Motherhood and the love of God

Mother’s Day reflections on the whimsically re-named “Madonna and the Helpful Strangers”

Many of my friends are having their first babies, and it’s exciting to hear about these tiny humans’ milestones—in one case, even their first rosary! (A friend posted a very cute video on Facebook of her 18-month-old reaching up to a statue of the Blessed Mother with singular focus and holding a huge fluffy rosary, repeating “Mama, Mama, Mama, Mama, Mama” with a big grin on her face.)

One of the frustrating things I often hear about motherhood, though (besides lack of sleep and constant worry), is the overwhelmingly relentless stream of advice from the well-intentioned masses. Tongue-in-cheek, one tired mother captioned the above painting on Facebook as “Madonna and the Helpful Strangers,” imagining in a relatable way Mary out minding her own business, while these “Helpful Strangers” genially accosted her, asking “Is he warm enough?” or commenting, “When my babies were little, we didn’t put them in mangers,” or, “We started them on full shafts of wheat at 3 months. It helps them sleep!” etc. Rarely, though, do any “Helpful Strangers” offer mothers the simple advice to “love your children” - likely because that’s already so obviously and thoroughly being done that it would be superfluous to say it aloud. Everyone knows the power of a mother’s love.

It’s this same kind of love, but even greater, that the Lord has for us: “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called Children of God, and so we are” (1 John 3:1). It is because the love of mothers so instinctively and so beautifully mirrors God’s love that we thank and honor them today—and no “Helpful Strangers” advice could ever hold a candle to that great accomplishment.

~Megan Arteaga, Youth Ministry Coordinator
Welcome to our new Administrative Assistant!

Mirna Wong has joined our staff as Administrative Assistant, and is currently training in the Parish Office in these last few weeks before Linda Zunino retires on June 1.

Stop by the office sometime to meet her and give her a big welcome!

Children’s Liturgy

On Mother’s Day, May 13th, we will have the last Children’s Liturgy of the school year at the 10:30am Mass.

Children will be singing and flowers will be distributed to all the Mothers during the Mass.

Come and understand what the Good News is all about!

Honor all Mothers with the Mother’s Day Novena

Mother’s Day Cards may be obtained in the narthex of the church this weekend. Remembrance envelopes may be deposited in the collection or returned to the Parish Office.

The Mother’s Day Novena will begin today, Sunday, May 13, and go through Monday, May 21st. The remembrance envelopes will be placed on the altar during morning Mass and next to the tabernacle in the church on the weekend during the Novena.

What a prayerful way to remember your mother!

Do you know anyone seeking Baptism for their child?

If you have a child that you would like to have baptized over the next two months, the required parent classes will be held on Wednesday, May 30 at 7:00pm in the Conference Room of the school building. The second class will be held June 6th at 7:00pm in the conference room of the school. Please contact the Parish Office at 925-254-2426 for more information or if you would like to register.

Plan ahead for the feasts of Ascension and Pentecost:

The Feast of the Ascension of Christ on May 10th has been transferred to this Sunday, May 13th this year. On Pentecost, May 19 and 20 we ask that you wear red, orange or yellow to Mass that weekend to celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Church.

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.

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.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Catholic Charities of the East Bay Appeal

We are called by Pope Francis “to go the margins” and help our brothers and sisters, near and far. Every year, we are invited by our Church’s charitable arm, Catholic Charities of the East Bay, to “make all things

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, May 14
8am: Mother’s Day Novena

Tuesday, May 15
8am: Mother’s Day Novena

Wednesday, May 16
8am: Mother’s Day Novena

Thursday, May 17
8am: Mother’s Day Novena

Friday, May 18
8am: Mother’s Day Novena

Saturday, May 19
5pm (Vigil): Mother’s Day Novena

Sunday, May 20
8:30am: Mother’s Day Novena
10:30am: Mat Katicich (d)
5pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria

L = Living; D = Deceased
To request a Mass Intention, please contact Linda in the Parish Office at x301 or at Izantino@smparish.org.
possible” for those on the margins. Please give generously to this appeal on May 19th and 20th. For more information, contact Stephan Pippen, Development Manager at spippen@ceeb.org or 510-508-1063.

Senior Around Town (SAT)
The Senior Around Town Program provides free, door to door non-emergency transportation for Orinda senior residents to medical appointments and errands around town. Rides are provided by Orinda resident volunteers using the volunteer’s own vehicle. If you are interested in becoming a rider or driver please contact the program at 925-402-4506, or email SAT@OrindaAssociation.org.

