

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. (outdoors)
*5:00 p.m. (live-streamed)
7:00 p.m. (outdoors)

Sunday

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

Weekday

M—F 8:00 a.m. (outdoors)

First Friday

9:00 a.m.
Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament 9:30 a.m.
Benediction at 10:30 a.m.

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



SEPT 26 AT 5 PM: CONFIRMATION MASS

SEPT 27 AT 10 AM: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS

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

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 23, 2020**

WE NEED TO FOCUS ON OUR REAL ENEMIES

Hotly contested issues are dividing families and friends. Vilifying and violent words tear across the Internet, leading to skirmishes in person. Not only are statues of public figures being pulled down and vandalized, but religious statues and churches are under attack. Strife reigns in many of our cities, while multiple business and lives have been harmed or lost in the melee.

Political bickering isn't new in the U.S., and discord has steadily been corrupting internet discourse for years. What is new is the level of vitriol and accusations in political and even health "discussions" (if we can even call them that anymore). Priests, religious, and churches have been attacked throughout Christian history and in increasing numbers in recent years in various parts of the world. But now that kind of thing happening here in America on an ever-widening scale. Members of both major political parties are accusing the other party of conspiracy. Each group views the other as villainous, as the enemy. But who is the enemy really?

St. Paul helps us in this effort by directing us to look beyond human antagonists to those who may be influencing them: "For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood; but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness" (Ephesians 6:12, Douay Rheims).

Satan has long been seen as "the great divider." Demons don't care about the issues of the day; all they care about is polarizing us and getting us to sin. Likewise, society is often swinging from one pendulum end to the other, or becoming not only divided over an issue, but increasingly polarized, as each side says more and more outrageous things in defense of its own views.

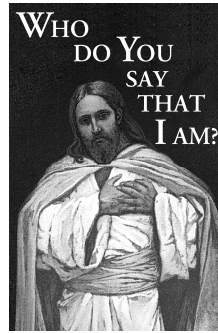
Our Mother has imparted alarming warnings for the past 100+ years. Perhaps most pertinent right now is Mary's warning in apparitions in Akita, Japan, that were approved by the local bishop: "The work of the devil will infiltrate even into the Church in such a way that one will see cardinals opposing cardinals, bishops against bishops."

It's time to heed Mary's requests — or if one has already been doing so, to ratchet up the fervor and spread the word. In nearly all of Mary's recent approved apparitions, she begs us to pray the Rosary daily. One thing to be sure is that the devils fear Mary because of what God has done for, in, and through her (James 4:7). So, let's take up the Rosary as she's requested, and ask her powerful intercession.

Fast, as well as pray. Remember what Jesus said when his disciples asked why they couldn't drive the devil from a boy? "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:20). We need to fast!

—Excerpts from article by Jeanette Flood, in *National Catholic Register*, Aug. 17, 2020

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 23, 2020



Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father."

—Matthew 16:13-20

A CONFESSION OF FAITH

Jesus poses the question "But who do you say I am?" in today's Gospel passage. It is a question posed to Peter and the disciples, to Matthew's first readers, and to the Church today. Peter's confession of faith in Jesus as Christ and Son of God was a culmination of what the disciples had experienced in their life with Jesus thus far.

Jesus affirms Peter's declaration as a gift from God. But it was only the beginning of Peter's understanding of what these words actually meant, and how the disciples saw themselves in light of this truth. As Jesus and the disciples turned toward Jerusalem and to the cross, the disciples perhaps pondered their own identity, together with their dawning understanding of Jesus' identity. For us, the journey of faith, initiated and sustained by the Holy Spirit, means an ongoing reflection upon who Jesus is and who we are.

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SAINT MONICA (332-387) August 27

She had smiles for the neighbors, though her husband found her religion and the charity it inspired annoying. She made tearful prayers in private for a son, outwardly self-assured but, as his mother knew, inwardly restless, and whose girlfriend of a dozen years had borne his child out of wedlock. Though not the first or last such mother and son, Monica and Augustine are the Church's most famous, so we keep their feast days back to back, with Monica's, fittingly, first.

To Rome she followed Augustine, then to Milan, where years of prayer—and nagging—finally bore fruit in his conversion by Saint Ambrose. For six months, mother and son enjoyed the blessing of rediscovering each other. Just in time! On the way home to North Africa, Monica took sick and died near Rome. No child who has mourned a parent can read, unmoved, Augustine's tender account, in his *Confessions*, of Monica's last days.

At this time of the year, when parents watch apprehensively as children leave for school, may Monica's perseverance and Augustine's long-prayed-for conversion ease anxiety and kindle hope.

