Climbing the “Holy Mountain” in Kensington

A Youth Ministry visit to the Carmelite Monastery

“I have a fun fact for you!” one of the nuns piped up from behind the grille with a vibrant and slightly mischievous smile. “We have the oldest living founder of any order: Elijah! He never died – he went to heaven in a chariot.”

A few weeks ago, Megan and Father George took Youth Ministry to visit the Carmelite Monastery in Kensington. The “charism,” or spiritual focus, of the Carmelites is that of prayer and contemplation, which means the entirety of their lives – whether singing, working, eating, or recreating – is directed toward those ends.

The nuns were happy to share some of the history of the Order, their lives before “entering cloister,” and their daily routines, and in return to hear about the youth. The youth wanted to know why they’re called “Carmelites” (the name came from the holy Mount Carmel, where the aforementioned prophet Elijah retreated to pray), why they were separated from us by a grille (to help facilitate their focus on prayer and symbolize their being “set apart” for Jesus), and what they did for fun (we were rewarded with a few entertaining musical routines in response to that question!).

Mother Sylvia Gemma, the mother superior of the Carmel of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, invited our youth to see the carmel and learn more about the order after hearing that every week at Youth Group, without fail, our youth make sure the nuns and their intentions are prayed for. For more information (and a couple more “fun facts”!) about the Carmelites, visit www.oakdiocese.org/Carmelites.
**Baptismal Classes**

If you have a child under the age of 5 years old who needs to be baptized please be aware that our next cycle of baptismal classes for parents will start at the end of May. This cycle includes two parent classes and a rite of welcome which all take place within one week. Classes are held on the Tuesday evenings at 7p in the conference room. The first class is scheduled for May 30th. If interested in registering contact Tony Millette at 254.2426 x303.

**Pentecost**

On June 3rd and 4th we ask that you wear red, orange or yellow to Mass that weekend to celebrate PENTECOST the birthday of the Church.

**Reflecting on the Gospel**

*Liturgy of the Hours: Week II of the Psalter*

Jesus’ commandments entail much more than doing this or avoiding that. We keep Jesus’ commandments by living his way of life—a life characterized by deep care for others. His commandments are to love as he loved, believe as he believed, live as he lived. His commandments are the most self-engaging and challenging of all! How comforting, then, when Jesus says, “I will not leave you orphans.” No, we are not orphans: the risen Jesus comes to us. How? In “the Spirit of truth.”

—Living Liturgy™, Sixth Sunday of Easter 2017

**Weekly Food Collection**

1st/2nd Weekends: St. Cornelius School (fruit cups, crackers, granola bars, juice, water, chips, Cup-O-Noodles, macaroni and cheese, sugar, rice, beans, cereal, and cooking oil)

3rd/4th Weekends: St. Peter Martyr Church Pantry (canned meats like Vienna sausage, chicken, and tuna, cereal, canned vegetables, and canned fruit)

All items can be put in the barrel in the Narthex.

**A Friendly Place**

Please remember to bring items for A Friendly Place, a daytime shelter for homeless women in Oakland. Needed are: socks, antacids, cold remedies, bingo prizes, small bottles of shampoo, conditioner and deodorant. Place them in the outreach closet to the left as you enter the church.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, May 22**

8am: Mother’s Day Novena

**Tuesday, May 23**

8am: Richard Vincent (D)

**Wednesday, May 24**

8am: Susana Abinsay (D)

**Thursday, May 25**

8am: Msgr. Ted Kraus (D)

**Friday, May 26**

8am: John the Baptist Nguyen (D)

**Saturday, May 27**

5pm (Vigil): Jules Ong (D)

**Sunday, May 28**

8:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria

10:30am: David Hill (D)

5pm: Jenna Bockmiller (D)

*L* = Living; *D* = Deceased

To request a Mass Intention, please contact Linda in the Parish Office at x301 or at lzunino@smparish.org.
Are you new to Santa Maria?

We’re glad you’re here!

The Church of Santa Maria is a vibrant community of faith who believes and professes the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the living tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. We provide the Sacraments and Sacramental preparation, pastoral care, opportunities for social outreach, and faith formation for all ages of the Catholic Community of Orinda, CA.

Our mission is that of our Diocese of Oakland: To know Christ better and to make Him better known.

Thank you for joining us this weekend for your worship! If you’re not yet registered in the parish, please cut out and return the portion below to the collection basket or to the Parish Office, and we’ll mail you a registration form!

See you next week!

PEOPLE OF HOPE

Throughout this Easter season the readings have drawn us into the experience of the early church. We have tasted the excitement and zeal of the first Christians. Now, with them, we listen to the words of Saint Peter, who reminds us that when people notice that we are people of hope, we should be ready to explain why. This challenges us. Do others even notice that we are people of hope? In a world often marked by cynicism and hopelessness, do we stand out as people who offer hope and reassurance to others?