San Damiano Mother’s Day Mass and Brunch
Mother’s Day Mass and Brunch will be offered on May 13 at the retreat center, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. The 10:00am Mass is followed by brunch. Tickets are $40 for adults, $15 for children under the age of 13. To register please go to www.sandamiano.org or call 925-837-9141 x315.

Catholic Communication Campaign
Our second collection this weekend is for the Catholic Communication Campaign. This campaign is connecting people with Christ through the internet, television, radio, and print media. This collection connects people around the world to the gospel message. Please be generous today!

Michael Denten Concert
Michael Denten, well-known cantor in the Oakland Diocese, is marking his 30th year of service to Our Lady of Lourdes and 51 years of service to the Oakland Diocese with a concert at Our Lady of Lourdes, 2808 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, followed by a reception on June 3 at 3 p.m. He will be joined by the Our Lady of Lourdes Choir and a host of local gospel singers and musicians. For more information, call 510-451-1790.

Lavender Bee Farm Tour
Come tour this family honey farm with the Orinda Parks & Recreation on Thursday, June 7, 9:00am-4:30pm. After the tour, the group will visit the historical downtown Petaluma with its abundance of stores for lunch options. Lunch is not included in the fee. Fee is $73. All trips meet at the Hacienda de Las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. For information call 925-254-2445.

Enroll in Faith Direct before the summer
Support Santa Maria—even when you’re on vacation!

May can be a busy month. Are you booking travel for Memorial Day? Gearing up for summer vacation?

Consider enrolling in eGiving through Faith Direct to make sure your gifts reach Santa Maria when you cannot, and our ministries can continue uninterrupted.

Visit www.faithdirect.net and securely enroll using our parish code CA891—or find a paper enrollment form in the Parish Office if you’d prefer to enroll by mail.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

If you have any questions, please contact Megan in the Parish Office by phone at 925-254-2426 x308 or by email at megan@smparish.org.

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!

You can also register online at www.santamariaorinda.com/registration

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  
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)  
sisterid@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, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Harlon Berg, Cara Bradbury,  
Maria Carmen, Delores Codde,  
Lorna Elliott, Michael Elliott, Nora  
Enriquez, Emidio Fonseca, Liam  
Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget  
Gallagher, Norcen Gillham, Brian  
Kelly, Mason Kelly, Aileen Kelly,  
Jerry Kirk, Lawrence Knapp, Carol  
Koupus, Kevin Madsen, Rose Mary  
McPhee, Deacon Jim Pearce,  
Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark  
Ricei, Pierre Schreyer, Bob Singer,  
and John Wheeler

*For the Deceased*

**Treasure**

May 6, 2018 Actual  
Plate $5,407.00  
Faith Direct* $5,300.00  
Total $10,707.00  
Goal $10,350.00  
Overage $357.00  

*May 4, 2018 disbursement  
Faith Direct funds replaced EFT  
and are reported as they are  
distributed on the 4th and 15th of  
each month.

**Upcoming Collections:**
05/20/18 Catholic Charities  
06/03/18 Faith Formation

**Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:**
Vicki Leutza and Bev Harris after  
the 8:30am Mass  
Guadalupe Godinez after the 10:30am Mass  
Thank you for your help!

**Week-At-A-Glance**

Monday, May 14  
Parish Staff Meeting  
(10:30am, Parish Office)

Liturgy Meeting  
(7:00pm, Library)

Tuesday, May 15  
Contra Costa Children's Chorus  
Rehearsal  
(4:00pm, Church/Parish Hall)

Adult Choir Rehearsal  
(7:00pm, Church)

Wednesday, May 16  
Youth Group  
(7:00pm, Youth Room)

Thursday, May 17  
Faith Sharing Group  
(11:00am, Library)

Adult Choir Rehearsal  
(7:00pm, Church)

Saturday, May 19  
Communion Service  
(8:00am, Chapel)

Minister of the Word Practice  
(9:00am, Church)

Contra Costa Children's Choir  
Concert  
(12:00pm-3:00pm, Church)

Sacrament of Reconciliation  
(4:00pm, Church)

Sunday, May 20  
C2 Session  
(3:00pm, Youth Room)

C1 Session  
(5:00pm, Youth Room)
TWO MORE WEEKS LEFT