

Church of the Ascension

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Hao Dinh, Pastor
Rev. Reynaldo Sarmiento,
Parochial Vicar
Nomer Rios, Admin. Assistant
Susan Dunn, Bookkeeper

Catechetical Ministry

Ann Liebmann, Youth Catechetical
and Program Director

RCIA Rev. Hao Dinh, 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, W, F, S: 9:00 a.m.
T, Th: 6:30 a.m.

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

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

In case of an emergency please call 408-725-3939



PASTOR'S LETTER

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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 29, 2020**

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Dear Ascension Parishioners and Friends,

It's been a week since the suspension of all public Masses at our church and in our entire Diocese, but it seems like eternity. I hope you and yours are doing well although life these days is anything but normal because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

These Shelter in Place days, both Fr. Rey and I continue to pray for you through the non-public Masses. We pray not only for the intentions that people requested, but also for you and all of our parishioners. We remember in our prayers as well all who are affected by the virus, and those who care for them whether at home or in hospitals.

Despite the strange but necessary social distancing, we are still a community of believers, we are still connected with each other through prayer and care; we are still in spiritual communion with the Lord and each other.

Our parish continues to offer the essential ministries that are still allowed during this Shelter in Place period: e.g. Anointing of the Sick or Last Rites, Funeral services (at funeral parlors or cemetery chapels, and burial sites).

Connecting through the phone or internet is not a problem. Your priests and parish staff continue to check your voice messages or email. Perhaps you may want to call a fellow church member, especially those without a family nearby.

Livestream Mass is another spiritual connection although it is never the same as normal Mass with a congregation around the Table of the Lord. Bishop Cantú celebrates Livestream Masses every Sunday at 10:00 am (English) and 11:00 am (Spanish).

If you want to know how to view these Masses and also liturgies in many parishes in our Diocese, visit www.dsj.org/coronavirus/. On this page you also find other helpful resources.

Finally, as expected, Ascension Church, like all other parishes, has seen a dramatic drop in the Sunday collection, even on March 8, a week before the suspension of public Masses. However, a number of you have continued to give to Ascension through mailing, auto donation, or online giving. Thank you so much for your continued support during these difficult days.

If you want a convenient way of giving, consider the online ParishPay at www.churchgiving.com/?pc=p6bewi94. The Annual Diocese Appeal also needs your support. We reached 74% of our parish goal after 5 weeks! Any overage will return to Ascension for its sound system project. Many thanks for your ADA support.

Let us continue to trust in the Lord and pray for one another.

Peace,
Fr. Hao Dinh

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 29, 2020



"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believe in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

—John 11:1-45

GIVE GLORY TO GOD

On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, just before we begin to enter Holy Week, we are summoned to Bethany. If we had been friends of Mary, Lazarus, and Martha, and found out that Lazarus was gravely ill, we probably would have dropped everything to be with them. This was what was so surprising about the behavior of Jesus. Although he was their close friend, he chose to stay away, that God's glory would be manifested.

This is a persistent theme in John's Gospel. Right to the very end, Jesus' works were meant to give glory to the Father. As our Lenten journey reaches a crescendo, let us be mindful that, as people who have "put on Christ" in baptism, we are also called, by our attitudes and actions, to give glory to God.

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FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST EUCHARIST AND CONFIRMATION

First Reconciliation has been postponed for now.

At present we are hopeful that First Eucharist and Confirmation can be celebrated May 10th. Please continue to pray for the young people who have been preparing for their sacraments. Please pray as well for their families, teachers and sponsors.

We will keep you informed as to when these sacraments will be celebrated.

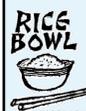
**A wise old owl lived in an oak.
The more he saw the less he spoke.
The less he spoke the more he heard.
Why can't we all be like that wise old bird?**

—English nursery rhyme

OPERATION RICE BOWL

As you continue your participation in Operation Rice Bowl during the remaining weeks of Lent, remember that the sacrifices you are making provide much needed help to those who are less fortunate—those who lack safe drinking water, health care, education, good nutrition. Your contribution to this Lenten practice helps Catholic Relief

Services in their humanitarian work around the globe.



Please continue to use your rice bowl box during Lent and return the filled box **after** Easter.



DIOCESE OF
SAN JOSE

**URGENT
MESSAGE**

**DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE SUSPENDS ALL
PUBLIC MASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

As a Diocese, our top priority remains the health and safety of our families, children, and the vulnerable of our community. Out of an abundance of caution, I am **requesting that all parishes, missions, and chapels in the Diocese of San José suspend all public Masses beginning Saturday, March 14, until further notice.** Baptisms, weddings, and funerals may be celebrated but should be limited to immediate family. Faith Formation classes also should be suspended until further notice. All parish gatherings are being suspended until further notice.

