

# 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. (indoors)  
3:00 p.m. (outdoors)  
5:00 p.m. (drive-in &  
live-streamed)

### **Sunday**

8:30 a.m. (not public).  
\*9:00 a.m. (indoors)  
11:00 a.m. (outdoors)

### **Weekday**

\*M—F 8:00 a.m. (indoors)

\*indoor masses are in Worner Hall

### **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](http://www.ascensionsaratoga.org)**

**FaceBook: [www.facebook.com/Church-of-The-Ascension-102780971438932/](https://www.facebook.com/Church-of-The-Ascension-102780971438932/)**

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



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**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

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD  
MARCH 28, 2021**



**Palm Sunday** commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Honoring Jesus as son of David, the crowds see Jesus as a living sign of hope and promise



**Holy Thursday** commemorates the Last Supper that Jesus shares with His apostles during which He institutes the Eucharistic meal.

**7:30 PM Mass & Adoration**  
(Worner Hall)



**Good Friday** commemorates the passion of the Lord, His betrayal, mock trial, crucifixion and death at Calvary.

**3:00 PM Passion Celebration**  
(Outdoors)

**7:30 PM Pass Celebration**  
(Worner Hall)



**Holy Saturday** commemorates the 40-hour-long vigil that the followers of Jesus held after his burial on Good Friday and before His resurrection on Easter Sunday. It is the close of the season of Lent and the beginning of paschal time. The Easter Vigil opens with the blessing of fire and the lighting of the paschal candle.

**7:30 PM Easter Vigil**  
(Worner Hall)



**Easter Sunday** commemorates the resurrection of Jesus, body and soul and His salvific victory over sin and death. Jesus opened the gates of heaven to those who believe and follow God's commandments, thus giving promise of eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

**9:00 AM—Worner Hall**  
**11:00 AM—Drive-In**



## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD MARCH 28, 2021



Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

—Mark 11:1-10

### PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and previews its themes and events. Today's liturgy begins with the commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The Roman Missal gives three options for how this can be done, the most elaborate of which begins with the priest, ministers, and the entire assembly outside. The Gospel account of the entry is read, after which palms are blessed and distributed. Then everyone enters the church in procession, singing songs or psalms.

However, the joy is temporary; the Passion narrative recounts how, after an intimate meal with his disciples a few days later, Jesus is arrested, tortured, crucified, and buried. The reading from Isaiah is one of four Suffering Servant songs, while the psalm likewise gives voice to the suffering of the innocent. The reading from Philipians affirms the Incarnation as God's embrace of the entire human situation, including suffering and death.

Palm Sunday invites us to follow Jesus through the rest of Holy Week. By moving us to feel the injustice and the suffering endured by Jesus, this week's liturgies and devotions present us with those same choices. But it is important to remember that we call this "Holy Week" and not "sad week" or "suffering week," for each of the readings today, even the lamentations of the psalm, end in the promise of the strength and hope that is granted by God to those who faithfully give of themselves in love. We must reflect deeply on the sufferings of Jesus, but still be confident in the joy of risen, eternal life that awaits all of us who faithfully walk with him through these days.

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### PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY

This year, due to Covid restrictions, palm branches are not available at Mass; instead, Fr. Hao and Fr. Rey invite all parishioners to bring their own leafy branches from home.

These do not need to be branches from palm trees and you are encouraged to be creative in making your own palm branches.

Please bring these to Mass on Palm Sunday for a blessing.





## ASCENSION PARISHIONERS COME THROUGH AGAIN!

True to form, Ascension's parishioners have risen to the occasion and have given generously to the Diocesan Appeal. We have surpassed our goal and if all pledges are honored, we will have monies returned to our parish.

Every little bit helps; so, if you have not yet pledged or donated, there is still time. Remember: pledges/donations can be distributed over a 10-month period.

May the good Lord continue to bless you and yours for your great generosity  
—Fr. Hao



**My God, my God,  
why have you  
abandoned me?**  
— Psalm 22

## HOLY WEEK AND THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

*"The days of Jesus' life-giving death and glorious resurrection are approaching, the hour he triumphed over Satan's pride, the time we celebrate the great event of our redemption" (Preface of the Lord's Passion II, Sacramentary).*

Thus the Church begins the one week of the year that we formally designate as "Holy."

