Lenten Journey

Lent is the time to recall that Jesus died to save us from our sins. His cross is a sign of love and hope. Lent will be for all of us a time of conversion and spiritual renewal. Lent is all about prayer and penance. It invites us to encounter our neighbors, as companions on the journey, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

The Faith Formation Program would like to help our students carry out these meanings by suggesting their families practice the Lenten plans such as: as a family, going to mass on Sunday and walking the Stations of the Cross on Friday; using the CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar daily to guide their prayers; watching Gospel-inspired movies, for instance, the short clips Stories of Hope that the students will watch during Lent.

In order to walk along the Lenten journey with all the families, the Faith Formation team uses the 40 Devotions for Lent to keep our team nourished and living this Lent fruitfully. We also have a Day of Recollection on March 10, which will give the team a time to reflect on and grow in intimate relationship with Jesus, during this Lent and always. You are invited to join us if you wish.

Please keep our team and all the students in your prayers.

Catechetical Team
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.

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.

eGiving with Faith Direct

As you heard at Masses this weekend, we’ve decided it’s time to upgrade to a more streamlined online provider for our eGiving needs through Faith Direct. For both, those of you who participate in EFT and those who have yet to join us in giving online, we encourage you to enroll in Faith Direct. Here’s why:

Faith Direct lets you make Church contributions through direct debit from your checking/savings account or through your credit/debit card - no more writing checks or searching for envelopes on the way out the door! You can apply the convenience of direct debit to your parish offerings in much the same way as you may already use it to make your mortgage, car, or tuition payments.

Please join me in enrolling by responding to the mailing you’ll receive, or by visiting www.faithdirect.net to enroll securely online using parish code CA891.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Megan in the Parish Office at 925-254-2426 x308 or megan@smparish.org.

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! Ticket sales will continue after Mass this weekend and March 11!

You are Invited!

To Uncover Holy Week

All parishioners are invited to a Morning of Reflection, hosted by the Parish Liturgy team, to prepare ourselves to enter into Holy Week. Fr. Michael Amabisco, OP will facilitate the morning as we uncover, discover and/or recover why these days are so important and what they mean to our lives as followers of Christ. As participants we will be challenged to make these days different from all other days of the year.

Saturday, March 24
Parish Hall
9:30a—12Noon
Hospitality will begin at 9a
Please RSVP to 925-254-2426 x314 tmillette@smparish.org.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 5
8am: Yau Lin Liu (d)

Tuesday, March 6
8am: Anna Bach (d)

Wednesday, March 7
8am: Paul Bach (d)

Thursday, March 8
8am: Joseph Hung Nguyen (d)

Friday, March 9
8am: Int: Gutierrez Family

Saturday, March 10
5pm (Vigil): Parishioners of Santa Maria

Sunday, March 11
8:30am: Special Intention
10:30am: Richard Wurmbrand (d)
5pm: Sally Mayne (d)

L = Living; D = Deceased
To request a Mass Intention, please contact Linda in the Parish Office at x301 or at lizunino@smparish.org.
Thanks for supporting the Crab Feed!

Congratulations and a sincere thank-you to all who participated in Santa Maria’s 4th annual Parish Crab Feed hosted by our Knights of Columbus! The crab was excellent and the youth servers did an outstanding job. On the back page of the bulletin you will find all the merchants and other donors whose generosity helped make the Crab Feed such a success. Please thank all the merchants (whether you won one of their prizes or not) and the other donors whose generosity helped make the Crab Feed such a success. We rely on them to make the event a success as much as they rely on us.

Our youth program is among our most important ministries here at Santa Maria. The young people of Santa Maria are the next generation of Catholic Christians who share the faith, hope and love that are the core of our belief. Helping our youth grow strong in the faith spreads the good news of Christ as powerfully as anyone can.

Good Friday Blood Drive

“The annual Good Friday Blood Drive” sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and Santa Maria is scheduled for Good Friday, March 30th from 1:00pm thru 5:00pm. The Bloodmobile will be located in the lower church parking lot to take your donations. To schedule a lifesaving appointment visit www.bloodheroes.com, click on “Locate a Blood Drive” and enter Sponsor Code.

