An Update on “Restore and Renew”

Making progress on the church building

This summer, we continue to make progress on our “Restore and Renew” program for the church building, using the parish portion of funds pledged (many now fulfilled) from the Diocese-wide 2015 “Reclaiming Christ’s Mission Together” Campaign. This program has three phases:

**Phase 1 – 2017:** We painted the exterior of the church – not just for cosmetic reasons, but also to seal the stucco to prevent further damage to the interior due to water intrusion. We also replaced two heaters and air conditioners. On the outside of the church, we terraced and landscaped one section of the hill beside the church.

**Phase 2 – 2018:** We enlarged and remodeled two confessionals, providing for either face-to-face or anonymous celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (Our Middle School Youth Group utilized the new confessionals in their video “How to Go to Confession”, which can be viewed at http://youtu.be/DLZYyDG7nA8) We painted the interior of the church without updating the main color, and also added some highlight colors to select architectural features. The doors were also refinished (see above photo). We are also repairing and updating the public address system. We are gradually replacing some of the incandescent lights with energy-efficient LED lights.

**Phase 3 – 2019:** This phase requires that we move Masses to the Parish Hall for several weeks, as we will remove the pews for repair and re-finishing, and will replace the carpet and the flooring under the pews. We will also install a new baptismal font.

Your continued generosity to the parish will make these remaining projects possible!
Enriching our understanding of Mass

Father George writes on upcoming opportunities with the Gospel of John

Those paying close attention will notice that beginning this Sunday, the Gospel selections will no longer be taken from Saint Mark, but rather from Saint John. There are two reasons: the first is practical. Mark is the shortest Gospel. There are simply more Sundays than there are Gospel selections. Second, since the cycle of Sunday readings spans three years (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), it provides an opportunity for us to hear from Saint John.

Saint John’s Gospel is the most “Eucharistic” of the Gospels. Although there is no institution narrative in his Gospel, the Eucharistic theme abounds throughout. This provides us an opportunity to renew and enrich our understanding of the Eucharist and why the Mass is so central to our faith. To that end, we will be taking some time during Mass in the coming weeks to review the meaning of some of the ritual actions during Mass, the structure of the Mass, and the place of music and song.

As I travel throughout the Diocese, I often return home grateful for the generally good way we celebrate the liturgy. However, there is always room for improvement – not improvement merely for the sake of “doing it right” or “for show,” but rather because the Mass is the greatest and most important prayer we can ever offer to God, and God deserves the very best from us.

Join us in welcoming the newly elected Santa Maria Council of the Knights of Columbus!

Grand Knight—Dean Akazawa
Deputy Grand Knight—Robert Semar
Financial Secretary—Richard Stanaro
Treasurer—Steve Berg
Chaplain—Will Fuller
Chancellor—Steve Cetrone
Recorder—Al Donner
Advocate—Larry Jones
Warden—Bob Berndt
Lecturer—Greg Smith
Guards—Michael Forkas, Bernard Martis
Trustee—Tony Van Diggelen, Bill Hinkamp, Mark Ayers

What’s the best way to pray for someone?

There is no more powerful petition than having a Mass said for a worthy intention. It is an ancient Catholic tradition: Masses can be offered for the living, for a special intention, or for a deceased loved one. Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements over the phone or in person.

Catholic 101: 5 Cool Facts about the Catholic Mass

FACT 1:  Mass is modeled after the Book of Revelations

There is a stereotype that Mass is antiquated, or ritualistic. However, interestingly, much of the content of Mass is based on the book of Revelation, which is a book all about the future, and of that which is to come. For example, each Mass we sing the “Holy, Holy, Holy,” which is straight out of Revelation 4:8. The idea is we are joining in with those in heaven in their unending hymn of praise. So that’s a real profound moment, if you think about joining in singing the same song those in heaven are singing, and the connection between the physical and the spiritual that is occurring. And that’s just one tiny example. You can do an entire study on Revelation and the Mass. The more you know, the more amazing Mass becomes.

Stay tuned for the next 4 “Cool Facts” about the Catholic Mass!

PARISH LIFE

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, July 30
8am: Pilar Garma (d)

Tuesday, July 31
8am: Gene Voltattorni(d)

Wednesday, August 1
8am: Brian Cummings(d)

Thursday, August 2
8am: Intention of the Presider

Friday, August 3
8am: Intention of the Presider

Saturday, August 4
5pm: Jeffrey Baus (d)

Sunday, August 5
8:30: Parishioners of Santa Maria
10:30: Gloria Vela Hinojosa(d)
5:00: Yau Lin Liu (d)

L = Living; D = Deceased
To request a Mass Intention, please contact Mirna in the Parish Office or email mirnawong@smparish.org
Welcome back, Juvo!
Autism and Behavioral Health Services is a company devoted to creating programs and services for people with special needs. Last summer, Santa Maria had the joy and privilege to host their camp, and this year they’re back!

If you’ve noticed a lot of extra life around our parish during the week, it’s Juvo’s campers playing, learning, creating, and exploring. The dedicated staff at Juvo is so grateful to have such a large and accessible space as Santa Maria so they can give their campers an opportunity to attend a summer camp – something they may not otherwise have access to.

Keep the campers and staff in your prayers, and feel free to make them feel welcome with a smile and wave if you see them around!

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.

Support Santa Maria during these restful summer months!
As we enjoy the summer and its restful times with family and friends, Santa Maria continues to be open for Mass, events and activities, and the Sacraments.

During these summer months your generosity through Faith Direct can help provide the consistent resources we need to operate our parish and ministries.

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.

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.

Weekly Food Collection

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.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Are you a teen who loves praise and worship music?
St. Joan of Arc Parish in San Ramon is hosting an evening of praise and worship and leadership training for teens involved in music ministry at their parish!

Join us from 5pm Monday, July 30 to 12:30pm Tuesday, July 31 for a lock-in night of awesome songs, prayer, and growth in faith and leadership!

Email megan@smparish.org if you’re interested in attending.

Wine Tasting at Queen of Heaven Cemetery & Funeral Center

Sat, August 4 – 2:00PM to 5:00PM
1965 Reliez Valley Road, Lafayette CA 94549

Join us for an afternoon of complimentary wine tasting and delicious food pairings. Enjoy inspiring art from local artists, while learning new ways to enjoy and savor Bishop’s Vineyard wines. Our Queen of Heaven experience will include vendors, tours, fantastic prizes and great giveaways. Bring this bulletin with you and receive TWO drawing tickets!

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!

Or register online at www.santamariaorinda.com/registration!

Name

Address

Phone    Email

Food Pantry Needs

Welcome, New Members!

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.
**TREASURE**

**July 29, 2018**

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<tr>
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- Faith Formation: $90.00
- Peter’s Pence: $170.00
- Maintenance Fund: $20.00

**Upcoming Collections:**

- **07/29/18 Maintenance**

Please note—Faith Direct is our new Electronic Funds Transfer, or EFT, program. The amount listed here each week is the estimated average of that month’s projected giving. For more information or to enroll, see page 3.

**This Week’s Readings**

- First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44
- Psalm 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18
- Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6
- Gospel: John 6:1-15
STEUBENVILLE NORCAL

SAN MATEO EVENT CENTER
SAN MATEO, CA
JULY 27-29, 2018

CHRIS MUELLER
HOST

IKE NDOLLO
WORSHIP

FR. JOSH BURNS
TEAM PRIEST

SPEAKERS
NOELLE GARCIA
JOEL STEPANEK
PAUL KIM

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