### Some simple rituals can link our "domestic church" to our parish church and the Church universal.

- ◆ Enthroned **Sunday's** palms where you pray, behind the family crucifix, even as part of front door decorations: "Christ reigns here," they proclaim; "all are welcome!"
- ◆ During the **first three days** of Holy Week, ready Easter clothes, prepare festal foods, clean the house, beautify the yard.
- ◆ Late **Holy Thursday** afternoon, share Lent's final meal before the Lord's Supper Mass. Pitcher, bowl, and towel make a fitting centerpiece; perhaps conclude the meal by washing each other's feet.
- ◆ On **Good Friday**, observe the paschal fast from food—from TV and computer, too!
- ◆ Then come to **Holy Saturday's** Vigil with mind clear, stomach empty, and heart full of "holy anticipation" that bursts into living flame when the new fire is kindled.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## THANK YOU

| Mar. 21, 2021     | Our Weekly Offering | Fiscal Year to Date |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| NEEDED            | \$5,400             | N/A                 |
| COLLECTED WESHARE | \$1,870<br>\$1,871  | N/A                 |
| TOTAL             | \$3,741             | N/A                 |

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11
- Tuesday:** Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-38
- Wednesday:** Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25
- Thursday:** Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
- Friday:** Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 12-13, 15-25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42
- Saturday:** a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35;  
b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11;  
c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18;  
d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13;  
e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6;  
f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8-11;  
g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-19;  
h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mk 16:1-7
- Sunday:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

|        |     |           |                                |
|--------|-----|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Mar 27 | Sat | 8:30 a.m. | Vicente & Gaudencia Santiago + |
|        |     | 3 p.m.    | The Nora Family                |
|        |     | 5 p.m.    | All Parishioners               |
| Mar 28 | Sun | 8:30 a.m. | All Parishioners               |
|        |     | 9 a.m.    | All Parishioners               |
|        |     | 11 a.m.   | Caesar Quicho +                |
| Mar 29 | Mon | 8 a.m.    | Edwin Lagniton +               |
| Mar 30 | Tue | 8 a.m.    | Gloria Tuazon +                |
| Mar 31 | Wed | 8 a.m.    | All Parishioners               |
| Apr 01 | Thu | 7:30 p.m. | All Parishioners               |
| Apr 02 | Fri | 7:30 p.m. | All Parishioners               |
| Apr 03 | Sat | 7:30 p.m. | All Parishioners               |
| Apr 04 | Sun | 8:30 a.m. | All Parishioners               |
|        |     | 9 a.m.    | All Parishioners               |
|        |     | 11 a.m.   | All Parishioners               |

**Note:**

**Sun 8:30 AM is not a public liturgy**

## EVENTS

### The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



As Jesus was going, the people were spreading their coats on the road. As soon as he was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, shouting: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Lk 19:36-38

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

## GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CONNECTS PEOPLE TO CHRIST, POPE SAYS

Every Christian is unique because the Holy Spirit inspires something new and original in each person, creating "an endless field of holiness," Pope Francis said March 17 during his weekly general audience. He concluded his series of talks about prayer by looking at prayer as a relationship with the Holy Trinity, in particular with the Holy Spirit.

"The first gift of every Christian existence is the Holy Spirit," he said. It is the key, essential gift because without the Holy Spirit, "there is no relationship with Christ and with the Father."

The Spirit opens the human heart to Christ's presence "and draws it into that 'vortex' of love that is the very heart of God," he said.

Calling on the Spirit for support and inspiration is important, especially when one has not prayed in a long time, has lost the desire to pray or recites prayers "like a parrot," with no depth of feeling or faith, he said.

Christians must "keep alive this flame" of the Holy Spirit, of God's love, in their heart, the pope said, the same way the lamp next to the tabernacle stays lit "even when the church empties and darkness falls, even when the church is closed."

"No one sees it, yet it burns before the Lord," he said. "That's how the Spirit is in our heart, always present like that lamp."

—excerpts from article by Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service, 3-17-21/catholicnews.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 |
| 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<br>Harry Stice | 408-857-1075<br>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                 |

### Web Site

[www.ascensionsaratoga.org](http://www.ascensionsaratoga.org)