

Church of the Ascension

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Joe Galang, Pastor
Nomer Rios, Admin. Assistant
Susan Dunn, Bookkeeper

**In case of an emergency
please call 408-931-4131**

Catechetical Ministry

Ann Liebmann, Youth Catechetical
and Program Director

RCIA Rev. Joe Galang, Pastor

Masses

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

Weekday

M, F: 6:30 a.m.
W: 6:30 Communion Svc.
T, Th, S: 9:00 a.m.

First Friday

6:30, 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

Saturday: 4:00-4:45 p.m., and 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: Mon. - Wed.: 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Thurs. 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Fri: 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 408-725-3939 • Fax: 408-725-3932
Web Site: www.churchoftheascension.net



A BLESSED FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
DECEMBER 31, 2017**

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Tues.	The Tues. Morning Stitchers	9:30 a.m.
Wed.	The Handcrafters	9:30 a.m.
Wed.	Prayer Group	7:00 p.m.
Thur.	Charismatic Prayer Group	7:30 p.m.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018!

This New Year's Eve, at the turning of the year, you may catch a glimpse of the old year, a cartoon figure of a hunched old man with a sickle, Father Time. This is in fact a pope! December 31 was in the old calendar the feast of St. Sylvester. Legend says that Sylvester healed the Emperor Constantine of leprosy, and presided at the liturgy of baptism for the grateful emperor. In 314, he was chosen pope, and it fell to him to organize the peacetime church, free at last from persecution. In northern Europe "Sylvester Night" is a time of great parties recalling the joy of the church in the fresh air of Sylvester's papacy.

--Rev. James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

Religious Education

Our religious education programs continue as scheduled:

Sunday, December 31

No Classes—Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 07

Grades K through 8
10:15 to 11:30 AM

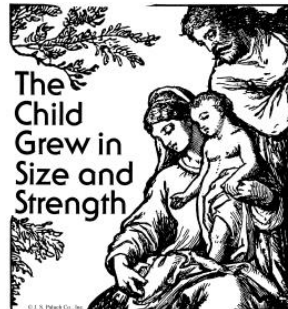
First Eucharist Preparation
11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Confirmation Preparation
5:00 to 6:00 PM

High School
6:15 to 7:30 PM

We are continuing to accept new students at all grade levels. If you wish to register a new student, please call Ann Liebmann, (408) 725-3939.

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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 31, 2017

"When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth."

—Luke 2:39-40



WELCOMING COFFEE

Coffee and donuts will return after the 9 a.m. Mass on January 7th. Do take the opportunity to enjoy the pancake breakfast on January 14th.



Enjoy a safe, peaceful and blessed New Year with family.

BEARERS OF THE WORD

The Church has placed a number of notable feast days immediately after Christmas. The feasts of Stephen, John the Evangelist, and the Holy Innocents form a summary of the life lived in Christ, the Word made flesh. What do these have to do with the feast of the Holy Family, which crowns the Octave of Christmas? These feasts remind us that suffering will occur in fulfilling the mission of Christ, and that we are all called to be bearers of this Word whose birth we celebrate.

We also see this manifested in the lives of Joseph and Mary, both of whom took social and religious risks in obedience to the will of God, and both of whom were open to the word of God sent to them from on high. In these ways they prefigured the life of Jesus himself.

Most likely, few of us found ourselves at Mass this past Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, but the essence of these feasts and the essence of the holiness of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus remain central, a holiness we celebrate today.

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LEARNED AT HOME

The mind of Christ is to be learned in the family. Strength of character may be acquired at work, but beauty of character is learned at home.

—Henry Drummond

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In this joyous Christmas time, it is fitting that we turn our attention from all the angels and shepherds and kings to take a look at the more intimate picture of the Holy Family in their ordinary life. They come with Jesus to consecrate him to the Lord, as is written in the law, and they come upon Simeon and Anna, prophets of the Lord, who have amazing things to say about this child and Mary, his mother. Both were "righteous and devout" and prayed in the temple constantly.

Simeon and Anna recognized in this infant the Messiah of God. Simeon spoke at length to Mary and Joseph about this child, and Anna proclaimed to all the salvation of Israel in Jesus. One can wonder what Mary must have thought when Simeon told her that "you yourself a sword will pierce." We interpret that in hindsight she would suffer greatly at the crucifixion of her beloved son. But what must she have thought at the possible literal interpretation of this prophecy? And yet she was, as always, obedient to God and accepting of God's word for her.

