A More Efficient Giving Option

Santa Maria is streamlining eGiving with Faith Direct

Have you ever come to Mass having forgotten your checkbook and cash at home? Ever been surprised by ticket sales for the Christmas Party or Crab Feed after Mass with no way of paying? How about registered for Youth Ministry or Faith Formation and wished you could just pay online without mailing a check or coming into the office?

Santa Maria has decided it’s time to upgrade our giving options to include a more streamlined online giving option through Faith Direct. A committee of staff and Finance Council members has spent months researching and vetting many vendors, finally deciding on Faith Direct for its security, quality customer service, convenience, and ease of use for both parishioners and staff.

Faith Direct enables you to make contributions through either direct debit from your checking or savings account, or through a debit or credit card. You can schedule regular Sunday plate collections, holy days, and second collections – and also make one-time gifts or payments, like when buying a ticket to a parish event or registering for a parish program. Of course, if you’d prefer to continue using your Sunday envelopes or writing us checks, we’ll be happy to accept them!

Stay tuned at next weekend’s Masses to hear some helpful information on Faith Direct, its benefits for you and your family as well as for the parish as a whole, how it works, and how to sign up. We’re looking forward to making it easier for you and your family to support our parish!
THANKS & SO LONG
Our parish secretary, Linda Zunino, has decided to retire after 25 years of faithful service to our parish. Linda has decided that the time has come for her to spend more time with her husband, Ray, and spend less time on the “Dam” road coming to and from work. We shall miss her graciousness and smile in the front office, as well as her efficiency in multi-tasking her many responsibilities. Linda will remain with us for the next several months as we search for a new secretary. The position will be posted and advertised in the near future.

Communal Reconciliation
Our parish reconciliation will take place on Wednesday, March 7th at 7:30pm in the church. Please take advantage of this great opportunity before Easter is upon us.

Dust Busters
Many of you may not know, but every week there is a dedicated team of volunteers that polish the brass and dust the altar and the worship space in the church. To keep this team up to date, we are now looking for additional volunteers. At present, we need volunteers to help cover three months. If you are interested, please contact Ana Zimmank @ 925-640-6008 or anazimmank@aol.com.

Stations of the Cross
Beginning on Friday, March 9th we will have Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm in the church. This year we will also have a simple supper in the parish hall at 6:30pm before the stations. We invite all the families and others who are interested to mark their calendar and to come and participate in this spiritual gathering for the weeks of Lent.

Spring Day of Renewal
The Santa Maria Guild will have their Spring Day of Renewal on Thursday, March 8th at the San Damiano Retreat in Danville. The day will begin at 9:30am and conclude at 3:00pm. Father Charles Talley, OFM will lead everyone. The cost including lunch is $40.00.

The Guild has reserved 12 spaces and will arrange ride pools from Santa Maria. Please call Kathie Brady at 254-3674 to reserve your spot. If we fill all our spaces you will need to contact San Damiano Retreat Center on your own. Their telephone number is 925-837-9141.

Senior Village Mass
The monthly Mass at the Senior Village will be celebrated on Monday, February 26th at 9:30am. All are welcome to come and participate.

Faith Formation
The Lenten Reconciliation for 3rd, 4th & 5th graders will be on Monday, February 26 during the Faith Formation sessions. Parents are also welcome to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

Erin Go Bragh!
Join us for Santa Maria’s St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef Dinner! The Santa Maria and St. Perpetua Knights of Columbus are co-hosting the event on Saturday, March 17, 2018 with a social hour at 6:00pm and dinner around 7:00pm. Come hear live Irish music by Celtic Sister, enjoy traditional Irish Dancing, and eat staples like corned beef, ‘tatties’, cabbage, and more! Keep an eye out for ticket sales!

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Monday, February 26</th>
<th>Tuesday, February 27</th>
<th>Wednesday, February 28</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>8am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person</td>
<td>Olga de Souza (d)</td>
<td>Lillian Conrad &amp; Angie Reymer (d)</td>
<td>Kevin Hung (D)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Thursday, March 1</th>
<th>Friday, March 2</th>
<th>Saturday, March 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>8am: Int: Calvin &amp; Denise Rogers</td>
<td>8am: Families &amp; Friends</td>
<td>5pm (Vigil): Msgr. Ted Kraus (d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person</td>
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Sunday, March 4
8:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria
10:30am: Den. Maurice Custodio (d)
5pm: Marilyn Berg (d)

L = Living; D = Deceased
To request a Mass Intention, please contact Linda in the Parish Office at x301 or at lzunino@ymca.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.

