Happy New Year! Wait, what?

Getting into the season of Advent

That headline isn't a typo or a calendaring mishap! The New Year in the Church begins with the season of Advent — a time to help us prepare for Christmas, when we celebrate the fulfillment of our longing for the Savior with the birth of Jesus. It’s a season that lasts about four weeks, beginning four Sundays before Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve. (It’s followed up with the liturgical Christmas season which ends with the Baptism of Christ and includes the famous “12 days of Christmas.”)

During Advent, we observe a season of prayer and reflection, preparation and anticipation, hope and joy. Each Sunday during Advent, we light a candle on the Advent wreath, which is a visible and prayerful sign to remind us of the time of preparation for Jesus’ birth.

There are a few ways you can get more deeply involved in the Advent season:

- Make an Advent Wreath on Sunday, December 3 following the 8:30am and 10:30am Masses in the Parish Hall. Light the candles and say the prayers with your family at home during the Advents season.

- Join us for the Advent Communal Reconciliation service on Wednesday, December 6 at 7:30pm in the Church. Reflect on the readings and where we’ve fallen short of fully inviting God into our lives.

- Sign up for a daily “email retreat,” like Loyola Press’s Sacred Advent Retreat. Receive a daily email prayer break with a Scripture reading and related points of reflection.

Together we await the birth of the Savior. May your faith be refreshed as you keep yourself open to God's love during this holy season of Advent!
PARISH LIFE

Advent Reconciliation

Please mark your calendars for December 6th at 7:30pm in the church as we will hold our Advent Reconciliation for the parish. Following the service we will have a reception in the parish hall hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

Safe Environment Training

In light of our recent stewardship enrollment there may be some who are wondering how to begin their safe environment training.

You will need to go online to the Diocese of Oakland website, www.oakdiocese.org and look for the box with the word Virtus Online. Then you will need to register for the course so click on registration and follow the directions.

Helping Families in Pittsburg

For more than a decade our Santa Maria parishioners have been generously helping families at Pittsburg’s St. Peter Martyr parish have a special Christmas dinner on their tables. Providing a food box is a very Christian way to help families who may be struggling to make ends meet, especially at this time of year. If you would like to help, we ask that you pick up a box this weekend from the Knights of Columbus outside the church and fill it with things that will brighten someone’s Christmas dinner table. Please bring your filled food box back to Santa Maria on Sunday, December 17th by 11:45am to the lower parking lot.

Family Advent Wreath Workshop

We will have our annual Family Advent Wreath Workshop on December 3rd in the Parish Hall after the 8:30 & 10:30am Masses. Come and enjoy the fun and create a beautiful Advent Wreath for your family. Materials will be provided but a small donation would be appreciated. Questions, contact Sr. Theresa at (925) 254-2426, ext 306 or sistertd@smparish.org.

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious support more than 32,000 senior religious and their communities. Most older sisters, brothers, and religious order priests worked for small stipends, leaving a large deficit in retirement funding. The second collection on December 10 will be earmarked for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your support will help communities address funding challenges so they can care for elder members while continuing important ministries to the People of God. Please give generously to this collection.

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.

Thank you for your continued help!

(Continued on page 3)

MASS INTENTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, December 4</th>
<th>Thursday, December 7</th>
<th>Sunday, December 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8am: Charles &amp; Florence Wheeler (d)</td>
<td>8am: Maria Bay Tran (d)</td>
<td>8:30am: J.O. Kirby (d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 5</td>
<td>Friday, December 8</td>
<td>10:20am: Int: Joanna Stamatoula Schmoll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8am: Patricia Olcomendy (d)</td>
<td>8am: Ida Marie Crosgrove (d)</td>
<td>5pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 6</td>
<td>7:30pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8am: Holy Souls in Purgatory</td>
<td></td>
<td>5pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

L = Living; D = Deceased
AROUND THE DIOCESE

During this Season of Thanksgiving we at Catholic Charities of the East Bay want to thank you for your partnership. As a parish, you have graciously received two refugee families, providing them with a welcome and orientation to their new country so they can regain control over their lives and move forward more successfully. You have shared the hospitality that makes Jesus' compassion present in our communities. Most recently, you have donated $2,700.00 to support the opening of Claire's House. Claire's House will be a first of its kind: a home for teen girls who have survived sex trafficking. Claire's House will provide a loving environment that will bring hope and healing to their lives. This is the work Christ calls us to undertake as his followers. We are grateful for your partnership.