Though public Masses are being suspended, I encourage parishioners to remain connected to their parish community and to pray for each other. The Diocese and several parishes will continue to livestream Sunday Masses in various languages. Information on these Masses and other spiritual resources are provided on our Diocesan Response to Coronavirus webpage at dsj.org/coronavirus.

Priests will remain available for individual confessions and urgent pastoral needs, including the anointing of the sick (Last Rites).

We are profoundly saddened that we are not able to celebrate the Eucharist as community, but we are reminded that Christ always remains with us, especially in times of uncertainty such as these. Be assured of my continued prayers for you and your families.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Oscar Cantú

THANK YOU		
Mar. 22, 2020	Our Weekly Offering	Financial Date
NEEDED		
COLLECTED		\$
VARIANCE	\$	\$

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

Masses can be viewed via several local parish webpages, the Diocesan Webpage, EWTN, and many other YouTube selections.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11
- Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
- Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
- Friday:** Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56
- Sunday:** Mt 21:1-11 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

A well-spent life is the only passport to heaven.
—Pope Leo XIII

SEE'S CANDY

Thank you to all who ordered See's Candy. Unfortunately, we were unable to place the order as planned. Refund checks have been sent to all those who ordered candy. Thank you for your support. Hopefully, we will offer this service for Christmas.



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Thursday:** **St. Francis of Paola** (15th cent. Italian friar & religious order founder; patron of mariners)
- Friday:** **First Friday**
Day of Abstinence (meatless Friday)
- Saturday:** **St. Isidore** (7th cent. Spanish archbishop; patron of the internet, computer users)
First Saturday

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Mar 28 Sat 9 a.m. All Parishioners
5 p.m. Stephanie Maraschin
- Mar 29 Sun 7 a.m. Hung & Nhai Tran
9 a.m. All Parishioners
11 a.m. Carmel Bastholm
5 p.m. Nicanor & Luz Beltran
- Mar 30 Mon 9 a.m. All Parishioners
- Mar 31 Tue 6:30 a.m. The Diem Family
- Apr 01 Wed 9 a.m. Elvis Avanzado
- Apr 02 Thu 6:30 a.m. Lourdes Ancheta
- Apr 03 Fri 9 a.m. Barbara Stopnick
- Apr 04 Sat 9 a.m. Paul Lenarduzzi
5 p.m. Maxine Stice
- Apr 05 Sun 7 a.m. Nhai Tran
9 a.m. All Parishioners
11 a.m. Frank & Glenn Lobo
5 p.m. Hung & Nhai Tran

EVENTS

Annual Diocesan Appeal 2020 "Encountering Christ—Faith in Action"

Our Annual Diocesan Appeal has begun. Funds donated to this appeal support our Bishop and Diocese in carrying out our mission in this county. Our parish goal will be **\$83,592**, a little less than the goal last year. Yet we need your help, to achieve our own additional **\$20,000 goal**.

Why? We need the fund to address problems we have experienced in this church sound system: dead spots, feedback, interference, etc. The current system was originally installed in 2002, and upgraded 8 years ago, but it's time to replace some older equipment and make adjustments. Please consider giving more to the ADA this year. All funds collected above the parish goal of \$83,592 will go back to us, and be earmarked for the church sound system project. Thank you for your generous support.

ADA Update

Week 1:	\$13,350 (28 pledges)
Week 2:	\$23,965 (20 pledges)
Week 3:	\$11,280 (17 pledges)
Week 4:	\$6,750 (17 pledges)
Week 5:	\$6,775 (09 pledges)
Total:	\$62,120 (74%)

JOIN ASCENSION'S E-MAIL SYSTEM

The e-mail system will send to you:

- Important parish related information
- The Sunday Bulletin on the Friday before the weekend
- The *Accent* newsletter
- Easy participation at no cost to you
- A secure spam-free system
- You can opt out at anytime



Joining Ascension's e-mail system is easy.

Call the office (408-725-3939) and give us your preferred e-mail address, or stop by and do it in person, or go to Ascension's website and click on the button link on the upper left corner to start the simple process.

Ascension website:

<http://www.churchoftheascension.net>

After you register, security protocols require a confirmation from you for your e-mail address to be activated. You will receive an e-mail from Constant Contact asking you to confirm that you requested to be included. Please follow the instructions to confirm.

For more information and/or clarification, please contact the parish office, or Ruthann Stolzman at 408-867-6029

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	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. 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

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.churchoftheascension.net