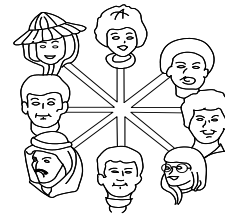


Accent on Ascension



Volume XXI, Issue 3

12033 Miller Ave. Saratoga CA 95070

Nov-Dec 2011

Important Dates For The Coming Holy Days

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Individual Confessions

Thursday, December 8

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 10

4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, December 13

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 17

4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.



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Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24th

6:00 p.m. Family Mass and
Nativity Pageant

11:30 p.m. Christmas Carols &
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25th,
Nativity of our Lord

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

Saturday, December 31, 2011

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

New Years, Sunday, January 1, 2011

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

Wishing you peace, happiness, and God's Blessings at this holy season of Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Fr. Joe Galang and Staff

Phone numbers: Parish Office: 408-725-3939 • Fax: 408-725-3932

Ascension Web Site: <http://www.churchoftheascension.net>



Words in the *Roman Missal*, *Third Edition*



Abasement: The lowering of one of higher rank. Jesus abased himself in that, though he was God, he lowered himself and became a human being so that he might save us from our sins (see Phil 2:6-11).

Adoption: In Baptism, the Holy Spirit transforms us into children of the Father, thereby making us his adopted sons and daughters in the likeness of his eternal Son (see Eph 1:3-6). In this way, the faithful are made “partakers in the divine nature (cf. 2 Pt 1:4) by uniting them in a living union with the only Son, the Savior” (Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC], no. 1129). In the sacraments, we become the sons and daughters of God by adoption through Christ Jesus.

Angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, _ thrones and dominions: Spiritual, personal, and immortal creatures, with intelligence and free will, who glorify God and serve him as messengers of his saving plan. Traditionally, the choirs of angels have been divided into various ranks, including archangels, cherubim, seraphim, thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers (see Col 1:16).

Chalice: From the Latin word “calix” meaning “cup” (see Ps 116:13; Mt 20:22; 1 Cor 10:16). The use of this term in the Liturgy points to the chalice’s function as a particular kind of cup and indicates the uniqueness of what it contains, the very Blood of Christ.

Clemency: The loving kindness, compassion, or mercy that God shows to sinners.

Communion: Our fellowship and union with Jesus and other baptized Christians in the Church, which has its source and summit in the celebration of the Eucharist. By receiving Jesus in Holy Communion, we are united to him and one another as members of his Body.

Consecration: The dedication of a thing or person to divine service by a prayer or blessing. In the Mass, “consecration” also refers to the words spoken by the priest whereby the bread and wine are transformed into the risen Body and Blood of Jesus.

Consubstantial: The belief, articulated in the Nicene Creed, about the relationship of the Father and the Son: that “in the Father and with the Father, the Son is one and the same God” (CCC, no. 262).

Contrite: To be repentant within one’s heart and mind for sins committed and to resolve not to sin again.

Covenant: A solemn agreement between human beings, between God and a human being, or between God and a people involving mutual commitments or promises. In the Old Testament, God made a covenant with the Jewish people. Jesus, through his death and Resurrection, made a new covenant with the whole of humanity. One enters into this new covenant through faith and Baptism.

Damnation: Eternal separation from God’s love caused by dying in mortal sin without repentance.

Godhead: The mystery of one God in three Persons.

Mediator: One who unites or reconciles separate or opposing parties. Thus, Jesus Christ is the “one mediator between God and the human race” (1 Tm 2:5). Through his sacrificial offering he has become high priest and unique mediator who has gained for us access to the Father through the Holy Spirit.

Merit: The reward that God promises and gives to those who love him and who by his grace perform good works. One cannot earn justification or eternal life; they are the free gifts of God. Rather our merit is from God through Christ in the Holy Spirit. The Father freely justifies us in Christ through the indwelling of the Spirit; and Christians, by the same Holy Spirit, are empowered to do good works of love and justice. In cooperating with the Holy Spirit, the faithful receive further grace and thus, in Christ, cooperate in the work of their salvation.

Oblation: A gift or sacrifice offered to God.

Only-Begotten Son: This title “signifies the unique and eternal relationship of Jesus Christ to God his Father: he is the only Son of the Father (cf. Jn 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18); he is God himself (cf. Jn 1:1)” (CCC, no. 454). Jesus is the Son of God not by adoption but by nature.

Paschal: Referring to Christ’s work of redemption accomplished through his Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension. Through the Paschal Mystery, Jesus destroyed our death and restored us to life. The Paschal Mystery is celebrated and made present in the Liturgy so that we can obtain the fruit of Jesus’

death and Resurrection, that is, the forgiveness of our sins and the new life of the Holy Spirit.

