Confirmation season is upon us!

Reflections from Father George

As most of you know, in addition to being your pastor, I am also the Vicar General of the Diocese. I’m often asked, “What does the Vicar General do?” Depending on my frame of mind when asked, I either say: “Whatever the Bishop tells me to do,” or “Whatever the Bishop doesn’t want to do.” Actually, the three bishops I have been honored to serve as Vicar General (Bishops Vigneron, Cordileone, and Barber) have placed more trust and confidence in my advice than I ever earned or deserved.

Among some of the pleasant tasks I have is the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation in parishes throughout the Diocese. It gives me a wonderful opportunity to engage a diverse group of young people. The “secret” to successful programs is first of all support from parents who practice the faith themselves; then there is the pastor’s encouragement, involvement, and support; and finally it is a good program with good leaders. Add the Holy Spirit to the mix, and the Sacrament is life-changing for the young people, and the Confirmation ceremony becomes a truly spiritual, uplifting, and engaging act of worship.

During these days that we call the “Easter season,” the liturgy gives particular prominence to the Holy Spirit and his action in the Church. The very first reading after Easter is Peter preaching on the day of Pentecost. While the Resurrection is the central event of our faith, its significance and implication only becomes meaningful because of Pentecost. Pray to the Holy Spirit for these young people, that they will be responsive to the Spirit’s prompting.
**PARISH LIFE**

**Full steam ahead with our new parish website**

For the past couple of months, our Pastoral Team has been developing a new parish website that’s easier to navigate, has a simpler and more attractive design, and is more compatible with the browsers and mobile devices we use nowadays.

You don’t need to do anything differently than usual - if you visit our webpage (www.santamariaorinda.com), our new site will simply show up for you! Make sure you check back often as we continue to add new pages and information.

**Starting the summer with some color**

You might have noticed our extraordinarily colored sections of our bulletin this weekend – we’re continuing our endeavors to make our bulletin even easier to read! We began with a revamp of the format a few months ago, including a newly designed front page with beautiful photos of our parish and community activities.

Now after renewing our contract with J.S. Paluch to include a full-color interior, we’ll be able to highlight and draw your attention to things going on in our parish programs like Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, upcoming events hosted by organizations like the Women’s Guild and the Knights of Columbus, and donations requested by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Cornelius – among other things!

We hope these improvements will all make our bulletin easier and more enjoyable for you to read!

**Pentecost**

Next weekend, June 3rd and 4th, is the birthday of the Church.

**Come celebrate!**

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**BLESSED ADORATION**

As the Summertime approaches we would like to remind you that we do not have Adoration in the Convent Chapel on Tuesday afternoon during the months of June through August. Adoration will return in September.

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**Reflecting on the Gospel**

Liturgy of the Hours:
Week III of the Psalter

This gospel is ultimately about the mutual giving between Jesus and the Father, and our being called into the same Life of mutual self-giving, into their Life of glory. We are to give ourselves to God and one another in love and service. In this is God’s glory and ours. God is glorified by Jesus’ work of salvation. Jesus is glorified by those who hear and accept his words, believe in him, and continue his saving mission. By our glorifying Jesus, God glorifies us and gives us “eternal life.”

-Living Liturgy™, Seventh Sunday of Easter 2017

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, May 29**
8am: John the Baptist Nguyen (D)

**Tuesday, May 30**
8am: Catarina Nguyen (D)

**Wednesday, May 31**
8am: Anna Barthelemic Tran (D)

**Thursday, June 1**
8am: Maria Men Do (D)

**Friday, June 2**
8am: Joseph Nguyen Pham (D)

**Saturday, June 3**
5pm (Vigil): Jules Ong (D)

**Sunday, June 4**
8:30am: Sonia Krezanoski (D)
10:30am: For Confrimandi
5pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria

L = Living; D = Deceased
To request a Mass Intention, please contact Linda in the Parish Office at x301 or at lzunino@smparish.org.
OUTREACH

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.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

East Bay Presentation Reunion Party
All friends of the Sisters of the Presentation and all alumnae of their schools are invited to an East Bay Presentation Reunion Party. The party will be from 1:00 to 3:00pm on Sunday, June 11th at University Terrace, Building 9, site of the former Presentation High School, 2116 Jefferson Avenue, Berkeley, indoors on the ground floor facing the grotto side. The event will be catered. Alumnae and friends, come and share your school memories and make some new ones!

Are you new to Santa Maria?

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

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!

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
**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

**PRAYER INTENTIONS**

For the Sick
Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann,  
Shoaib 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  
Koupus, 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
Jack Leutza

**TREASURE**

May 21, 2017 Actual

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

Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:
Barbara & Jim Sweetser after the  
8:30am Mass  
Jessica Fairbourn after the 10:30am  
Mass

Thank you for your generosity!

**Week-At-A-Glance**

**Monday, May 29**  
Memorial Day—Office Closed

**Saturday, June 3**  
Communion Service  
(8:00am, Chapel)  
Minister of the Word Practice  
(9:00am, Church)  
Sacrament of Reconciliation  
(4:00pm, Church)

**Sunday, June 4**  
Pentecost  
Confirmation  
(10:30am, Church)

**SHARE THE HOPE**

The readings for today’s celebration of the Ascension of the Lord once again remind us that as Christians we are people of hope. In the second reading Saint Paul eloquently exhorts the Ephesians to enlighten their hearts so that they will know the hope and glory that come from being people who place their trust in the Lord Jesus. In the story of the Ascension, recounted in the first reading, the Lord Jesus assures the disciples that the Holy Spirit’s power will come upon them. Finally, in the Gospel, the Lord lets the disciples know that their mission is to spread the hope of the gospel to all the nations. This wonderful feast keeps our eyes focused on the hope in which we were grounded on the day of our baptism.

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The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated Sunday, June 4 at the 10:30am Mass for twenty of our young people. Keep them in your prayers as they continue in this final week of preparation for the sacrament.