Challenge Accepted: Life in Christ

Over 70 retreatants learn they’re “Never Too Far

Last weekend, after finals had wrapped up and basketball games completed, a caravan of teens, young adults, adult chaperones, and youth ministers jumped into a caravan of cars to spend a weekend with Jesus. The location: Camp St. Francis, on the cliffs of Seascape Beach, just south of Santa Cruz. The theme: “Life in Christ: Never Too Far Gone.”

Ten of those teens, one teen leader, and one youth minister came from Santa Maria; most of the rest were from St. Charles Borromeo, but anyone looking in the window wouldn’t be able to tell them apart after the first ten minutes or so of the weekend. While praising God, listening to and sharing stories, asking questions, and, of course, goofing around, we all pretty quickly slid into a comfortable rapport.

Some of the most beautiful moments of the weekend were not only the ones where people allowed themselves to be the most vulnerable, but also the ones where simple discoveries were made about who Jesus is. “Jesus cried?! I thought he was always just super chill about everything!” one retreatant exclaimed. “I didn’t know he had friends,” said another. “I guess I never really thought about it.”

The theme of the retreat was based on the song “Never Too Far Gone” by Jordan Feliz. Teens and adults alike were reminded throughout the weekend that we can “never outrun God’s love,” and that there’s nothing we can do, and no place we can go, that would make us “too far gone.”

Our next retreat is March 9-11. If you’re curious, or want to be part of God’s work in Youth Ministry, contact Megan at megan@smparish.org or 925-254-2426 x308.
Faith Sharing Groups

Faith Sharing Groups at Santa Maria are back for Lent 2018. Please join us this year as we explore what it means to “Open Our Hearts” to God.

The 5-week Faith Sharing Groups for Lent 2018 will reflect on giving God access to our hearts and our lives. What kind of person do I want to be? What parts of my life either support or detract from that truth? What does it mean to have a heart that is open to God? What does it feel like to live life knowing that God wishes to offer us greater love, greater joy, and greater peace? What would happen if this Lent, we chose to pray every day for ten minutes, and fast from things we know cause us unhappiness?

What if we made our Lenten almsgiving a gift we give to ourselves that will create greater openness to the divine presence that is all around us every day? What if going to Mass was a life-changing event? These are all important questions we can explore together.

Join a small group this Lent. Sign-up via this link—https://goo.gl/forms/rbKD11MHMIEIS2E72

Contact SantaMariaFSG@gmail.com with any questions.

A Visit to St. Mary’s Center

On Wednesday, February 7th the Santa Maria Women’s Guild will visit St. Mary’s Center in Oakland. We will receive a tour of its facilities, learn of its ministries, and enjoy lunch with the poor and homeless who rely on the Center for their daily sustenance. (Our cost for lunch will be $10.) We will be carpooling from the lower parking lot to the Center at 11:00am.

If you are interested in joining us, please call Kathie Brady, 925-254-3674 or Terry Saltiel, 925-945-7833 for additional information.

Children’s Liturgy and Pancake Breakfast

Please join us on February 11th at the 10:30am Mass for a Children’s Liturgy. Afterwards, please come to the parish hall for a Faith Formation sponsored “Fat Tuesday” pancake breakfast.

Crab Feed—February 3rd

Sign-up, Have Fun, Help Our Youth

Make sure you have your tickets for you and your friends for the parish Crab Feed happening on Saturday, February 3rd in the parish hall.

All the proceeds go directly to our parish youth program, which is educating and energizing a record of more than 100 of our young Catholics.

There will be a terrific selection of auction and raffle items, including some really attractive sports memorabilia (a signed Kevin Durant jersey & items from some of the Bay Area’s legendary sports heroes).

Tickets are $65 for the great crab dinner. And, our sponsoring Knights of Columbus have the connections to get the best crab available.

Sign up with the Knights after all Masses. You will reserve your own group’s table with your check. Checks can also be left in the Parish Office during the week.

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.

Food Pantry Needs

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MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 29
8am: For the Sick

Tuesday, January 30
8am: Joshua Sean Klaver (D)

Wednesday, January 31
8am: Pedro Vallejo (D)

Thursday, February 1
8am: Dondi Templeton (D)

Friday, February 2
8am: Doren Botelho (D)

Saturday, February 3
5pm (Vigil): Parishioners of Santa Maria

Sunday, February 4
8:30am: Millie Lighthouse (D)
10:30am: John Ebar (D)
5pm: James Walsh (D)

L = Living; D = Deceased
To request a Mass Intention, please contact Linda in the Parish Office at x301 or at lizantino@smparish.org.
AROUND THE DIOCESE

Winter Cold and Flu Season

As always, you are reminded to use common good sense in the reception of Holy Communion during the annual cold and flu season.

