Curious about the impact of a deeper faith life?

We're glad to have you join us this Christmas season! This season gives us the opportunity to greet each of you who in some way enrich our parish - whether it's once a year or every day. If you've been considering making your faith a bigger part of your life but aren't sure how to get started, we have a few recommendations for what might help, based on your personality and where you are in life.

Do you like connecting in smaller groups?

Each Lent (usually beginning in late winter or early spring), “faith-sharing groups,” or FSGs, begin meeting to break open Scripture and to see what God has to say to them. Many of these have begun to continue year round because the groups had such good experiences! Past years’ themes have included the writings of Pope Francis and the Gospel readings for Lent - and we're already looking forward to more new groups forming for this year’s round of FSGs!

Do you have young members in your family?

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these (Mt 19:14).” Our Parish is blessed with 130 children and 20 Catechists and Aides in Elementary Faith Formation, 20 children in the choir, and 15 children partaking in the breaking open of the Word. In addition to our Faith Formation classes, we also hold different activities such as: the Children’s Mass; Pancake Breakfast, Saints’ Costumes, Advent Wreath Workshop, Christmas Games, and the May Crowning. Each of
our students has truly brought such blessings, joy and happiness to our program. Their holy innocence reflects the beauty and the love of God.

We also have over 100 youth and teens in our Youth Ministry, including the 6th-8th Middle School Youth Group, the High School Youth Group and our dynamic and lively Youth Masses. We have meetings, socials, service projects, retreats, and more designed for our young Catholics; and it’s beautiful seeing the youth grow closer to Jesus in these programs.

Are you being called to become a Catholic, but aren’t sure what to do?

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults gives you the opportunity to first learn more about our faith (What do we believe and why? What are the reasons behind Church teachings? Why are the Sacraments so important?) and second to decide if the Catholic Church is where God is calling you to be. Over the course of eight months or so, the RCIA team will teach, pray, discuss and walk with you as—God willing—you journey closer to receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Maybe this is the year you take the next step toward joining the Church!

**PARISH LIFE**

**AltarCito Pictures**
Thank you to all the parishioners who brought pictures and mementos of their loved ones to display on our altarCito for the month of November. We have moved the pictures and mementos that were on the altarCito to the parish office. Please stop by the office to claim your pictures. If they are not picked up by the end of December, we will keep them to use next year.

**Christmas Flower Envelopes**
There is still time to make a donation for Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one. The envelopes are available in the basket in the narthex of the church. You may drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office.

**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.

On January 1, Solemnity of Mary we will have a Mass at 10:00am in the church. We invite everyone to come and participate in this Mass. A good way to start the new year.

**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**

**Monday, December 25**
8:30am: Felimon & Graciana Barbante (D)
10:30am: Abinsay & Walsh Families

**Tuesday, December 26**
8am: The Zunino Family (D)

**Wednesday, December 27**
8am: Custodio Gutierrez (D)

**Thursday, December 28**
8am: Int: Colleen McGuire (L)

**Friday, December 29**
8am: Int: Jo Lupsha (L)

**Saturday, December 30**
5pm: (Vigil): Bruce Hale (D)

**Sunday, December 31**
8:30am: Mary & Thomas Mecban (D)
10:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria
5pm: No Mass this Weekend

L = Living; D = Deceased
GOD'S PROMISE

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

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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

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Catholic Alumni Club

The Catholic Alumni Club is a group of Catholic professionals, which sponsors several events each month. If you are a Catholic professional you are urged to contact Dorothy at (925) 735-0208 for more information about the club. Please ask for a free calendar of events.

Maqsoodi Family Needs

The family is in need of:

(2) gently used laptops
(3) bicycles

If you are interested or have questions please call Gail Gabriel at (510) 303-0306.

Walk for Life

January 27, 2018 will mark the 14th Anniversary of the Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco. We invite you to join us at what has become one of the most event filled Catholic weekends in the Bay Area.

Walk for Life has grown from 7,000 participants the first year to more than 50,000 last year, making Walk for Life West Coast the second largest pro-life event in the country!

The rally, 12:30pm, starts at Civic Center Plaza, walking down Market Street (2 miles). Ends at Justin Herman Plaza/Ferry Building. There are BART stations at both locations.

To register and for information: (415) 658-1793 or email: info@WalkforLifeWC.com
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)
sisterld@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
sistermnn@smparish.org x309

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

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, John Wheeler

For the Deceased

Week-At-A-Glance
Monday, December 25
Parish Office is closed
Merry Christmas
Tuesday, December 26
Parish Office is closed
Saturday, December 30
Communion Service
(8:00am, Chapel)
Minister of the Word Practice
(9:00am, Church)
Sacrament of Reconciliation
(4:00pm, Church)
Sunday, December 31
No 5:00pm Mass this weekend

December 17, 2017 Actual
Plate $6,438.74
EFT $1,108.10
Credit $1,596.48
Total $9,143.32
Goal $10,350.00
Deficit ($1,206.68)

Upcoming Collections:
12/31/17 Maintenance Fund
1/01/18 Solemnity of Mary

Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:
No Doughnuts this weekend!
MERRY CHRISTMAS
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