In today’s Gospel Jesus promises that when he leaves the earth he will not leave us orphaned. Today he promises to send his Advocate, the Spirit of truth who will be with us always.

Let us acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit and ask the Spirit to make us people of hope.

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WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

We encourage you to register in the parish so that you can receive regular communication via both email and regular mail. Please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket, and we will mail you a Parish Registration Form!

Name

Address

Phone Email

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Pasta Dinner at San Damiano

Join San Damiano Retreat Center for their monthly Pasta Dinner Night. On Sunday, Mat 21st, 4:30pm—6:30pm at San Damiano Retreat Center, 710 Highland Dr., Danville.

The menu includes Spaghetti (meat and vegetarian sauces available), salad, garlic and French bread, dessert and a beverage. Adults are $15 and children 12 and under are $10. Register at SanDamiano.org. For more information contact Kateri Kautai (925) 837-9141, ext. 315 or katerik@sandamiano.org.

Deacon Steve Greco Returns to St. Michael’s for Two Nights of Praise and Worship, Inspiring Talks and Healing Services

Back by popular demand, Deacon Steve returns to St. Michael’s for a two night seminar and healing service series on June 5 and 6 at 6:30pm followed by an 8:00pm Healing Service. St. Michael’s Parish is at 458 Maple Street, Livermore. Come one night or come for both!

For more information contact StMichaelLivermore.com.

California Academy of Sciences Trip

Orinda Parks & Rec will have a trip for seniors to California Academy of Sciences on June 1, 2017, 9:00-4:00pm. Cost is $95 (Orinda Resident) and $113 for non-Residents. The trip includes lunch at the café of California Academy. If interested, please register online at OrindaParksRec@cityoforinda.org. Please use barcode 22900. For more information contact Orinda Parks & Recreation at (925) 254-2445.
PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Sick
Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoai Aryan, Jeffrey Baus, Harlon Berg, Maria Carmen, Delores Codde, Tom Crosby, Deacon Maurice Custodio, Lorna Elliott, Michael Elliott, Nora Enriquez, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Brian Kelly, Mason Kelly, Aileen Kelly, Jerry Kirk, Lawrence Knapp, Carol Koups, Jane Kramer, Yal Liu, Rose Mary McPhee, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Pierre Schreyer, Bob Singer, John Wheeler, and Margaret Wiegand

For the Deceased

PASTORAL TEAM
Reverend George Mockel
Pastor
gmockel@smparish.org

Reverend Joseph Duong Nguyen
Priest in Residence

Reverend Vien Nguyen
Sacramental Assistance

Deacon Maurice Custodio
(Retired)
smoffice@smparish.org x301

Deacon Rey Encarnacion
dcn.rey@smparish.org x310

Deacon James Pearce
dcnpearce@smparish.org x301

Linda Zunino
Administrative Assistant
lzunino@smparish.org x301

Tony Millette
Liturgy and Music
tmillette@smparish.org x303

Sister Theresa Lan Do, LHC
Faith Formation (Grades K-5)
sistertd@smparish.org x306

Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12) and CYO Parish Liaison
megan@smparish.org x308

Sister Pauline Hoang, LHC
Pastoral Care of the Sick
sisterpauline@smparish.org x309

Sister Magdalena Duong, LHC
Bookkeeper
sistermagdalena@smparish.org x302

TREASURE

May 14, 2017 Actual

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Catholic Charities $3,442.48

Upcoming Collections:
05/28/17 Catholic Communications
06/04/17 Faith Formation

Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:
Joan O’Brien after the 8:30am Mass
Maria Nunez after the 10:30am Mass

Thank you for your generosity!

Week-At-A-Glance

Monday, May 22
Parish Staff Meeting (10:30am, Parish Office)
Buildings Committee Mtg. (7:00pm, Parish Office)

Wednesday, May 24
Middle School Youth Ministry (7:00pm, Youth Room) Last Mtg.
RCIA (7:00pm, Library)

Saturday, May 27
Communion Service (8:00am, Chapel)
Minister of the Word Practice (9:00am, Church)
Sacrament of Reconciliation (4:00pm, Church)

For a fuller version of the Parish Calendar, please visit the website at www.SamtaMariaOrinda.com and click on the “Events Calendar” at the top of the page.
candidate and sponsor twilight retreat and rehearsal dinner
in preparation for the sacrament of confirmation

JUNE 3, 2017

Our 20 Confirmation candidates and their sponsors will be gathering next weekend to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation which we’ll celebrate on Sunday, June 4.

Keep them in your prayers as they study the readings, learn about the symbols of the rite, reflect on what they bring to and receive from the Mass, and spend quality time together.

Interested in the Confirmation Program here at the Church of Santa Maria? Contact Megan Arteaga in the Parish Office.