A successful Bishop’s Appeal

An update and thanks from Mark Roberts, our parish Bishop’s Appeal Coordinator

We are called by Christ to take care of the needs of our sisters and brothers. I am very proud to be a member of a parish community that takes that calling to heart and responds generously.

As is Santa Maria’s tradition, we have again responded very generously to the Bishop’s Appeal, to the extent that we exceeded the 2017 goal – approximately $33,000 – by almost 40%! Father George and I extend our heartfelt THANKS to all parishioners who participated by sharing their gifts with our fellow members of the Diocese of Oakland.

Much of our support helped parochial schools and students in communities like Oakland, Berkeley and Richmond. We also aided needy parishes, many in East Contra Costa County. We assisted religious education and faith formation efforts, and we supported seminarians and retired clergy.

But a significant portion of our support benefited CYO athletics, which is very active right here at Santa Maria. In other words, we provided vital support to people, programs and services throughout our two-county diocese. We made a difference in thousands of lives. We took care of our sisters and brothers.

There is only one further request I would make: Next year, when Bishop Barber again asks for our help, I hope that even more members of our parish community will respond by sharing their gifts. I am confident that we can and will respond with even greater compassion and generosity!
PARISH LIFE

RCIA
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is a journey of faith for those inquiring about becoming a Catholic and those who were baptized in the Catholic church but have not celebrated the sacraments of confirmation and/or Eucharist. This process recognizes that all who join us have already experienced God in their lives and are now searching for a community in which they can join in worship of God and learn more about their faith.

Maybe you have been searching. Maybe you know someone who is. Come October we will begin a journey of discovering who God is, who we are as church and as a people of faith.

Come and see!

Contact the parish office at 925.254.2426 x303

Faith Formation (K-Fifth)

We have been accepting 2017-2018 faith formation (K-Grade 5) registrations!

You can get the Registration Package at the Church in the Narthex, at the parish office, or on the parish Website http://santamariaorinda.com/faith-formation-registration

Once completed, please mail it to Santa Maria Parish, 40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda, CA 94563, or drop it off at parish office before August 31, 2017.

Save the dates:
Parent Orientation: Sunday, September 17 at 9:15am in the conference room of the school.
First Day of Faith Formation: Monday, September 25.

Summer Projects

Our summer improvement projects continue. The exterior painting of the church is complete, and we have received a number of compliments about the new look. You have probably noticed that we have begun terracing the hill on the west side of the church. That will take several weeks as it is very labor-intensive. Once it is landscaped, it will surely enhance the grounds surrounding the church. New LED lights have been installed in the parking lot below the church. The one remaining big project is new drain gutters on the rectory and the school. This project will begin in late September. Thank you for your patience with the messiness that comes with these projects!

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, July 31
8am: Int: Mary Divine Mercy

Tuesday, August 1
8am: Brian Cummings (D)

Wednesday, August 2
8am: Jack Schieble (D)

Thursday, August 3
8am: Jack Schieble (D)

Friday, August 4
8am: Msgr. Ted Kraus (D)

Saturday, August 5
5pm (Vigil): Jack Leutza (D)

Sunday, August 6
8:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria
10:30am: Int: Eve Paludan
5pm: Alexander Nemeth (D)

L = Living; D = Deceased

To request a Mass Intention, please contact Linda in the Parish Office at x301 or at izavino@smparish.org.
The Sunday Collection

One of the most ancient customs of the Church is that of the people providing the bread and wine for the Eucharist; and over time the inclusion of monetary offerings for the operation of the local parish and the poor.

At our 5p vigil, 10:30a and 5p Sunday liturgies, baskets are passed through the pews for the collection. Ushers bring the baskets to the front and middle pews to begin this collection but it is the assembly that facilitates their offering to the church by placing their financial gift in the basket and then passing it from one to another. It is OK to stand and hand it to the person down the pew or behind you; because it is the offering of the gathered assembly and the engagement with your sisters and brothers in prayer, which ritualizes that all members of the assembly take place in this sharing and offering of gifts.

Prayer Network

The Prayer Network is a small group of people who pray daily for the special and most urgent needs of others. If you or anyone you know is in need of special prayer, please contact Margaret Govednik at 254-1934 or mwgovednik@comcast.net or Kathy Brady at kathy.brady@gmail.com and we will include your prayer request in our daily devotions. All prayer requests are confidential.

Bulletin Articles

If you would like to submit an article for the weekly bulletin, we ask that you have the article into the parish office on Friday at 9:00am the week before you wish it to be in the bulletin. Thank you for your help!
PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Sick
Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoub Aryan, Jeffery 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, Mary Lou Mackintosh, Rose Mary McPhee, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Fr. Tim Ryan, Pierre Schreyer, Bob Singer, John Wheeler, and Margaret Wiegand

For the Deceased
Leonard Banda (husband of Mary Passeri)

TREASURE

July 23, 2017 Actual
Plate $5,764.70
EFT $1,108.10
Credit $1,596.48
Total $8,469.28
Goal $10,350.00
Deficit ($1,880.72)

Upcoming Collections:
08/06/17 Faith Formation
08/20/17 Mission Co-op

Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:
Bobbie Richards & Bob Semar after the 8:30am Mass
Steve & Rosana Kim after the 10:30am Mass
Thank you for your generosity!

Week-At-A-Glance

Monday, July 31
Liturgy Team Meeting
(7:00pm, Library)

Tuesday, August 1
Infant Baptism #2 of 2
(7:00pm, Conf Room)

Saturday, August 5
Communion Service
(8:00am, Chapel)
Minister of the Word Practice
Sacrament of Reconciliation
(4:00pm, Church)

Reflecting On The Gospel

Liturgy of the Hours:
Week I of the Psalter

What “the kingdom of heaven is like” is not just a treasure, pearl, or fish net. What the “kingdom of heaven” is really like is the action-response of a person who finds a treasure, a merchant who buys a prized pearl, or a fisherman who sorts the fish he catches. The “kingdom of heaven” is present in searching for, sacrificing for, and sorting for our greatest Treasure—God’s very Life. We must “sell” all that we are—empty ourselves—so the Life God gives us freely and lavishly is ours forever.

-Living Liturgy™,
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2017

This Week’s Readings

First Reading:
(1 Kings 3:5, 7-12)

Psalm:
Psalm 119:57, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

Second Reading:
(Romans 8:28-30)

Gospel:
(Matthew 13:44-52)
SVdP is collecting Back to School supplies!

*Check parish website for list of supplies needed!*

St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County is collecting **new backpacks and school supplies for 250 children** to be distributed at our **Back to School Open House** on Saturday, August 12th.

Backpacks and school supplies must be brought to the Outreach Closet by Friday, August 4!

To **donate supplies** and to **schedule donation drop-offs**, contact Muna at mtexier@svdp-alameda.org or call 510-719-0774.

To **donate online** go to [www.svdp-alameda.org/donate](http://www.svdp-alameda.org/donate) or **mail your check** to St. Vincent de Paul-Alameda County, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, CA 94612.

*Please designate your gift to Back-to-School 2017.*