FAITH SHARING GROUPS!

Open Our Hearts Week #3:

Out of Our Hearts: Zeal for your House

He was well aware of what was in the human heart.—John 2:35

Focus of this past week’s Faith Sharing Group

At time, hearts close due to injury. At times, hearts close due to sin. At times, hearts simply go to sleep due to unreflective habits or neglect. Unconscious living cannot open us to faith. At these times, Jesus simply has to clean house for us and it is rarely enjoyable. In the Gospel, the people have taken a precious thing - their house of worship - and lost all reverence by treating it as if it were a marketplace - business as usual. They object strongly by questioning Jesus’ authority, not knowing that this disruptive act is designed to open their hearts, calling them to a deep reverence and zeal for God.

How open are you to a deep reverence of God?

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!
**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, Marla 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, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Pierre Schreyer, Bob Singer, Charlene Smith, and John Wheeler

**For the Deceased**

- Stephen Meagher

**Week-At-A-Glance**

- **Monday, March 5**
  - Parish Staff Meeting
    (10:30am, Parish Office)
  - 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, March 6**
  - RCIA
    (7:00pm, Library)
  - Women’s Faith Sharing Group
    (7:00pm, Conf Room)

- **Wednesday, March 7**
  - Faith Sharing Women’s Group
    (11:00am, Conf Room)
  - Middle School Youth Ministry
    (7:00pm, Youth Room)
  - Lenten Communal Reconciliation
    (7:30pm, Church)

- **Thursday, March 8**
  - Faith Sharing Men’s Group
    (7:00pm, Library)
  - Faith Sharing Grp-Couples
    (7:00pm, Conf Room)
  - Choir Rehearsal
    (7:00pm, Church)

- **Friday, March 9**
  - C1 Retreat at Mount Herman
    (March 9-11)
  - Stations of the Cross/Lenten Supper
    (6:30pm, Supper, Parish Hall)
  - 7:30pm, Stations, Church)

- **Saturday, March 10**
  - Communion Service
    (8:00am, Chapel)
  - Minister of the Word Practice
    (9:00am, Church)
  - Catechists Day of Recollection
    (9:00am, Conf Room)
  - Sacrament of Reconciliation
    (4:00pm, Church)

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

**Treasure**

**February 25, 2018 Actual**

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Ash Wednesday $2,553

**Upcoming Collections:**

- 03/11/18 Catholic Relief Services
- 03/30/18 Holy Land/Good Friday

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

- Susanna & Frank MacDonald after the 8:30am Mass
- Jim & Jackie Bava after the 10:30am Mass
Thank you for supporting our Youth Ministries!

We’re so grateful for the generous merchants, businesses, and friends who contributed to the 2018 Parish Crab Feed!
(An * indicates a gift certificate from the donor; all other gifts are noted.)

Anderson Bros. Movers – Specialty Drinks
Bamboo Spa (Orinda)*
Catholic Cemeteries – Wine Cases for the Event
Entourage (Orinda)*
Europa (Orinda)*
Fourth Bore (Orinda)*
Hoem & Associates – Warriors Tickets
Lava Pit (Orinda)*
McDonnell Nursery (Orinda)*
Morrison Jewelers (Orinda) – Sterling Silver Bracelet
North Beach Enterprises – Crab Feed table for 10
Orinda Books – Great Reads in American History
Orinda Frame Store
Orinda Hardware – Infrared Heater
Orinda Motors*
Pangloss Cellars (Sonoma)*
Parker Thatch (Orinda)*
Piccolo Napoli (Orinda)*
Reenie's 101 Boutique (Orinda)*
Bobble Richards – Warriors Tickets and a Magnum of Wine
Sanvitalia Home & Garden (Orinda)*
Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyards*
Szechwan Restaurant (Orinda)*
Texture Winery (Sonoma)*
Village Pizza (Orinda)*