Patriarchs: Title given to the venerable ancestors or “fathers” of the Semitic peoples, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who received God’s promise of election.

Precursor: One who comes before as a herald. John the Baptist is the precursor of Jesus.

Provident grace: The free and undeserved gift that God gives us as he protects and governs all creation.

Redemption: Jesus Christ is our Savior and Redeemer because he frees us from our sin through his sacrificial death on the Cross.

Temporal: What pertains to this world of time and his-tory, as opposed to what pertains to God, such as our new life in Christ through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Venerate: To show devotion and respect to holy things and people. Catholics venerate relics and saints. Veneration must be clearly distinguished from adoration and worship, both of which pertain solely to the Trinity and Jesus as the Son of God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Homage: The honor, respect, and reverence due to another. Homage is especially due to God, for he is eter-nal, all good, all holy, and all loving.

Implore: To plead, beseech, or ask with humility. This is an example of the self-deprecatory language in the Roman Missal that helps to express our dependence on God. We humbly beg the Father to hear and answer our prayers, for we ask them in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus.

Incarnation: The Son of God assumed human nature and became man by being conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Jesus is true God and true man. As man, the Son of God obtained our salvation. The use of this term in the Ni-cene Creed indicates that Jesus’ birth has a signifi-cance beyond that of any other human birth.

Ineffable: That which cannot be conceived or ex-pressed fully (see 1 Cor 2:6-9). One cannot, for exam-ple, ade-quately describe in concepts and words the mystery of the Trinity or the mystery of the Incarna-tion.

Infusion: The Holy Spirit is poured into the hearts and souls of believers, and so they are filled, or in-fused, with grace.

Intercessor: One who makes a petition on behalf of others. Our unique intercessor is Jesus Christ, who inter-cedes on our behalf with the Father (see Rom

8:34). The priest at Mass acting in the person of Christ intercedes on behalf of the whole Church.

Justification: The gracious action by which God frees us from sin and makes us holy and righteous before him.

Lord, God of Hosts: From the word “sabaoth,” hosts are the invisible powers that work at God’s com-mand over heaven and earth.

REFERENCES

Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal. Liturgy Documentary Series 2.

Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2003.

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Check out the Ascension Web site:

<http://www.churchoftheascension.net>

and come back frequently, as we try to keep you up-to-date on parish events. This newsletter is avail-able in pdf format for you to read or print in color, and each week’s Sunday Bulletin is also available by the Friday preceding the weekend.



Pastoral Council

Council Communique Building Ascension Community

from Gary Auclair

The Pastoral Council continues to strongly support programs and activities that will promote Ascension values and help to build a stronger Catholic community. Two areas of recent focus are the ministry pulpit talks and the upgrades of the Ascension web site.

As a member of the Ascension parish community, you are invited to share your time and talents in at least one of our parish ministries. The Parish Council has organized a series of short Sunday pulpit talks reviewing the roles and responsibilities of ministries looking for new participants, and giving you an opportunity to join that ministry or simply get more information. These talks have been ongoing at about one per month for all of 2011 and will be completed in early 2012. So far, this has resulted in a number of new parishioners becoming involved in a ministry.

The Ascension web site

(www.churchoftheascension.net) has continued to evolve and improve, becoming more useful and more important to those parishioners that use it. For example, announcements of upcoming events are promptly posted, such as a memorial Mass, the Christmas boutique, or a funeral. And something recently added, a daily/weekly/monthly calendar of all Ascension activities is now available (date and time of Masses, confessions, meetings, practices, etc.). The web site includes the Ascension general directory (including all ministries), and access to the Sunday bulletins and the bi-monthly newsletter. And there are links to several Catholic websites with a vast array of Catholic news, stories and prayers.

Contacting the Pastoral Council. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, contact a member of the Council and let your voice be heard. Council members: Gary Auclair, Celine Benny, Orv Burley, Fr. Joe Galang, Chip Maloney, Manny Narcisa, Sonia Olivar, John Pozniak, Ron Schoengold and Harry Stice.



Finance Council Update

Jeff Moe

The next regular meeting of the Finance Council is scheduled for Monday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Parish Office.

Contacting the Finance Council

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact any of the members of the Finance Council: Fr. Joe Galang; Jeff Moe chairperson; Michele Chang, vice-chairperson; Marie Maraschin, secretary; members Marilyn Martin, Keegan Mendonca, and Arline Schoengold.