During this flu season if you are feeling ill or think you may have been exposed to a virus, you should refrain from partaking of the Blood of Christ from the communal chalice. In the same way, you should refrain from offering your hand to others at the sign of peace. Likewise if you are not comfortable sharing the sign of peace or receiving Holy Communion from the communal chalice for fear of infection, you should feel no pressure to do so.

All of us must be aware of such sensitive matters in the intimate life of the Christian community and we should expect that some will refrain from the sign of peace and the communal chalice out of care for our well-being and not out of unkindness or a lack of piety.

BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD IN THE WORLD.

... Be the Good!

St. Perpetua School is celebrating Catholic Schools Week beginning with mass on Sunday, January 28th at 9:30am followed by Open House at 10:30am and Jr. High Informational meeting at 11:45am.

More...

Monday, January 29th informational meeting and tour at 9:30am

Wednesday, January 31st meeting for prospective parents 6:30pm

Interested in exploring Catholic education? Please phone the school office 925-284-1640 or email Suzanne Kozel skozel@csdo.org for more information.

Tee Off For Healthy Families on Monday, April 23

Sponsorships and foursomes available at the 34th Annual Catholic Charities Golf Classic:

A day of golf at the renowned Lakeside Course at Blackhawk Country Club, followed by dinner, raffle, and auction.

Benefits programs that help children, youth, and families in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties overcome obstacles resulting from poverty, trauma, and violence so they can move forward in life with greater independence.

For more information, contact Michael Bauman at mbau- man.contractor@cceb.org or 925-451-7682 or visit cceb.org/news-media/annual-golf-classic/

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
dcnpearse@smparish.org x301
Linda Zunino
Administrative Assistant
Izunino@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 Artega
Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12) and
CYO Parish Liaison
megan@smparish.org x308
Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen,
LHC
Pastoral Care of the Sick
sistermm@smparish.org x309
Sister Magdalena Duong, LHC
Bookkeeper
sistermagdalena@smparish.org x305

PRAYER INTENTIONS
For the Sick
Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann,
Shoab Aryan, Jeffrey Baus, Harlon
Berg, Cara Bradbury, 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
Knap, Carol Koupus, Kevin
Madsen, 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
Terence McDonnell
Peter Althaus
Yul Lin Liu

TREASURE
January 21, 2018 Actual
Plate $5,053.36
EFT $1,108.10
Credit $1,596.48
Total $7,757.94
Goal $10,350.00
Deficit ($2,592.06)

Seminary Collection $873.00
Upcoming Collections:
02/04/18 Faith Formation
02/14/18 Ash Wednesday

Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:
Bobbie Richards & Bob Semar after
the 8:30am Mass
Siobhan Foy family after the
10:30am Mass

Week-At-A-Glance
Monday, January 29
Faith Formation Classes
(2:30pm, Church/Classroom)
Children’s Choir
(3:30pm, Room #1)
Faith Formation Classes
(4:00pm, Church/Classroom)

Tuesday, January 30
RCIA
(7:00pm, Library)
Pastoral Care
(7:00pm, Conf Room)

Wednesday, January 31
Middle School Youth Ministry
(7:00pm, Youth Room)

Saturday, February 3
Communion Service
(8:00am, Chapel)
Minister of the Word Practice
(9:00am, Church)
Sacrament of Reconciliation
(4:00pm, Church)
Crabfeed
(6:00pm, Parish Hall)

Sunday, February 4
Children’s Liturgy of the Word
(During the 10:30am Mass, Church)
Praying over a leader before she shares a witness talk about how God has acted in her life.

Practicing humility and discipleship in the washing of the feet – like Jesus did.

Night prayer in a candlelit chapel.

Leaders did skits illustrating God's never-ending fight for us.

Team Santa Maria for the win!

Removing nails from the cross with prayers for future growth in a "Life with Christ!"

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Life in Christ: Never Too Far Gone

High School Retreat

Praying the Responsorial Psalm at the Sunday morning communion service.