Throughout the centuries, God had made use of many prophets to proclaim the coming of Jesus. But people, being hard-hearted and somewhat clueless, did not recognize these prophecies as referring to the Messiah and later, to Jesus. These loving parents would protect and raise this miraculous child, and he "grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Monday:** **Mary, the Holy Mother of God** (a feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the aspect of her motherhood of Jesus Christ)
World Day of Prayer for Peace (The Holy Father's message for this day weaves together concerns for peace, poverty and care for creation.)
New Year's Day
- Tuesday:** **St. Basil the Great** (patron of Russia, hospital administrators, liturgists)
St. Gregory Nazianzen (Doctor of the Church)
- Wednesday:** **The Most Holy Name of Jesus** (Jesus' sacred name is the object of special devotion)
- Thursday:** **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** (patroness of Catholic schools)
- Friday:** **St. John Neumann** (patron of Catholic education)
- Saturday:** **St. Andre Bessette** (French-Canadian brother canonized in 2010)

THANK YOU	
Dec. 24, 2017	Our Weekly Offering
NEEDED	Due to early bulletin print deadlines, the financial information is not available this week.
COLLECTED	
VARIANCE	

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:29 -- 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
- Friday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]
- Sunday:** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

"A smile is the beginning of peace."
—*Mother Teresa*
"Speak well of people and you will never need to whisper."
—*Anonymous*

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Dec 30 Sat	9 a.m.	The Snyder Family
	5 p.m.	Joseph Fiorentino (L)
Dec 31 Sun	7 a.m.	The Diem Family
	9 a.m.	All Parishioners
	11 a.m.	Mark Anthony Baylon +
	5 p.m.	Joseph Chinh Ha +
Jan 01 Mon	6:30 a.m.	All Parishioners
Jan 02 Tue	9 a.m.	Marylou O'Donnell +
Jan 03 Wed	6:30 a.m.	Communion Service
Jan 04 Thu	9 a.m.	Benjamin Barretto +
Jan 05 Fri	6:30 a.m.	All Parishioners
	9 a.m.	The Diem Family
Jan 06 Sat	9 a.m.	Mary Stepp (L)
	5 p.m.	Betty Reickerd +
Jan 07 Sun	7 a.m.	Virginia Duzowski +
	9 a.m.	All Parishioners
	11 a.m.	Joseph Stolz +
	5 p.m.	Bob & Mig Leano (L)

REMINDERS/INFORMATION

Cell phones: to preserve and foster reverence due at Mass and all liturgical functions, please kindly turn off cell phones and pagers before entering the church.

Parishioner Registration: all new members are asked to register as a bona-fide member of the parish. Registration forms are available at the Parish Office. Registration with the parish is a sign of acknowledgment and affiliation with your local Catholic community as well as enables you to automatically receive parish mailings, Sunday envelopes, and facilitates your relationship with the parish and the universal Catholic church.

Becoming Catholic: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children (RCIA and RCIC). If you are not baptized or baptized in another Christian denomination, including children 7 years of age and older, and if you are baptized in the Catholic church and seeking Confirmation as an adult, please contact the parish office.

SACRAMENTS

Infant Baptism: parents must be registered in the parish a minimum of three months prior to the interview and the baptismal preparation seminar. Baptisms are scheduled every first Sunday of the month at 12 noon.

Sacrament of Matrimony: couples wishing to marry must contact the parish office at least six months prior to the proposed date of marriage. Weddings are held on Saturdays at 10 a.m., 12 noon, and 2 p.m. All couples must attend the Marriage Preparation seminar or the Engaged Encounter weekend as a prerequisite for the celebration of the sacrament.

Anointing of the Sick and Communion: if you have a life and death emergency and you need a priest at your home for the Sacrament of the Sick, please call 408-931-4131. Our Ministry to the Sick volunteers will bring Holy Communion to your home for the homebound and the sick.

COMMUNION RITE

The posture is standing from the Lord's Prayer until all have received Holy Communion. Those receiving Holy Communion are asked to make a simple bow as a gesture of respect and reverence before receiving both the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ. Drinking directly from the cup is the preferred norm. Although communion by intinction in certain cases is permitted, it is not to be used as a way to prevent drinking from the cup. A communicant may not self-communicate by means of intinction; the priest/Eucharistic minister gives communion to that person. Children who have received First Holy Communion are encouraged to receive communion under both species.

PARISH GROUP CONTACTS

Administration and Communications

Pastoral Council	John Pozniak	408-230-6006
Finance Council	Doris Atkinson	408-839-7900
Sunday Bulletin	Mary Park	408-446-3647
Webmaster	Ruthann Stolzman	408-867-6029
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. Joe Galang	408-725-3939
Musicians - 5 p.m. Sat	Fr. Joe Galang	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. Joe Galang	408-725-3939
Rosary Group	Evelyn Tanner	408-867-1600

Catechetical Ministries

Baptism Preparation	Fr. Joe Galang	408-725-3939
Marriage Preparation	Arline Schoengold	408-725-8873
Faith & Scriptures	Gene Plevyak	408-257-3490
RCIA	Fr. Joe Galang	408-725-3939

Community and Service

Men's Club	Jeff Moe	408-253-6403
Membership	Doug Snyder	408-568-8828
Handcrafters	Ruby Hauffe	408-725-3939
Tues. Morn Stitchers	Jo Ann Snyder	408-252-5156
Couples Bridge	Don Muse	408-246-7726
Young Adults	Doris/Michael Atkinson	408-725-3939
CONNECT	Don Van Buren	408-996-2619
Communion to Sick	Fr. Joe Galang	408-725-3939
Marriage Encounter	Tony/Dale Fadelli	408-253-1533
Engaged Encounter	Chip/Weedgie Maloney	408-741-1946
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	Alvin Fontanilla	408-725-3939
Chinese Catholic Community	Janet Lau	408-725-3939

Web Site

www.churchoftheascension.net