Income and Expenses – July through October 2011

Although our positive income variance has gotten smaller recently, we are still \$2,700 ahead of budget overall through the month of October. Expenses are below budget in virtually every category. Overall the actual expenses are \$140,000 compared with budgeted expenses of \$153,000 through October.

One More Reminder on the IRA Rollover Benefits Expiring on December 31, 2011, the special tax-code provision that allows donors to make a tax-free gift from their IRA account to not-for-profit organizations will expire. And, with the lawmakers in Washington focused on saving money wherever they can find it, the likelihood that this tax benefit will be extended is remote. This special tax break allows donors to make a direct distribution from their IRA account to a qualified charity such as Ascension Parish. Here are two of the primary provisions:

- You must be 70 1/2 years of age or older
You may give up to \$100,000 (married couples can give \$200,000)

Accent on Ascension is published bi-monthly by a committee of Ascension parishioners. Articles for the newsletter can be mailed or dropped off at the Ascension Parish Office, 12033 Miller Ave., Saratoga CA 95070, or e-mailed to ldm1276@sbcglobal.net. Deadline for submissions is the third Thursday of each odd-numbered month.

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Web site: www.churchoftheascension.net

Church of the Ascension Financial Statement

Fiscal Year

July 2010 - June 2011

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER/(UND)
INCOME			
Sunday Collections	\$ 361,642	\$ 357,000	\$ 4,642
Holy Days	\$ 64,961	\$ 61,100	\$ 3,861
Sacramental Stipends	\$ 10,900	\$ 5,200	\$ 5,700
Earnings Deposits & Facilities	\$ 18,141	\$ 16,800	\$ 1,341
Gifts/CCD/Other Income	\$ 7,878	\$ 7,134	\$ 744
ADA Rebate	\$ 5,262	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,762
Capital Campaign Rebate	\$ 9,655	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,655
Catechetical Ministry	\$ 9,088	\$ 13,100	\$ (4,012)
Other Parish Income	\$ 2,541	\$ 2,500	\$ 41
Total Income	\$ 490,068	\$ 470,334	\$ 19,734
EXPENSES			
Pastoral	\$ 72,239	\$ 71,181	\$ 1,058
Administration	\$ 114,689	\$ 113,341	\$ 1,348
Catechetical Ministry	\$ 74,355	\$ 78,685	\$ (4,330)
Liturgy	\$ 34,399	\$ 36,079	\$ (1,680)
Youth Ministry	\$ 875	\$ 1,000	\$ (125)
Parish Programs	\$ 13,851	\$ 14,527	\$ (676)
Rectory	\$ 27,400	\$ 27,308	\$ 92
Physical Plant	\$ 125,930	\$ 128,213	\$ (2,283)
Total Expense	\$ 463,738	\$ 470,334	\$ (6,596)

Comments:

- The parish parking lot was repaved & striped at a cost of \$47,809 which is not included above and a capital expenditure.

Finance Committee 2011-2012:

Fr. Joe Galang
Arline Schoengold, Chairperson
Michele A. Chang, Vice Chair
Jeff Moe

Keegan Mendonca
Marilyn Martin
Marie Maraschin



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Men's Club

Tom Roza

The Men's Club extends an invitation to all men to attend a meeting and be our guest for a great meal. Meet many of your fellow Ascension parishioners and our club officers for 2011: President Mauricio Martinez, Vice President Luis Mejia, Secretary Tom Roza, and Treasurer Don van Buren.

Our Members Are Great Chefs

The regular meeting was held at Worner Hall on Friday November 11, 2011.

The Head Chef was Jack Sutcliffe was ably assisted by: Mike Murray, Jim Scherffius, Greg Rose, and Ted Wyess. Jack and his team provided the Men's Club members with a south of the border Mexican faire consisting of Chicken Enchiladas, rice & beans, tortillas, avocados, sour cream and tossed salad. This wonderful meal was topped off with desert consisting of Vanilla and Strawberry swirl ice cream, berries, whipped cream and coffee. All in attendance expressed their appreciation to Jack and his team for a meal well prepared.



Pasta Dinner

The Men's Club's annual Pasta Dinner was held October 15 as part of the celebration of Columbus Day as well offering parishioners the opportunity to share a good time together. Approximately 210 guests were treated to a wonderful variety of appetizers, an open bar, and other refreshments. The main dinner consisted of several kinds of pasta prepared in various sauces. In addition, there were beef meatballs, sweet and hot Italian sausage, and Caesar salad with garlic bread. The meal was topped of with Italian Spumoni ice cream and cookies.

