

Church of the Ascension

ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939

Masses: (Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p
(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Confessions: (Sat) 4p - 4:45p



February 2, 2025

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Mal 3:1-4 | Heb 2:14-18 | Lk 2:22-40

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Mary and Joseph bring their 40-day-old infant Jesus to the temple in order to fulfill the Mosaic law. There, they are met by Simeon and Anna, the faithful prophets who have spent their lives waiting for the coming of the King of Glory. These many years of waiting were like the “refiner’s fire” which the prophet Malachi describes in the first reading. Refined like gold by prayer and fasting, Simeon and Anna are prepared to meet their Lord. And in this moment, the Old and New Testaments meet and the fulfillment of the Old is foreseen. Imagine the splendor of the moment when they finally laid their eyes on this king of light and glory – the culmination of a lifetime of hope, prayer, and preparation. Overcome with peace and joy at seeing his Lord, Simeon declares, “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace,” for he had seen the glory of God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Have you ever marveled at the beauty of a shiny, gold ring? Gold has long been regarded as one of earth’s greatest treasures, yet the gold we admire today doesn’t emerge in its pure, radiant form. To produce such beauty, gold must first undergo a process of intense refinement. A crude material is exposed to extreme heat to be melted and purified – until something of profound value emerges. Like gold, we, too, must be forged in fire to be made pure and holy. This is one way we can understand the prophet Malachi’s words. The “fires” we experience in our lives are not without purpose – God is purifying us so that one day we may live with him in eternity. He isn’t afraid of our “crude material”; rather, he gazes upon us with such intense love that our own beauty is revealed. As we undergo personal purification, let us stand in holy confidence like Simeon and Anna, witnessing to the truth that it is through the refiner’s fire that we are brought to glory.

REFLECT

We can become discouraged, feeling that our prayers are unanswered or that a life devoted to Christ is too difficult. When these moments arise, consider the prophets Simeon and Anna, who gave their lives in quiet devotion, trusting in God’s promises. Pray Simeon’s canticle, meditating on the glorious gift we have been given in our salvation, and the promise that even in the darkest of days a bright and shining light awaits us.

Interior Pilgrimage (page 2)

Get Ready to Fulfill Your Destiny

The information in scripture on Jesus' childhood is a bit sketchy. At the end of the story of the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple, we learn that Jesus "grew and became strong, filled with wisdom." When we next hear of him, Jesus is 12 years old, discussing Jewish teachings at the temple, and "astounding" those who hear him. Quite a bit of growth and development obviously transpired in the intervening years! Mary and Joseph are the unsung heroes here, for having nurtured and raised Jesus in such a way that he was ready to fulfill his destiny. How can you continue to grow in your faith? - *Preparetheword.com*

Holy Father's February Prayer Intention

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

ABCs of Fostering Vocations

Answer your children's questions about priesthood or Religious life; never discourage them or ridicule them if they bring it up.

Ask your child to identify a talent which he or she has, and imagine together what work or ministry God might want someone to do with that type of talent. Also talk about what good things can be done with the talent right now. For instance, singing talent could be used to sing a baby brother or sister to sleep. Talent at soccer could be used to help someone on the team who needs extra practice.

Bring your family to the next ordination mass or prayer vigil for religious. (*Continues next week*) - *Uscsb.org*

World Day of the Sick — Saturday, Feb. 8

-Ascension Church:

9am Mass with Anointing of the Sick

-St. Joseph's Cathedral:

9:30 am: Rosary

10:00 am: Mass with Anointing of the Sick sponsored by the Order of Malta.

Second Collection — Feb. 9

Next Sunday's second collection will support the Church in Latin America. Thank you for your donations.

WEEKLY OFFERING - JAN. 26

-Total **\$4,578** (\$3,870 + online: \$708). Goal: \$6,500.

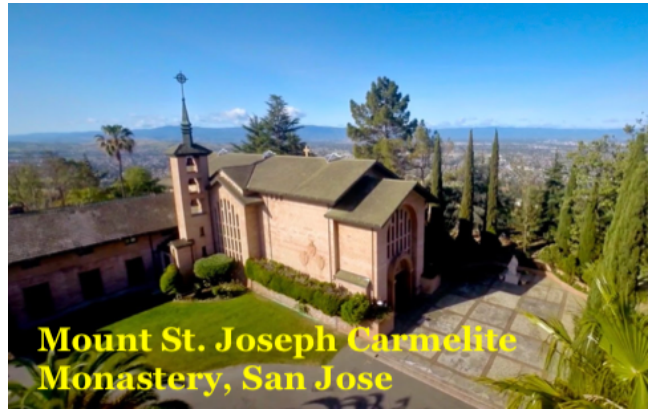
-YTD: **\$189,159**. Budget: \$195,000.

-Faith Formation Fund: **\$1,570**. Thank you.

Last week's report was for Jan. 19 (not Jan. 12).

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 01	Sat	05 pm	Teresa Tien Dao +
Feb 02	Sun	07 am	Gary S. H. Chang +
		09 am	Allan Victor De La Vega +
		11 am	Phyllis Spedden (L)
		05 pm	Ernesto Pascual +
Feb 03	Mon	08 am	Jack Sutcliffe +
Feb 04	Tue	08 am	The Gerrard Family
Feb 05	Wed	08 am	Teresa Tien Dao +
Feb 06	Thu	08 am	Natalie McKeever (L)
Feb 07	Fri	08 am	Jack Lee (L)
Feb 08	Sat	09 am	Fr. Rey Sarmiento +



An Interior Pilgrimage in the Year of Hope, with Mary

Get away for a day... Journey along the path of faith...

Saturday, March 1, 2025 | 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM

Mount Saint Joseph Carmelite Monastery

12455 Clayton Rd, San Jose

Retreat Facilitator: Fr. Hao Dinh

Featured Speaker: Fr. Julius Ntalo, OCD, a Discalced Carmelite from Uganda.

Retreat includes time for featured talks, group discussions, reflections, and Holy Mass.

Registration Fee: \$50 per person (includes lunch)

Register today, as space is limited: 30 seats are reserved and prioritized for Ascension parishioner registrations until February 15; all other registrations from neighboring parishes are also welcome now until all remaining seats are filled. The last day to submit your completed registration is February 23.

For more details, view the flyer in Ascension Church or on ascensionsaratoga.org (QR code). Those who register will receive a confirmation notification of their reservation.



Annual Diocesan Appeal 2025

Kick-off: February 2

Your ADA gift enables the Church in this county in her collective Evangelization and Outreach, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Catechesis and Faith Formation, the Hispanic Apostolate, Social Justice Ministry, the Institute for Leadership in Ministry, the Formation and Training of Seminarians and Deacon Candidates, and the Ongoing Formation of those already ordained. Only your gift, combined with the gifts of others throughout our Diocese, can make all of this possible.

Please consider a gift to the ADA to help support the services that our parishes rely on. Thank you.



Seasons of Hope Grief Discussion Group

Faith-based conversation for those who lost a loved one.

Wed, Feb 19, 26, Mar 5, 12, 19, 26 (1:00pm – 2:30pm)

Sacred Heart Parish Center - Transfiguration Room
13716 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga,

RSVP with your name, phone number and email to:

Carolyn Orasin, Parish Secretary at 1-408-867-3634 or c.orasin@sacredheartsaratoga.org.