Gaudete Sunday – Rejoice!

“\textit{I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.}”

Today the Church calls us to rejoice – for the Lord is coming and is with us now! And in today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist, a witness to this joy and to the truth, calling us to prepare the way.

In a week, when we gather to celebrate Christmas, many others will join us. This will be your opportunity to be a witness, like John the Baptist, to the presence of Christ in your life. You will witness this by way of your hospitality, your greetings, your singing, your prayer and, yes, even by not being able to sit in your regular seat – for a guest has arrived!

In addition to your presence there are many fellow parishioners preparing the way for Christmas who will be involved in each of our Christmas liturgies: the art & environment team, the children, the youth, the adults, the musicians, the singers, the greeters, ushers, ministers of the word, ministers of communion, servers, our deacons and presiders. Through our prayer together we witness Christ so that others might see Christ more clearly when we gather to give thanks and praise on Christmas!

Be the voice. Be the witness. Be the presence of Christ!
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 11:45pm in the lower parking lot below the church.

New Years Eve Mass
The 5:00pm Mass on New Years Eve, December 31st has been cancelled. Among other reasons, we have been challenged to find parishioners to help at this Mass.

Religious Give Thanks
A religious sister writes, “When we see the generous response of so many thousands of persons in order to help us, religious men and women, we are left speechless.” Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to last week’s Retirement Collection.

Christmas Schedule 2017

CHRISTMAS EVE
Sunday, December 24
Youth Mass
4:00pm-Parish Hall
Children’s Mass
4:00pm-Church
Christmas Eve Mass
6:00pm
Christmas Eve Carols
9:30pm
Christmas Eve Solemn Mass
10:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY
Monday, December 25
8:30am & 10:30am Mass

NEW YEARS
(Solemnity of Mary)
Monday, January 1
10:00am Mass

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, December 18
8am: Gene Kraus (D)

Tuesday, December 19
8am: Tom Cunningham (D)

Wednesday, December 20
8am: Int: Arnold Hee Lee (L)

Thursday, December 21
8am: All Souls

Friday, December 22
8am: Int: Lonella Brechner (L)

Saturday, December 23
5pm (Vigil): Jack Leutza (D)

Sunday, December 24
8:30am: Tom & Stephen O’Brien D
10:30am: Santa Maria Parishioners

Christmas Eve
4:00pm: Joe & Maria Paras (D) Hall
4:00pm: Charlie Camporeale & Carol Worthington (D)
6:00pm: Gene Kraus (D)
10:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria

Christmas Day
8:30am Felimon & Graciana Barbante (D)
10:30am Abinsay & Walsh Families
AROUND THE DIOCESE

Fire Damages St. Vincent de Paul Pleasant Hill Thrift Store:

On October 29, 2017, the St. Vincent de Paul Pleasant Hill Thrift Store experienced an early-morning fire that destroyed the donation area and caused substantial damage. Extensive fire and smoke damage was extended to the flooring, walls, ceiling, doorframes, windows, computers and merchandise, there is very little equipment and merchandise that is salvageable. Additionally, the store has been closed for clean-up and restoration since the fire, so we are losing sales revenue that support our safety-net programs. PLEASE help us rebuild our store by making a merchandise donations of clothes, shoe, furniture and household goods. Thank you from St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County!

Additionally, donations are appreciated for the FIRE REBUILDING FUND, at www.svdp-cc.org, or to: St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County, 2210 Gladstone Drive, Pittsburg, CA 94565, attn.: Fire Rebuilding Fund.

While insurance will help us recover most of the expenses associated with rebuilding, significant additional expenses will not be covered.

Please join us in the effort to re-open the Pleasant Hill Thrift Store by early January. Thank you from St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County!

St. Bonaventure Womens Christian Fellowship 24th Annual Retreat

You are invited to join the St. Bonaventure's Women's Christian Fellowship 24th Annual Retreat.

"The Mighty God Has Done Great Things for Me, and Holy is His Name", Luke 1:49 Friday, January 26 to Sunday, January 28, 2018 at St. Clare's Retreat Center.

Cost is $225.00 per person.

Registration flyers are available on the St. Bonaventure Church website, www.stbonaventure.net.

Contact Andrea for additional questions: 925-529-7675.

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 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 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, Shouib 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, Bridger 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

**Week-At-A-Glance**

Monday, December 18  
Monthly Mass  
(9:30am, Orinda Senior Village)

Adult Choir Caroling  
(10:00am, Orinda Senior Village)

Tuesday, December 19  
RCIA  
(7:00pm, Library)

Adult Christmas Choir Practice  
(7:00pm, Church)

Thursday, December 21  
RCIA Book Group  
(7:00pm, Library)

Adult Christmas Choir Practice  
(7:00pm, Church)

Saturday, December 23  
Communion Service  
(8:00am, Chapel)

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

Children’s Liturgy Christmas Rehearsal  
(10:00am, Church)

Sacrament of Reconciliation  
(4:00pm, Church)

Sunday, December 24  
Children’s Liturgy of the Word  
(During the 10:30am Mass, Church)

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**Treasure**

**December 10, 2017 Actual**

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<td><strong>Overage</strong></td>
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Religious Retirement  $3,861.00  
Immaculate Conception $1,156.00

**UPCOMING COLLECTIONS**

- 12/25/17 Christmas  
- 12/31/17 Maintenance Fund

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

Joan O’Brien after the 8:30am Mass  
Laura Harter after the 10:30am Mass  
Thank you for your generosity!
SIGN UP NOW FOR THE
LINC
RETREAT 2018
FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS

JANUARY 19-21, 2018
CAMP ST. FRANCIS, APTOS

THIS YEAR’S THEME:

Never Too Far Gone

EMAIL MEGAN TO SIGN UP