Stepping back to see what “matters”

Teen Faith in Action Team leads an inspiring retreat

Last weekend’s retreat almost didn’t happen: I was a day away from cancelling it for our first-year Confirmation teens because of a shortage of chaperones.

On the other hand, I had 7 teens, new members of the Faith in Action Team (FIAT), who were ready to lead the activities, tell stories of God acting in their life, help the younger teens reflect on the retreat, and basically make this retreat an awesome weekend for C1. I knew if God wanted this team to lead this retreat, He’d provide to make it happen. You know, like Isaac found out in Genesis, “God will provide.” (Okay, maybe not exactly like Isaac, but you get the idea!)

And once we got to Mount Hermon, we found out just why God was so generous in providing – our teens, Emma Collins, Livi De Paschalisis, Emma Fuller, Julia Lang, Cayley O’Brien, Miranda Schnier, and Ella Tierney killed it! Their witness talks reminded us of what really matters – God loving us and acting in our lives. “Focus on the things that really matter, that get you to Heaven,” Emma Fuller encouraged the group on Sunday morning to wrap up the retreat. “Whether you’re in C1 or you’re Pope Francis, you’re still trying to figure out what God’s plan is for you,” reminded Julia Lang.

“Coming to church made me want to treat people like there is a God who loves them, because it matters,” Livi De Paschalisis summed up her witness talk. Our young Church is leading lives in Christ and inviting others along for the journey. There’s nothing more inspiring than that.

Special thanks and blessings to Kevin Bruen, Nick Farrah, Anne Fuller, and Theresa Gonzales for “sacrificing” their weekend so our teens could have this experience.

Words cannot express!! ~Megan
Stations of the Cross

This Friday, March 23th 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.

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
9:30am—12noon
Hospitality will begin at 9a
Please sign up in the Narthex.

HOLY WEEK 2018

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY – March 25th
Masses:
Saturday Vigil 5:00pm,
Sunday 8:30, 10:30am & 5:00pm

HOLY THURSDAY – March 29th
Morning Prayer – 8:00am
Mass of Lord’s Supper – 7:30pm
Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament – 9:00pm
Night Prayer-9:30pm (Parish Hall)

GOOD FRIDAY – March 30th
Morning Prayer–8:00am (P. Hall)
Way of the Cross through Orinda – 12:30pm (walking)
(No Stations of the Cross in the Church at this time)
Good Friday Liturgy – 2:00pm
Lord’s Passion/Veneration/Communion
Stations of the Cross in the Church – 7:30pm

HOLY SATURDAY – March 31st
Morning Prayer – 8:00am (Parish Hall)
Easter Vigil – 8:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY – April 1st
Masses: 8:30am-Curch
10:30am Children’s Liturgy-Hall
10:30am Youth Liturgy-Church
(No 5pm Sunday Evening Mass)

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; santamaria. Contact Bob Semar at thebobs2@comcast.net or 925-263-1348 if there are any questions.”

Sign up for secure eGiving with Faith Direct

We've upgraded to a more streamlined online provider for our eGiving needs through Faith Direct—now you can make contributions to Santa Maria directly and securely 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 enroll securely by visiting www.faithdirect.net using parish code CA891, or the paper form you may have received in the mail last week (also available in the Parish Office).

If you have any questions, contact Megan at 925-254-2426 x308 or megan@smparish.org.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 19
8am: Families & Friends

Tuesday, March 20
8am: Tom Crosby (d)

Wednesday, March 21
8am: Yau Lin Liu (d)

Thursday, March 22
8am: Yau Lin Liu (d)

Friday, March 23
8am: Mark Insull (d)

Saturday, March 24
5pm (Vigil): Jack Bevis (d)

Sunday, March 25
8:30am: Tom Crosby (d)
10:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria
5pm: Yau Lin Liu (d)

L = Living; D = Deceased
To request a Mass Intention, please contact Linda in the Parish Office at x301 or at lizanino@smparish.org.
Parish Administrative Assistant Opening

Santa Maria is seeking a full time Administrative Assistant for the parish office. This person is responsible for providing a full range of clerical and administrative functions including timely opening and closing of the parish office, greeting and referring visitors, answering the telephone, scheduling parish facilities, and maintaining the parish sacramental record books. This position reports directly to the pastor. This position is S-4 on the Diocesan job classification. Salary commensurate with ability and experience within this classification. Interested persons should contact the parish office for an Application form and a copy of a more complete job description.