Thank you for your continued help!

**St. Peter Martyr Thank You**

The following is a letter of thanks from the pastor of St. Peter Martyr Church in Pittsburg to the parishioners of Santa Maria Church.

Dear Reverend Mockel,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parishioners of Santa Maria for their food donations throughout the year and Christmas holiday. This past Christmas St. Peter Martyr was able to distribute food baskets to 60 families and touched approximately 200 individuals. I especially would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Knights of Columbus and Al Donner that made a difference for many families of St. Peter Martyr of Verona. I also want to recognize Mary McCosker for her continuing support throughout the year by delivering donations to our food pantry. These special blessings made a valuable difference for many and we thank Santa Maria Parish for your giving spirit!

On behalf of the Finance Council, the staff and myself I wish to express our gratitude to your parishioners for their generosity and support.

Sincerely,

Fr. Jesus Hernandez, Pastor

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**The Sunday Collection**

One of the most ancient customs of the Church is that of the people providing the bread and wine for the Eucharist; and over time the inclusion of monetary offerings for the operation of the local parish and the poor.

At our Saturday, 5:00pm vigil, Sunday, 10:30am and 5:00pm liturgies baskets are passed through the pews. Ushers bring the baskets to the front and middle pews to begin this collection but it is the assembly that facilitates their offering to the church by placing their financial gift in the basket and then passing it from one to another. It is OK to stand and hand it to the person down the pew or behind you; because it is the offering of the gathered assembly and the engagement with your sisters and brothers in prayer, which ritualizes that all members of the assembly take place in this sharing and offering of gifts.

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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 call the parish office for a form and we will mail you a registration form or go online to our website, www.santamariaorinda.com to register.

See you next week!

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**FAITH SHARING GROUPS!**

**Open Our Hearts Week #2:**

**Onto the Mountain: Wake up!**

*This is my son, my beloved. Listen to him - Mk 9:7*

**Focus of this week’s Faith Sharing Group**

Restfulness is the ability to live ordinary life with gratitude, peace, prayer, and openness to God’s daily actions.

When ordinary life is enough, we rest. When ordinary life is not enough, we are restless. Repeated activity or habits that leave us restless-- a sure sign that something new, something better is needed,

When good habits stop working, or bad habits cost us more than we bargained for, we wake up. Lent offers the opportunity to wake up, to be open to something new.

*When is restlessness alive in your life?*
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
sistermm@smparish.org x309

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

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Sick
Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib 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 Koupus, Mary Lou Mackintosh, Kevin Madsen, Rose Mary McPhee, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Pierre Schreyer, Bob Singer, Charlene Smith, and John Wheeler

For the Deceased
Mike Murphy
(brother of Cell Baron)

Week-At-A-Glance

Monday, February 26
FSG Women’s Group
(1:00pm, Youth Room)
Faith Formation Classes
(2:30pm, Classrooms)
Children’s Choir
(3:30pm, Room #1)
Faith Formation Classes
(4:00pm, Classrooms)

Tuesday, February 27
RCIA
(7:00pm, Library)

Wednesday, February 28
Faith Sharing Women’s Group
(11:00am, Conf Room)
Middle School Youth Ministry
(7:00pm, Youth Room)
Faith Sharing Couples Group
(7:00pm, Conf Room)
Faith Sharing Women’s Group
(7:00pm, Library)

Thursday, March 1
Faith Sharing Men’s Group
(7:00pm, Library)

Saturday, March 3
Communion Service
(8:00am, Chapel)
Minister of the Word Practice
(9:00am, Church)
Sacrament of Reconciliation
(4:00pm, Church)

Sunday, March 4
Children’s Liturgy of the Word
(During the 10:30am Mass, Church)
C2 Session
(3:00pm, Youth Room)
C1 Session
(5:00pm, Youth Room)

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.

TREASURE

February 18, 2018 Actual

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<td>$1,108.10</td>
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<td>Credit</td>
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<td><strong>Goal</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Deficit</strong></td>
<td><strong>($2,562.50)</strong></td>
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Upcoming Collections:
03/04/18 Faith Formation
03/11/18 Catholic Relief Services

Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:
Barbara & Jim Sweetser after the 8:30am Mass
Nicole Jacobs after the 10:30am Mass
C1 RETREAT

GIFTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
- MARCH 9-11, 2018 -

SIGN UP NOW

Return your Permission Slip (available on the YM Announcements page) to Megan by Feb 28.

Note: you may submit the names of 2-3 other people you’d like to room with for the weekend.