5 things your Youth Minister wished you knew about Confirmation

Thoughts on that mysterious Sacrament

Now that school is back in session, it’s time to think seriously about your (or your teen’s) activities for the year. Choir? Lacrosse? Volleyball? Cheer? Scouts? Orchestra? Tutoring? Standardized test prep classes?

If you’re rolling your eyes because you already decided this months ago, please pause with your eyes “toward heaven” and ask the Lord if you’ve allotted enough space for Him and His Church.

After you’ve asked (and listened for the answer), consider the following:

1. In Confirmation, you’ll learn who you are and why you matter. Your identity is far deeper than the music you like, the grades you get, and the people you hang out with – you are a loved child of God. In Confirmation you’ll learn what that means and where you belong.

2. It’s a big commitment and will take some schedule shuffling and sacrifices. I had a prof in college who taught us the difference between a value and a velleity (Google it). You’ll need to make some tough decisions about your priorities during the program.

3. It’s an essential step in your faith journey – not a box to check. If you’re thinking of signing up just to “get it done,” please go back to that post-eye-rolling step and spend some time with God. Confirmation is an ancient sacrament passing on to those who receive it a mission from God, and gifts you with the resources to live it.

4. It’s an opportunity to be somewhere supportive of your faith. Hello, AP Euro, aka, “the class where the Catholic Church kind of gets bashed a lot.” Spend some time with people proud of their Catholic identity who would love to share God with you! “We need a Church with confidence: not the confidence of popularity or arrogance but the confidence that comes from men and women captivated by the message of Jesus.”

5. Registration is (coincidentally?) open now on our parish website. :)
Pope Francis, Bishop Barber and Father George address Pennsylvania child abuse report

Please read their comments on our parish website www.santamariaorinda.com regarding the reports of clerical abuse and the alleged cover up by some in church leadership.

Concluding Rite

The Concluding Rite is a time of transition from our gathering as community for prayer and worship, to our individual lives during the week ahead. This liturgical rite is very brief but very important to us as followers of Christ. For in this rite we are blessed, dismissed and sent forth to live what we heard; live what we prayed; live what we consumed.

What are the communal ritual actions during the Concluding Rite?

The blessing that is included in this rite can vary from a brief blessing to a three-fold blessing, for certain feast days and certain seasons of the Church Year. When a three-fold blessing is done the presider will ask this assembly to BOW their heads for the blessing. The next gesture for this rite is when the assembly TRACE themselves with the Sign of the Cross at the conclusion of the Mass. And the final gesture, though not rubrical (not printed instruction) is what Jesus asked all the faithful to do with their lives, to live the faith which was just professed and celebrated in the Mass.

Mission Co-Op Weekend

This weekend is Mission Co-op Weekend. Once a year (usually during the summer months) we invite a priest from a missionary diocese to speak about and take up a collection for the missionary works of their diocese. This weekend we are pleased to have our own Father Joseph Duong who resides here at Santa Maria speak about the needs of his own Diocese of Hai Phong in North Vietnam. The funds collected will be used to support an orphanage and charity school for street children ages 13-18 so that they may have an opportunity to escape poverty.

Catholic 101: 5 Cool Facts about the Catholic Mass

FACT 5: Catholics believe Communion is more than just a representation, symbol, or what Jesus did in the Upper Room. And Catholic belief on Communion actually goes wayyyyy back into Jewish culture and history. Historically, when Jewish people celebrated the Passover of Moses’ day, they didn’t believe they were just symbolically representing what happened; they believed they were participating in a “making present” of that actual one time historical Passover event. That they too, somehow, mysteriously, were also participating in the Passover of Moses. In Mass, we believe that Communion is a “making present” of Jesus’ Last Supper with His disciples. That we, too, are participating, mysteriously, in that one time event. There are a lot of connections to Judaism in Catholicism and in Mass as well. This is only one of them.

How can I help someone who can’t pray for themselves?

Having Mass said for someone living or deceased is a comforting expression of faith and love. We have an obligation in justice and love to pray for one another – especially for the deceased, who can no longer pray for themselves. The Mass is the greatest prayer that can ever be offered. If you wish to have Masses said for someone living or deceased, contact the Parish Office.

