Giving thanks to our volunteers and to God

An enjoyable evening with parishioners at the 2017 Stewardship Appreciation Dinner

Each year during our parish stewardship drive, parishioners are invited to take an honest stock of what we have and examine how we can give our time, talent, and treasure back to God by giving to our parish community – and an important part of taking stock of what we have is giving thanks for it!

A few weeks ago, Father George and the Pastoral Team hosted the Stewardship Appreciation Dinner in the Parish Hall to thank parishioners who minister at Santa Maria in so many varied ways. The atmosphere was lively as we gathered, greeted each other, prayed together – and of course, ate and drank together (the BBQ dinner was a hit again, as always!). There's something special about a gathering of so many dedicated people who obviously love what they do, who they minister to, and who they serve with, and it's fun to see the staff tending the bar or serving dinners.

We also had a chance to thank in a special way Father Vien Nguyen, who successfully presented and defended his doctoral dissertation at the Jesuit School of Theology and who is back in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with his community. For the past few years, Father Vien has celebrated the Sacraments and more with our community, whether presiding at weekend Masses or celebrating weddings and funerals.

Thank you again to all who came – for your presence and your continued ministry!

Interested in getting more involved in parish ministry? Talk to someone from the Pastoral Team to see how you can share your time and talent!
PARISH LIFE

Helping Families in Pittsburg

For more than a decade our Santa Maria parishioners have been generously helping families in Pittsburg’s St. Peter Martyr parish to 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. Please 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. The filled food boxes should be returned to Santa Maria on Sunday, December 17th no later than 11:45 pm in the lower parking lot below the church.

Children’s Mass on Christmas Eve

The Children’s Mass on Christmas Eve will be in the church this year and we hope many of the children will be able to participate. We need readers, banner carriers, gift bearers and children to be in the Christmas play. Practice for this Mass will take place on Saturday, December 16th (time TBD). Final dress rehearsal will take place on December 23rd at 10:00 am. If your children are available please contact Maggie Reeves at aarmrn@comcast.net.

Following the Maqsoodi Family

As we turn the calendar to the month of December, we now enter the job hunting process and being able to balance that with English lessons for our family. The two adult children, Khalid and Lila, as well as their father, Mohammad, are currently starting this process. Both the young and the old are looking forward to these new beginnings.

Job Search: While Catholic Charities is helping us with the job search, we are networking with YOU in our parish to see if you know of any jobs that would be available for: Khalid, age 21, background in economics in college, some English

Lila, age 19, background in pre-criminal law, little or no English

Mohammad, age 50, full time job, MBA in Finance, understands and speaks English

Car:

Do you or anyone have a used car that they would like to donate? The family could use one for getting to work.

Household Goods:

We are still hoping someone can donate these items:

- 2 - 3 dressers in good condition
- TV table for 36” TV (TV has been donated)

Volunteers:

We need parishioners who can help drive the family members to various appointments. For example, in the next week or so we’re going to take them to the DMV for Cal IDs.

Please call me at 510-303-0306 or email me at gail.gabriel@gmail.com if you can help with any of the above.

As always, thank you for your generosity in time, talent and treasure.

Gail Gabriel
for the Maqsoodi Family Team

OUTREACH

Weekly Food Collection

1st/2nd Weeksends: 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 Weeksends: 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 11
8am: All Souls

Tuesday, December 12
8am: Frank Brady (d)

Wednesday, December 13
8am: David Donlon (d)

Thursday, December 14
8am: Carl Weber (d)

Friday, December 15
8am: Stephen O'Brien (d)

Saturday, December 16
5pm (Vigil): Parishioners of Santa Maria

Sunday, December 17
8:30am: Anne & Henry Blanc (d)
10:30am: Donald Palaschak (d)
5pm: Kim Slicker (d)

L = Living; D = Deceased

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

Catholics at Work

A decade ago Sister Francis Marie and 14 other nuns found that the desolation of being in a community not in communion with Rome was too much. They came out of a separatist religious community and back into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. In the process Sister Francis Marie felt compelling impacts from Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

Sister Francis Marie will tell of her own faith journey and her new community at the Tuesday, December 12 Catholics at Work breakfast. The breakfast program takes place at Crow Canyon Country Club at 7:00am, preceded by Mass at 6:30am.

All are welcome. Reservations are not required, but in order to facilitate food prep, we ask that you contribute $20/member or $30/non-member. For more information or to make a reservation go to CatholicsAtWork.org.

WomenSing Concert

Once again WomenSing will host a Christmas Concert here at Santa Maria on Wednesday, December 13th at 8:00pm.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.womensing.org. Tickets will also be available at the door.

NEWS OF COMFORT

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, “Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God” (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.

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

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**Pastoral Team**

Reverend George Mockel  
Pastor  
gmockel@smparish.org

Reverend Joseph Duong Nguyen  
Priest in Residence

Reverend Michael Amabisco, OP  
Sacramental Assistance

Deacon Rey Encarnacion  
dcn.rey@smparish.org x310

Deacon James Pearce  
dcnpearce@smparish.org x301

Linda Zumino  
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 Arthmann,  
Shoaib Aryan, Jeffery 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 Koupis, 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  
Mary Kate Mullen

**Treasure**

December 3, 2017 Actual  
Plate $7,780.00  
EFT $1,108.10  
Credit $1,596.48  
Total $10,484.58  
Goal $10,350.00  
Overage ($134.58)

Faith Formation $1,570.00

**Upcoming Collections**

12/10/17 Retired Religious Fund  
12/25/17 Christmas  
12/31/17 Maintenance Fund

**Week-At-A-Glance**

Monday, December 11  
Rosary & Comm. Service  
(10:30am, Orinda Senior Village)

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

Children’s Choir  
(3:30pm, Room #1)

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

Adult Choir Rehearsal  
(7:00pm, Church)

Tuesday, December 12  
RCIA  
(7:00pm, Library)

Wednesday, December 13  
Social Justice Meeting  
(4:00pm, Library)

Knights of Columbus Mtg.  
(6:00pm, Conf Room, Class #1)

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

Thursday, December 14  
RCIA Book Group  
(7:00pm, Library)

Adult Choir Practice  
(7:00pm, Church)

Saturday, December 16  
Communion Service  
(8:00am, Chapel)

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation  
(4:00pm, Church)

Sunday, December 17  
Children’s Liturgy of the Word  
(During the 10:30am Mass, Church)

For a full version of the Parish Calendar, please visit the website at www.SantaMariaOrinda.org and click on the “Events Calendar” at the top of the page.

Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:  
Vicki Leutza & Bev Harris after the 8:30am Mass  
Siobhan Foy after the 10:30am Mass  
Thank you for your generosity!
YM PRESENTS

#SMYOUTHMIN ON ICE

DECEMBER 13 | 6:00-8:00PM
AT WALNUT CREEK ON ICE

SKATING – PIZZA – GIFTS

RSVP BY DEC 11