Have returned for Lent 2018!

Ash Wednesday, February 14, returns us to the season of conversion—Lent! A yearly opportunity to take stock of where we are as people of faith. It gives us time to examine our lives, to reflect and then... to turn continually closer to Jesus—our Way, our Truth and our Life. There are three Lenten principles that each Christian is called to work on during this 40 Day Retreat—PRAYER, FASTING & ALMSGIVING.

How about joining the many parishioners who have already signed up to participate in a Faith Sharing Group—a powerful and relevant program that helps you achieve Lenten Principle #1—PRAYER? Launched in 2016, small groups of 6-10 people gather to explore our Catholic faith—learning about our religion, and joining in prayer while connecting with each other. This strengthens both the individual and the community of Santa Maria. The theme for 2018 is Open our Hearts! FSG are rooted in the gospel stories for the first five Sundays of Lent, with the sessions reflecting on giving God access to our hearts and our lives. Each group gathers once a week beginning the week of February 12th. There are women’s groups, men’s groups and couple groups already formed.

Sign-up forms are located in the narthex or you may contact the parish office and we will get you scheduled and on your journey—a journey of faith. Happy Lent!
**PARISH LIFE**

**Faith Sharing Groups**
Sign-ups for our five week Lenten Series for small Faith Sharing Groups has started! Don’t miss your opportunity to learn more about your faith, meet fellow parishioners and build community. The first session begins the week of Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Forms are available in the Narthex.

**A Visit to St. Mary’s Center**
On Wednesday, February 7, the Santa Maria Women’s Guild will visit St. Mary’s Center in Oakland. We will receive a tour of the facilities, learn about its ministries and enjoy a 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 church 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.

**Palms for Ash Wednesday**
Please bring your palms from last year to the church by February 11th. You may leave them in the narthex. These palms will be used on Ash Wednesday. Thanks for your help!

**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.

**Pastoral Care to the Sick**
There will be a Rosary and Communion Service at 10:30am on Monday, February 5th at the Orinda Seniors Village, 20 Irwin Way, Orinda. Sister Mary Magdalene will preside at the service.

Our monthly Mass at the Orinda Convalescent Hospital will be celebrated on Wednesday, February 7th at 11:00am. Rev. Joseph Duong Nguyen will be the presider.

All are invited to attend.

**Lenten Practices**
With the season of Lent approaching, please be aware of the following rules and practices during Lent.

**Fasting**—Catholics aged 18 through 59 are bound to fast on both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. To fast means to consume one full meal a day at most, although taking of other, smaller quantities of food at the other customary mealtimes is permitted. Food and drink between meals (excepting water and medicine) is not permitted on fast days.

**Astinence From Meat**—Catholics aged 14 and up are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday. To abstain means refraining from eating beef, veal, pork or poultry.

**Lenten Practices**—The faithful are encouraged during Lent to attend daily Mass, receive Holy Communion, participate in penance services, and receive sacramental absolution; to take part in public and private exercises of piety, give generously to works of religion and charity, perform acts of kindness toward the sick, aged and the poor; to practice voluntary self-denial, especially regarding food, drink and worldly amusements; and to pray more fervently, particularly for the intentions of the Holy Father.

**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.

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, February 5**
8am: For Families & Friends

**Tuesday, February 6**
8am: Dick Cummings (D)

**Wednesday, February 7**
8am: Maryellen Cosgrove (D)

**Thursday, February 8**
8am: Jack Bevis (D)

**Friday, February 9**
8am: Michael Scarpelli (D)

**Saturday, February 10**
5pm (Vigil): Jane Eubanks (D)

**Sunday, February 11**
8:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria
10:30am: Int: Cardinal Raymond Burke
5pm: Fred Backlund (D)

L = Living; D = Deceased

To request a Mass Intention, please contact Linda in the Parish Office at x301 or at izanino@smparish.org.
**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Please Pray With Us!**

Please prayerfully consider standing for Life in conjunction with other Christians and like minded people during the 40 Days for Life campaign, set for February 14 through March 24. 40 days for Life is not a “protest” group. It is a world-wide organization that promotes 40 Days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion.

You are invited to stand and peacefully pray for one hour period during the 40-day vigil in the public right of way outside the Planned Parenthood in Walnut Creek at 1537 Oakland Blvd. They will be praying from 7am through 7pm, Monday through Saturday, during the 40 Day vigil. You may sign up on the website: 40DaysForLife.com/walnutcreek or call Ann Vaccaro (925) 212-7938 with questions.

**World Day of the Sick**

Do you know of a neighbor, friend, or loved one that could use prayers for healing and hope?

On Saturday, February 10, 2018, 11:00am at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, Bishop Barber invites all who are sick or ill, as well as family members, caregivers and healthcare providers, to observe this day with him and many priests, religious and laity from throughout the diocese. Please join in this special opportunity to pray for healing and hope in this fragile population. For more information visit www.oakdiocese.org/WDS

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**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!

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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
iszunino@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
sistermn@smparish.org x309

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

Week-At-A-Glance

Monday, February 5
Parish Staff Meeting
(10:30am, Parish Office)
Faith Formation Classes
(2:30pm, Church/Classroom)
Children’s Choir
(3:30pm, Room #1)
Faith Formation Classes
(4:00pm, Church/Classroom)

Tuesday, February 6
RCIA Meeting
(7:00pm, Library)

Wednesday, February 7
Middle School Youth Ministry
(7:00pm, Youth Room)
FSG Training
(7:00pm, Library)

Saturday, February 10
Communion Service
(8:00am, Chapel)
Minister of the Word Practice
(9:00am, Church)
Anointing of the Sick
(11:00am, Church)
Reception in Hall to follow
Sacrament of Reconciliation
(4:00pm, Church)

Sunday, February 11
Children’s Liturgy of the Word
(During the 10:30am Mass, Church)

C2 Session
(3:00pm, Youth Room)
C1 Session
(5:00pm, Youth Room)

TREASURE

October 8, 2017 Actual

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Upcoming Collections:
02/14/18 Ash Wednesday
04/04/18 Faith Formation

Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:
Bobbie Richards & Bob Semar after the 8:30am Mass
Jim & Jackie Bava after the 10:30am Mass

For the Sick
Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann,
Shoab Aryan, Jeffrey Baus, Harlon Berg, Cara Bradbury, Maria Carmen,
Delores Codde, 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 Koups, Mary Lou Mackintosh, Kevin Madsen, 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
Tom Crosby
C1 RETREAT

GIFTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MARCH 9-11, 2018 -

LEADERS NEEDED

Want to share your faith in YM?
Join us at Mount Hermon for the March Retreat!
Email megan@smparish.org for details.