Registration Forms for Faith Formation and Confirmation

On Line registration for K-5 Faith Formation and Youth Ministry/Confirmation are available on our website: www.santamariaorinda.com All those interested are encouraged to sign up early to allow us time to properly prepare our program. Please note that after Sept. 7, registration fees will increase.

MASS INTENTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, August 27</th>
<th>Tuesday, August 28</th>
<th>Wednesday, August 29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8am: Michael Nohr (D)</td>
<td>8am: Loyd McCormick (D)</td>
<td>8am: Intention of the Presider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, August 30</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday, August 31</strong></td>
<td><strong>Saturday, September 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8am: Intention of the Presider</td>
<td>8am: Intention of the Presider</td>
<td>5pm: Richard Corbitt (D)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday, September 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30: Parishioners of Santa Maria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30: Joann Hesson (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00: Intention of the Presider</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

L = Living; D = Deceased

To request a Mass Intention, please contact Mirna in the Parish Office or email mirnawong@smparish.org
Back to school—back to “normal”!

Now that school is back in session and our “normal” schedules and rituals are coming back in place, we’d like to ask you to think about how you can support our parish more easily.

Making your gifts through Faith Direct helps us plan for the year—and helps you since you won’t need to remember your checkbook when you come to Mass!

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

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.

OUTREACH

Who doesn’t like a potluck BBQ?

Join us for our second annual Youth Ministry and Faith Formation Potluck BBQ Kickoff September 9! Last year we gathered for a 5pm Sunday Mass, then migrated onto the plaza in front of the Hall for a social with delicious barbecued meats and plenty of side dish options—all provided by FF/YM families!

If you are interested in helping out, please email Theresa Gonzales at tmgonzo2@comcast.net! Thanks for your generosity with your time!
**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

Mirna Wong
Administrative Assistant
mirnawong@smparish.org x301

Tony Millette
Liturgy and Music
tmillette@smparish.org x303

Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC
Faith Formation (Grades K-5)
srmmphan@smparish.org; x306

Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12), Communications, and CYO
megan@smparish.org x308

Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC
Pastoral Care of the Sick
sistermn@smparish.org x309

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

**Treasure**

**August 26, 2018**

- **Plate:** $ 5,589.35
- **Faith Direct:** $ 3,525.60
- **Total:** $ 9,114.95
- **Goal:** $10,350.00
- **Deficit:** - $ 1,235.05

**Assumption** $ 255.00

**Faith Formation:** $ 10.00

**Upcoming Collection:**

September 9 - Diocesan Priest Retirement

**Treasurer Intention**

For the Sick
Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Harlon Berg, Cara Bradbury, Maria Carmen, Rosemary Catton, Delores Codde, Lorna Elliott, Michael Elliott, Nora Enriquez, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Doris Hale, Brian Kelly, Mason Kelly, Aileen Kelly, Jerry Kirk, Lawrence Knapp, Carol Koupus, Rose Mary McPhee, Arsi Oriwella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Bob Singer, Nancy Thummess

**Week-at-a-Glance**

**Monday, August 27**

**Tuesday, August 28**

**Wednesday, August 29**

- Baptismal Class #1 of 2
  - 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

**Thursday, August 30**

**Friday, August 31**

**Saturday, September 1**

- 8:00 am Communion Service (Chapel)
- 4:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Church)

**Save the Date!**

- Sept 9—Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Potluck Barbeque Kickoff
- Sept 16—Youth Leadership Ministry Retreat
- Sept 24—Knights of Columbus Charity Golf Tournament

**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: Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Psalm 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32

Gospel: John 6:60-69

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

Barbara & Jim after the 8:30am Mass
Katherine Hlavac after the 10:30am Mass

Thank you for your generosity!
THE CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA
PROUDLY PRESENTS

2018-2019
YM/CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

PROGRAMS FOR 6TH-12TH GRADERS
INCLUDING:
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP
WEDNESDAYS 7:00-8:30PM

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION
TWO SUNDAYS PER MONTH
C1: 5:00-7:45PM
C2: 3:00-6:00PM

FAITH IN ACTION TEAM
MINISTERS WITH MSYG. C1, C2.
RETREATS, AND MORE — COMMIT TO
YOUR CHOICE OF PROGRAMS!
FOR BOTH ADULTS AND TEENS

WWW.SANTAMARIAORINDA.COM/ALL-REGISTRATION

REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 1