how simple prayer is really supposed to be; we build up a relationship by telling Him what is going on in our lives, our thoughts, our worries, our desires. Jesus Himself told us clearly: "...ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Opening ourselves to a "father" that loves us unconditionally, replaces fear and anxiety with trust and confidence.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday	World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly (a church-wide celebration of the the spiritual and human wealth that is handed down generation to generation.)
Monday	St. James (son of Zebedee, brother of St. John & apostle of Jesus, beheaded by King Herod; patron of Spain)
Tuesday	Sts. Joachim & Anne (parents of Mary, the mother of Jesus)
Friday	St. Martha (1st cent. Jewish woman, sister of Mary and Lazarus who enjoyed a special friendship with Jesus)
Saturday	St. Peter Chrysologus (5th cent. Italian bishop, "Doctor of Homilies" & Doctor of the Church)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

July 23	Sat	9 a.m.	All Parishioners
		5 p.m.	Gabrielle Scheid (L)
July 24	Sun	7 a.m.	All Parishioners
		9 a.m.	All Parishioners
		11 a.m.	Barbara Mandal (L)
		5 p.m.	Oscar & Gaudiosa Beltran +
July 25	Mon	8 a.m.	All Parishioners
July 26	Tue	8 a.m.	Jose Adriano +
July 27	Wed	8 a.m.	All Parishioners
July 28	Thu	8 a.m.	All Parishioners
July 29	Fri	8 a.m.	Mabel Chang (L)
July 30	Sat	9 a.m.	Jerome & Anna Dao +
		5 p.m.	Cris Borromeo (L)
July 31	Sun	7 a.m.	All Parishioners
		9 a.m.	The McKeever Family
		11 a.m.	All Parishioners
		5 p.m.	All Parishioners

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

We are forming our next RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) group which will begin in late August.

If you would like to learn more about the Catholic faith or wish to complete the Sacraments of Holy Communion and/or Confirmation, please call the office at (408) 725-3939 and speak to Fr. Hao for more information.

PARISH STAFF UPDATE



We are pleased to announce that **Wayne Purdy** just joined our parish staff. He is now our part-time Maintenance Supervisor, overseeing the upkeep of the parish facilities, including preventive maintenance, repairs, and the general orderliness of the facilities and grounds. He will be working with our Parish Buildings & Grounds Committee. He's also on the maintenance staff in another parish.

In January of this year, **Mark Rose** became our Bookkeeper, also a part-time position. He has helped keep our finances in check, stayed on top of the books and accounts, ensured that we stay compliant with legal regulations and follow best practices. He has been working closely with our Parish Finance Council on the monthly financial reports, budget and annual audit.

THANK YOU

July 17, 2022	Our Weekly Offering
NEEDED	\$5,400
COLLECTED	\$2,316
WESHARE	\$1,471
TOTAL	\$3,787

If things created are so full of loveliness, how resplendent must be the One who made them! The wisdom of the Worker is apparent in such handiwork.
—St. Anthony of Padua