

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.—1:00 p.m.
Fri: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

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



YOUTH INVOLVEMENT MASS

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

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 ADVENT
DECEMBER 09, 2018

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Tues.,	Rosary Group (after Mass) —also Thu., & Sat.	9:30 a.m.
Wed.	The Handcrafters	9:30 a.m.
Thur.	Charismatic Prayer Group	7:30 p.m.
Fri.	Men's Club Meeting	6:00 p.m.

**YOUTH INVOLVEMENT MASS**

This Sunday at the 9 AM Mass, parish youth will again serve as readers, ushers and gift bearers. We are delighted that these youngsters are

willing to be active participants in our Sunday Liturgy and hope that you will let them know how much you appreciate their presence and service.

Religious Education

Our 2018-2019 Religious Education year continues as scheduled:

Sunday, December 09**Grades K through 8****10:10 to 11:30 AM****High School****6:10 to 7:30 PM**

Our religious education program will be on Christmas break
December 16th through January 5th.

**Classes will resume on
Sunday, January 6, 2019**

We are continuing to register students in all grade levels. If you wish to register a new student, please call

Ann Liebmann (408) 725-3939.

Ascension parishioners—please continue to pray for the teachers, aides, and families involved in our religious education programs. Your prayers and support mean so much to all of us in this ministry!

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**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 09, 2018**

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah.

— Luke 3:1-6

**WELCOMING COFFEE**

Coffee and donuts will be hosted after the 9 a.m. Mass today by the **Marriage Encounter Group**

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

There will be no Liturgy of the Word for Children the **next 3 Sundays, December 16th, 23rd, and 30th.** LWC will resume on **January 8th** at the **Sunday 9 AM Mass.** All children are invited to participate.

EARTH-MOVING

The world does not seem big enough to contain the jubilation of the first reading. According to Baruch, the city of Jerusalem is like a person standing on tiptoe looking for God's salvation, which is coming from the east. Those who were led away on foot, heads down, now come back, a proud people.

Baruch indicates that when mercy and justice are embraced like a royal garment, we may see the fruits of repentance. For John the Baptist, however, repentance was not simply regret for past failings, but a commitment to orient life around God's desires and purposes. A repentant heart clears a path for God to enter, leveling the mountains and valleys of our resistance, so that God might dwell within.

Transforming the human landscape, like the task of smoothing the desert hills and valleys, is an enormous undertaking, truly the work of God. Yet God looks for partners in this transformation. John the Baptist, and Jesus afterward, called followers to participate in God's work, and to begin with repentance.

We the Church respond to this call today, and acknowledge our ongoing need for God's mercy and forgiveness. Our Advent preparation for Christmas includes opening our hearts to God's forgiveness, so that Jesus might come to take residence there. When we bring healing and justice to others, we are sharing in God's earth-shaking work, and preparing a straight pathway for our God.

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CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Masses – Monday, Dec. 24

6:00 p.m.

Family Mass and Nativity pageant

11:30 p.m.

Christmas Carols and Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Masses – Tuesday Dec. 25

7:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.



ADVENT RECONCILIATION

December 18 & 20: 9:30—10:30 a.m.

December 22: 4:00—4:30 p.m.

Family Mass: Inviting elementary-aged children to be Angels, Shepherds & the Holy Family.

Rehearsal will be Saturday, Dec. 22 at 10 a.m.



THANK YOU TO ASCENSION PARISHIONERS FROM THE KAIROS #51 TEAM

The 50 men and women of the California Medical Facility Vacaville Kairos #51 team thank God for the continued generous support of the Ascension community to this fruitful ministry to incarcerated men at CMFV. Once again we have been able to bring the Gospel alive within the walls of this prison and to touch the hearts of the 31 inmate graduates with God's unconditional love, mercy and forgiveness. The seeds of the Gospel have been planted and now our ministry will tend the garden at weekly Prayer and Share meetings.