Spaghetti Dinner



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A night of wonderful entertainment was included in the festivities. The audience was entertained by several entertainment acts performed by members of the Ascension parish. Over 35 door prizes were given away during several drawings conducted during the event including a special gift of a gold dollar coin given to each of the children in attendance. The Men's Club extends a deep thank you to all those who attended.

Communion Memorial Mass:



The 10th Annual Men's Club Memorial Mass honoring past members and those wives that are deceased was held on Saturday November 12 at Ascension Church and Worner Hall. Father Joe Galang was the Celebrant. After the service, a reception including wonderfully prepared foods was held in Worner Hall.



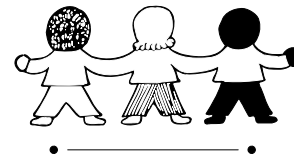
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Upcoming Events! Come Join Us

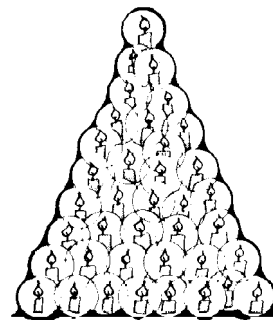


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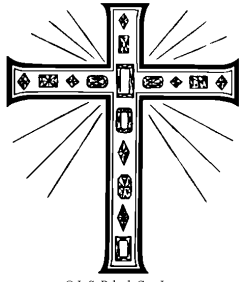
The next meeting of the Ascension Men's Club will be held on Friday December 9, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for plenty of good food and camaraderie. We welcome both Ascension parishioners and non-parishioners to become members of our great Men's Club.



The CONNECT Group would like you to participate in its Annual CONNECT Giving Tree. Gift requests that can be found on our Giving Tree are for Help One Child to provide gifts for foster children and the Catholic Charities Refugees Program. Stop by and select a gift or two as you are able. Please note that all gifts need to be returned by Sunday, December 10th.



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Advent wreath

Paul Turner



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An Advent wreath symbolizes our longing for the coming of Christ. The wreath is a circle of evergreen branches into which are set four candles. Traditionally three candles are violet and one is rose, but four violet or four white candles may also be used.

The wreath symbolizes many things. Evergreens signify God's enduring promise of redemption, evident like green branches in the midst of snow. The circle signifies our hope for the return of Christ, whose kingdom will have no end. The colors of the candles match the traditional colors of the vesture for the four Sundays of Advent. Violet garments signify our penitent hope for salvation. The rose color, which may be worn on Advent's Third Sunday, signals that the season is nearly over – joy is at hand!

The wreath's most luminous symbol is its growing light. One candle is lit on the First Sunday of Advent; two on the Second, three on the Third and all four on the Fourth. In the northern hemisphere, Advent comes at a time when the days decrease to their shortest length. As the hours of darkness increase, we light more candles on the wreath. The wreath, which symbolizes the coming of Christ, grows in intensity as the anniversary of Jesus' birth draws near.

The Advent wreath may be used at home or at church. It should be blessed on the First Sunday of Advent after the homily at Mass, at evening prayer Saturday night, or during a prayer service including biblical readings and Advent songs. At home, the wreath could be blessed by a family member and lit during the evening meal, to remind everyone of the true meaning of this holy season.

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Birth Date of Jesus

Paul Turner

The opening of the third millennium harmonized with the traditional date for the first Christmas. Without a doubt, the birth of Jesus is the most important event to celebrate in a new millennium. But there is plenty of doubt about when that birth took place.

There is no clear historical record of the date and year of Jesus' birth. Although two of the Gospels record incidents pertaining to the event, neither assigns a date.

Two main theories surround the choice of Dec. 25 to commemorate the nativity. The first theory looks to a third-century Roman pagan celebration coinciding with the winter solstice. As the days began to lengthen each year, Dec. 25 became a festival for the rebirth of the unconquered sun. Christians, who believed Christ was the real unconquered source of light, put his birth date on the same day.

The second theory looks to the passion of Jesus. -According to early conjectures, the actual day of Christ's passion fell on March 25 in the year Jesus died. Some Christians believed that Jesus died on the anniversary of his conception. For this reason, March 25 became also the celebration of the Annunciation. Looking forward nine months, the birth of Jesus was placed on Dec. 25.

The traditional year of Jesus' birth was fixed in the mid-sixth century by Dionysius Exiguus, a monk and scholar who set the calendar according to the system we now know as A.D. (*anno domini*, "in the year of the Lord"). However, Matthew and Luke both say Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great, which scholars now calculate from 37 to 4 B.C. Oddly then, Jesus was probably born "before Christ."

Although the actual birth date of Jesus cannot be known, he was born, and the millennium commemorates this birth by recognizing that all of time hinges on the life of Jesus.

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