Thank you,
Steve Mullin
Director of Engagement
Catholic Charities of the East Bay

ALSO FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES:

From Sr. Elisabeth Lang, Director of Resettlement

"Hello Fr. Mockel,

I just want to let you know that you are greatly appreciated for your kindness and generosity to provide assistance to some of the refugee families. They are the lucky ones who will benefit from the team of Santa Maria Parish and parishioners.

Thank you so much. May God repay you for all you have done and welcome to strangers in our midst. It was great seeing you at Oakland airport waiting for the arrival of the family.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!"

Sr. Elisabeth

Diablo Choral Artists
Christmas Concert

On December 3, 4:00pm at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, Walnut Creek the Diablo Choral Artists will present a Christmas Concert including Carols and Lullabies and a carol sing-along.

There will be a reception after the concert & a drawing for a gift basket.

Details and ticket purchase on website: www.dcachorus.org or you may call 925-680-7089. You may also email info@dcachorus.org.

Pope Francis on Twitter

Other people are gifts to be received with respect, especially if they are weak and frail, because Christ comes to meet us in them.

August 5, 2017

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!

Name

Address

Phone    Email
**Pastoral Team**

Reverend George Mockel  
Pastor  
gmockel@smparish.org

Reverend Joseph Duong Nguyen  
Priest in Residence

Reverend Michael Amabisco, OP  
Sacramental Assistance

deacon ray encarnacion  
den.rey@smparish.org x310

Deacon James Pearce  
denpearce@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  
sisterpauline@smparish.org x309

Sister Magdalena Duong, LHC  
Bookkeeper  
sistermagdalena@smparish.org x305

**Prayer Intentions**

*For the Sick*

Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann,  
Shoaib Aryan, Jeffrey Baus, Br.  
Dominic Berardelli, FSC, Harlon  
Berg, Maria Carmen, Delores Codde,  
Tom Crosby, Lorna Elliott, Michael  
Elliott, Nora Enriquez, Emidio  
Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox,  
Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham,  
Phyllis Hassan, Brian Kelly, Mason  
Kelly, Aileen Kelly, Jerry Kirk,  
Lawrence Knapp, Carol Koupus, Yal  
Liu, Mary Lou Mackintosh, Rose  
Mary McPhee, Mike Murphy,  
Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz,  
Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Pierre  
Schreyer, Bob Singer, Charlene  
Smith, and John Wheeler

*For the Deceased*

Jack Bevis  
Angie Reymander  
Lillian Conrad

**Treasure**

**November 19, 2017 Actual**

Plate: $5,483.00  
Human Development Collection $2,229.92

**November 26, 2017 Actual**

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Thanksgiving $1,394.00

**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, December 4**

Faith Formation Classes  
(2:30pm, Church/Classroom)

Children’s Choir  
(3:30pm, Room #1)

Faith Formation Classes  
(4:00pm, Church/Classroom)

**Tuesday, December 5**

Social Justice Mtg  
(4:00pm, Library)

RCIA  
(7:00pm, Library)

**Wednesday, December 6**

Orrinda Convalescent Hospital  
(11:00am, Mass)

Middle School Youth Ministry  
(7:00pm, Youth Room)

Advent Communal Reconciliation  
(7:30pm, Church)

**Thursday, December 7**

Reymander/Conrad Funeral  
(10:00am, Church)

RCIA Book Group  
(7:00pm, Library)

Adult Choir Practice  
(7:30pm, Church)

**Friday, December 8**

Immaculate Conception  
(8:00am & 7:30pm, Church)

**Saturday, December 9**

Communion Service  
(8:00am, Chapel)

Minister of the Word Practice  
(9:00am, Church)

Sacrament of Reconciliation  
(4:00pm, Church)

**Sunday, November 20**

Children’s Liturgy of the Word  
(During the 10:30am Mass, Church)

C2 Session  
(3:00pm, Youth Room)

C1 Session  
(5:00pm, Youth Room)
WE ARE ALL SINNERS.
LET US BE TRANSFORMED BY GOD’S MERCY.

-POPE FRANCIS

Join us this Advent as we prepare ourselves to be transformed by the coming of Christ:

Advent Communal Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, December 6
7:30pm in the Church