The next CMFV Kairos, #52, will be during the Memorial Day 2019 weekend. **If you would like to experience for yourself what your prayers and support accomplish in this environment please contact Gene Plevyak at 408-857-1075** and I will arrange for you to get on the Gate Clearance list. Your Gate Clearance Request information must be submitted a month before the Kairos Weekend. God bless all of you.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Tuesday:** **St. Damasus I** (4th century Portuguese pope; patron of archeologists)
- Wednesday:** **Our Lady of Guadalupe** (1531 apparition leaving permanent image on cloak; patroness of Mexico, the unborn)
- Thursday:** **St Lucy** (3rd century Italian martyr; patroness of the blind, salesmen)
- Friday:** **St. John of the Cross** (16th century Spanish Carmelite monk, mystic & religious order founder; patron of contemplative life)

THANK YOU

December 02, 2018	Our Weekly Offering	Fiscal Year to Date
NEEDED	\$7,300	\$167,900
COLLECTED	\$6,296	\$150,576
VARIANCE	-\$1,004	-\$17,409



ATTENTION ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS & USHERS

There are 4 signup sheets for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. You will find them on the Liturgy bulletin board in the back of the church. Please sign up as soon as possible so that we may know who will be serving at these Masses. If you have any questions, please call Arline Schoengold at 408-725-8873. Thank you for your cooperation.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
- Thursday:** Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
- Friday:** Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday:** JeZep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Dec 08 Sat 9 a.m. Fr. Viju Daniel Varghese (L)
- 5 p.m. Gary Chang +
- Dec 09 Sun 7 a.m. Kathleen Bedeski +
- 9 a.m. All Parishioners
- 11 a.m. Charles Snyder +
- 5 p.m. Brandon Staveley +
- Dec 10 Mon 6:30 a.m. All Parishioners
- Dec 11 Tue 9 a.m. Gabrielle Mancuso (L)
- Dec 12 Wed 6:30 a.m. Communion Service
- Dec 13 Thu 9 a.m. Virginia Duzowski +
- Dec 14 Fri 6:30 a.m. All Parishioners
- Dec 15 Sat 9 a.m. The Diem Family
- 5 p.m. David Staveley +
- Dec 16 Sun 7 a.m. Fr. Rick Rodoni (L)
- 9 a.m. All Parishioners
- 11 a.m. The Nora Family
- 5 p.m. Cheryl Vicencio (L)

HAPPENINGS

CONNECT 2018 HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

A TIME TO REACH OUT AND TO SHARE WITH THANKSGIVING...

This is the CONNECT Group's **32nd** year of offering and facilitating activities in which Ascension can share Christmas blessings with those less fortunate.



Gifts selected from the Connect Giving Tree are due this weekend. They will be distributed next week.

Thank you to all who so generously took tags, searched diligently for gifts and packaged them to make a showing. They are truly appreciated.

Bedding, Towels, Underwear, Socks, Jackets— donate new or gently used blankets, etc. throughout December.

P.S. Rest of the Year Donations:

Toiletries— bring full or sample-sized items for distribution to Community Services.

Miscellaneous—Eye glasses, cell phones, hearing aids, Box Tops 4 Education, etc. can be placed into the CONNECT basket at any time of the year.

For questions, please call Don Van Buren at 408-996-2619 or Russ Castronovo at 408-391-9632.



LAS POSADAS IN ADVENT

Advent is a time of expectation and hope. "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming," and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came. Various traditions have arisen in anticipation of Christmas.

In much of the Spanish-speaking world, a custom called "Posadas" is practiced. "Posadas" means "shelter" or "lodging," and it is done from December 16-24. A group of people re-enact Joseph and Mary's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. They plan a route and travel from house to house, asking for lodging. Each home plays the role of "innkeeper" and refuses to host them. At the last house, everyone is invited inside for prayer and refreshments.

This week we light two candles. The purple candle for this week represents **Faith** and is called "**Bethlehem's Candle.**" Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.



PARISH GROUP CONTACTS

Administration and Communications

Pastoral Council	John Pozniak	408-230-6006
Finance Council	Doris Atkinson	408-725-3939
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
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. 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	Sonia Olivar	408-725-3939
Chinese Catholic Community	Janet Lau	408-725-3939

Web Site

www.churchoftheascension.net