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

CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

The covid pandemic has disrupted or even taken lives of so many people. Church life is no exception: Indoor public Masses have been suspended, celebrations of First Holy Communion and Confirmation have been delayed. Yet we are grateful that we are still alive. And finally the sacramental celebrations that you and Ascension Parish have been waiting for are coming! The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, **September 26** at 5:00 pm: **Confirmation Mass**

Sunday, **September 27** at 10:00 am: **First Communion Mass**

Due to the limitations and safety measures imposed by the pandemic, these Masses are reserved for the candidates and their families (11 confirmandi, and 10 first communicants). We will try to live-stream these special celebrations so that the community may join in remotely. Please pray for them and their families.

Thank you for your patience and support during this pandemic and the transition in our Faith Formation (Catechetical) staff.

Fr. Hao

THANK YOU

Aug. 16, 2020	Our Weekly Offering	Financial Date
NEEDED		
COLLECTED		\$
VARIANCE	\$	\$

Due to the current lockdown situation, the financial information is not available this week.



When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me.
— Psalm 138:3

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51
- Tuesday:** 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Ps 96:10-13; Mt 23:23-26
- Wednesday:** 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Ps 128:1-2, 4-5; Mt 23:27-32
- Thursday:** 1 Cor 1:1-9; Ps 145:2-7; Mt 24:42-51
- Friday:** 1 Cor 1:17-25; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11; Mt 25:1-13
- Saturday:** 1 Cor 1:26-31; Ps 33:12-13, 18-21; Mk 6:17-29
- Sunday:** Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Monday:** **St. Bartholomew** (1st cent. apostle & martyr; patron of Armenia, bookbinders, butchers)
- Tuesday:** **St. Louis** (13th cent. French king, man of justice, mercy, peace & piety; patron of France, 3rd Order of St. Francis, lace makers)
- Thursday:** **St. Joseph Calasanz** (17th cent. Spanish priest & religious founder, Order of Piarists; patron of Catholic schools)
- Friday:** **St. Monica** (4th cent. Roman African wife/mother honored for outstanding virtues & prayerful life dedicated to reformation of her son, St. Augustine; patroness of difficult marriages & disappointing children)
- Saturday:** **The Passion of St. John the Baptist** (commemorates the martyrdom by beheading of Saint John the Baptist on the orders of Herod Antipas through the vengeful request of his step-daughter Salome and her mother Herodias; patron of Jordan & many other places)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----------|---------------------------|
| Aug 22 | Sat | 8:30 a.m. | Gary Chang + |
| | | *5 p.m. | Marie Maraschin |
| | | 7 p.m. | Mary T. Hawkes |
| Aug 23 | Sun | 8:30 a.m. | Hung & Nhai Tran + |
| | | *9 a.m. | All Parishioners |
| | | *11 a.m. | Vincent W. Brandys, Sr. + |
| Aug 24 | Mon | 8 a.m. | All Parishioners |
| Aug 25 | Tue | 8 a.m. | All Parishioners |
| Aug 26 | Wed | 8 a.m. | All Parishioners |
| Aug 27 | Thu | 8 a.m. | All Parishioners |
| Aug 28 | Fri | 8 a.m. | All Parishioners |
| Aug 29 | Sat | 8:30 a.m. | Joe Fiorentino |
| | | *5 p.m. | Maxine Stice + |
| | | 7 p.m. | Hung & Nhai Tran + |
| Aug 30 | Sun | 8:30 a.m. | The Nora Family |
| | | *9 a.m. | All Parishioners |
| | | *11 a.m. | Carmel Bastholm |

***Saturday 5 pm & Sunday 9 & 11 am Masses are not public liturgies.**

EVENTS

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows

I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE!
HOW DO I TELL JESUS
I'VE LOST HIS KEYS?



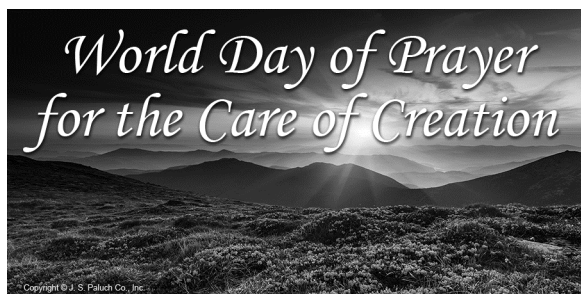
Jesus said to Peter,
"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." Mt 16:19

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

**It was pride that changed angels into devils;
it is humility that makes men as angels.**

—St. Augustine



In his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis asked us to care for the world. Five years ago, he proclaimed a **"World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation"** to be celebrated annually on **September 1 through October 5**, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

The pope calls us to "reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

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
Newsletter	Ruthann Stolzman	408-867-6029

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	408-857-1075
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