"No one ever asked me."

Father George challenges us to carry out our Christian mission with a simple invitation

We have all had those moments or experiences that are so embedded in our consciousness that we will never forget them. I have had a few. One of them was a conversation I had with a gentleman who was probably in his 60s who I met at a social occasion. He was not Catholic; however, he told me how much he admired the Catholic Church. He was a student of history with an emphasis on the Second World War. His knowledge of the actions and behind-the-scenes activities of Pius XII to save people from the Nazi concentration camps was interesting, and much of it I had never heard before. I asked him if he had ever considered becoming a Catholic. He said, "No." Then he added, "No one ever asked me." It hit me between the eyes—it had never dawned on me to ask him, either.

I suspect that just about everyone knows someone like that, someone who may have an inclination or an historical interest in the faith, but for whatever reasons has never followed through on the inclination. It could be as simple as the fact that they were never asked. What a shame! Jesus gave all of us a mission to share the faith. RCIA begins soon (September 19). Is there not at least one person in your life who you could invite? Maybe you could even accompany them to the first session or two?

Don't let the lack of an invitation on your part hold someone back from following their inclination to learn more about our faith. Take this opportunity to call them by name, and asking them to come and see what Jesus has to offer.
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Weekly Adoration will resume next Tuesday, September 5th. Deacon Ray Encarnacion will preside at the Adoration. All are invited to come to the Convent Chapel from 12:00 Noon until 3:00pm for communal as well as private prayer.

Knights of Columbus First Annual Charity Golf Tournament
Join us for an afternoon of fun on Monday, September 25, 2017 at the Moraga Country Club, 1600 Andrews Drive, Moraga. The tournament will benefit the Bay Area Crisis Nursery (www.bacn.org). Tee-off time is 12:00 Noon; check in is at 10:30am. The fee is $200 per player and we ask that you pre-register.

To register, contact Dean Akazawa at dean.akazawa@gmail.com.

Youth Band
Our Youth Mass will begin again on October 1st at the Sunday 5:00pm Mass. Our Youth Band will accompany the music at this Mass. If you play an instrument and are interested in joining them or have questions, please contact Tony Millette at tmillette@smparish.org.

Registration Forms for Faith Formation and Confirmation
Forms for K-5 Faith Formation and Youth Ministry/Confirmation are available either on our website www.santamariaorinda.com or in the parish office.

If you have questions please contact Sr. Theresa at sistertd@smparish.org or Megan Arteaga at megan@smparish.org.

Program registration for Youth Ministry is now $225 and registration for Confirmation is now $350.

Sr. Theresa is also in need of more catechists and aides for the K-5 grade classes. If you are interested, please contact Sr. Theresa at sistertd@smparish.org.

Children's Choir
We will begin Children's Choir rehearsals on October 2nd at 3:30pm in classroom 1. If your child is interested in participating, please contact Tony Millette at (925) 254-2426, ext 303 or email him at tmillette@smparish.org.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 4</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>James Hinkamp (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 5</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Jolene Jung (D)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Wednesday, September 6</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Peace</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 7</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Clinton Bond (D)</td>
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<td>Friday, September 8</td>
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<td>Ashley Brooke Post (D)</td>
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<td>Saturday, September 9</td>
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<td>Marina Lopina (D)</td>
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<td>Sunday, September 10</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Tom O'Brien (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Nancy McGhee (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5pm</td>
<td>Parishioners of Santa Maria</td>
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</table>

L = Living; D = Deceased
To request a Mass Intention, please contact Linda in the Parish Office at x301 or at lsvinno@smparish.org.
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. We have three people already interested who would like to inquire about the Catholic faith. On September 19th at 7:00pm they 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

Wine Tasting at Santa Maria

Come join us!

The parish will again have a wine tasting of Bishop’s Vineyard wines on Saturday, September 30, 6:15pm-8:00pm in the Santa Maria Plaza. If you haven’t tasted their wines, you are in for a treat!

We ask you to support the Santa Maria Music Ministry and Catholic Education.

Tickets are $25 per person or $30 at the door. You must be 21 years of age or older to purchase a ticket; IDs will be checked at the door.

Tickets will go on sale this weekend after all the Masses in the front of the church.

Diocesan Priest Retirement Collection

On this Labor Day weekend, let’s remember our retired priests. Although they are officially retired, some of the 57 priests in that category are still “laboring in the vineyard” as chaplains, pastor emeriti, spiritual directors and more.

Next weekend, September 10 we will have the opportunity to contribute to the Diocesan Priest Retirement Benefit Trust. Prayerfully consider how you can match their generosity to the Church.

Healthcare Professions Mass

We encourage all who provide healthcare services, direct and administrative, to attend a multicultural Mass at The Cathedral of Christ the Light on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at 10:00am. The celebrant will be Bishop Michael Barber, S.J. The Cathedral is located at 2121 Harrison Street, Oakland. We wish to celebrate your energy, dedication & generosity, so please come.

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!

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!

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<tr>
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**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
dcnpeacre@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 Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC
Pastoral Care of the Sick
925-254-2426 x309

Sister Magdalena Duong, LHC
Bookkeeper
sistermagdalena@smparish.org x304

**Prayer Intentions**

For the Sick

For the Deceased

**Treasure**

**August 27, 2017 Actual**

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</table>

**Upcoming Collections:**

09/10/17  Diocesan Priest Retirement
10/01/17  Faith Formation

**Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:**

Susanna & Frank MacDonald after the 8:30am Mass
Jim & Jackie Bava after the 10:30am Mass

**Week-At-A-Glance**

Monday, September 4
(Labor Day, Office Closed)

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

**Reflecting on the Gospel**

Liturgy of the Hours:

Week II of the Psalter

"Who wouldn’t recoil, like Peter, when Jesus says that he would “suffer greatly ...and be killed.” Jesus’ curt command to Peter—“Get behind me, Satan!”—points to the crux of the challenge: we are to think like God, not like humans. In God’s saving plan, we must lose our life for Jesus’ sake—only in this way can we share in Jesus’ risen Life. No human instinctively understands or naively embraces this. God’s love alone reveals this mystery and strengthens us as we surrender ourselves to it.

—Living Liturgy™, Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 2017

**This Week’s Readings**

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Psalm:
Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Second Reading:
Romans 12: 1-2

Gospel:
Matthew 16:21-27
On Fire
NorCal Jam 2017

Featuring / Participación Estelar De:

Sarah Hart
Jesse Manibusan
Steve Angrisano
Joe Melendrez

Cece, Jay and The Holy Fire Choir
Cecilia Flores
Fr. Joseph Espaillat

Six Flags
Discovery Kingdom

Saturday, September 16, 2017
9AM-9PM

For tickets and info visit
www.OnFireNorCal.com

Co-sponsored by / Co-patrocinado por:
The Roman Catholic Dioceses of Fresno, Monterey, Oakland, Reno, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, Stockton, and the Archdiocese of San Francisco.