Easter Flower Memorial Envelopes

Easter Flower Envelopes in memory of a loved one are available in the narthex on the black table. Please return the envelope and your donation to the Parish Office by Holy Thursday, March 29th. These donations will help with the cost of our Easter Lilies.
We will post the names of those you wish to remember in the April 15th bulletin. Thank you for your help!

Faith Formation Box for Children

There is something NEW for your children when your family attends Mass at Santa Maria Church. To help your children focus or at least less distracting during the Mass, we will have a box called “FAITH FORMATION BOX FOR CHILDREN,” which is located in the Narthex (the room to the right of the church entrance). This box contains:
- Children’s Bibles
- Children’s Mass books
- All kinds of Children Prayer books
- Coloring pages (Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Saints, with seasonal colors)
Your children may use them during the Mass and return them afterward.

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.

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!

FAITH SHARING GROUPS!

Open Our Hearts Week #5:
The Hour has Come

If anyone would serve me, let him follow me.—Jn 12:26

Focus of this past week’s Faith Sharing Group

Pope Francis asks, “Have you sometimes heard the voice of the Lord through a desire, or restlessness, inviting you to follow him more closely? Have you had any desire to be a more committed disciple of Jesus? Ask Jesus now what he wants from you. Be brave! Be brave! Ask him!!” Making a decision to open our hearts to God is not a one-time event, but something we are asked to do throughout life. The act of surrendering to God is not done lightly. Even Jesus, in John’s Gospel, says that his heart is troubled because his hour of decision has come. We never know what that decision will mean.

What if we truly decided to let go, to open our hearts and let Jesus walk in? What would our lives look like?
**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  
den.rey@smparish.org x310  

Deacon James Pearce  
denpearce@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 Arany, Harlon Berg, Cara  
Bradbury, Maria Carmen, Delores  
Codde, Lorna Elliott, Michael  
Elliott, Nora Enriquez, Emidio  
Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox,  
Bridget Gallagher, Norleen 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*

Jeffrey Baus  
Patricia Connolly

**Week-At-A-Glance**

Monday, March 19  
Faith Formation Classes  
(2:30pm, Parish Hall/Classrooms)  
Children's Choir  
(3:30pm, Classroom, #1)  
Faith Formation Classes  
(4:00pm, Parish Hall/Classrooms)  
Choir Rehearsal  
(7:00pm, Church)

Tuesday, March 20  
RCIA  
(7:00pm, Library)

Wednesday, March 21  
Middle School Youth Ministry  
(7:00pm, Youth Room)  
Baptism Class - 2 of 2  
(7:00pm, Conf Room)  
Choir Rehearsal  
(7:00pm, Church)

Friday, March 23  
Stations of the Cross/Lenten Supper  
(6:30pm, Supper, Parish Hall)  
7:30pm, Stations, Church)

Saturday, March 24  
Communion Service  
(8:00am, Chapel)  
Minister of the Word Practice  
(9:00am, Church)  
Holy Week Morning Of Reflection  
(9:00am, Parish Hall)  
Sacrament of Reconciliation  
(4:00pm, Church)

Sunday, March 25 (Palm Sunday)  
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**

March 11, 2018 Actual

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plate</td>
<td>$4,581.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFT</td>
<td>$1,108.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>$1,596.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,286.33</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,350.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Debit</strong></td>
<td><strong>($3,063.67)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Catholic Relief Services **$2,230.00**

**Upcoming Collections:**

03/30/18 Holy Land/Good Friday  
04/01/18 Easter

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

Dave Fulton after the 8:30am Mass  
Donna Meyer Family after the 10:30am Mass  
Thank you for your generosity!
*Family time* spent in small groups

Trust walk – a retreat classic

Playing goofy games outside

Listening, singing, pondering as a large group

Gotta roast them marshmallows.

Father George joined us Saturday afternoon.

Thanks everyone for a great CI retreat!