Mission Accepted?

A *standing invitation and challenge to consider being a catechist*

In her book *Catechist 101: Wade, Don’t Dive*, now-seasoned catechist Carole Eipers recounts her initial reactions when she was first asked to be a catechist: “First of all, I was not even sure what a catechist was. Second, whatever it was, I was quite certain I was not up to the task. It involved children and religion, I knew; I didn’t know much about either.”

The scariest challenges can be the most rewarding, though – it’s in the gaps between our knowledge and the unknown, our comfort zones and new experiences, that the Holy Spirit makes itself known in our lives by providing what we need.

It’s easier to see how God supports us when we’re facing tasks or situations for which we feel inadequate, where we know that without Him we’d fail.

“God doesn’t call the equipped – He equips the called.” I’m not sure who coined that phrase, but in my experience, it is so true. If you’re looking for a way to deepen your relationship with God and support His Church, spend some time praying about being a catechist or an aide for K-5 Faith Formation, Youth Group, or Confirmation classes.

Certain you’re not up to the task? It’s okay – God (and our Pastoral Team!) will be with you every step of the way.

For K-5 Faith Formation, contact Sr. Mary Margaret Phan at srmmphan@smparish.org. For 6th-12th grade ministry, contact Megan Arteaga at megan@smparish.org.
Santa Maria Children’s Choir

The Sta. Maria Children’s Choir is open to all children 1st–5th Grades. The children gather to rehearse 30 minutes on Monday from 3:30p – 4p in Room #1 of the school. The choir will begin practicing on October 1st with our First Children’s Mass on the 21st of October. This is a great way for the children to learn about our weekly communal worship, their rightful role as ministers in this worship and - it nurtures deeper appreciation for the Eucharist.

For further information please contact Tony Millette at 254.2426 x303 or tmillette@smparish.org.

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.

If you have questions please contact Sr. Mary Margaret for 5K-5, at srmmphan@smparish.org, or Megan Arteaga for 6-12, at megan@smparish.org

Who doesn’t like a potluck BBQ?

Join us for our second annual Youth Ministry and Faith Formation Potluck BBQ Kickoff September 9! We will gather for the 10:30am Sunday Mass, then move to 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’re interested in helping out, please email Theresa Gonzales at tmgonzo2@comcast.net! Thanks for your generosity with your time!

YM Leadership - mark your calendars for the Faith In Action Team retreat!

High Schoolers and Adults - if you’re feeling like God’s calling you even a tiny bit to join FIAT this year, Youth Ministry’s “faith in action” leadership team, you should be at this retreat!

We’ll be joined by the awesome leadership teams from St. Charles Borromeo and St. Michael for a day full of spiritual growth, discovery of your gifts and talents and how to use them, practical tips like how to lead small group discussions, and reflection on your relationship with God and how to tell that story – and it’s all here at Santa Maria!

We’ll meet Sunday, September 16 at 10am in the Youth Room, and will end with the 5pm Mass. Youth Ministers Megan Arteaga, Antony Ta (St. Charles Borromeo), and Joseph Garcia (St. Michael) will be leading practical sessions about putting your faith in action, the Church’s mission, and your role on the YM team.

If you or someone you know is interested in working with our young Catholics, email Megan at megan@smparish.org or call the Parish Office at 925-254-2426.

Save the date for Confirmation Parent Orientation

If you will have a family member in our Confirmation program, one parent will need to attend ONE of our Confirmation Parent Orientation sessions with Megan Arteaga, Confirmation Coordinator, and Father George Mockel, our pastor!

Mark your calendars for one of these two options:

Sunday, September 23 from 6-7:30pm in the Parish Hall
Tuesday, September 25 from 7:30-9pm in the Conference Room

Only one parent needs to attend this mandatory orientation. Teens can stay

MASS INTENTIONS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 3</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Dick Cummings (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 4</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Intention of the Presider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 6</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Intention of the Presider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, September 7</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Intention of the Presider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 8</td>
<td>5pm</td>
<td>Ron Stankey (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, September 9</td>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Tom O’Brien (D)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Joe Daugherty (D)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>Parishioners of Santa Maria</td>
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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.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. John the Evangelist
Antiochian Orthodox Church

24th Annual Food Festival
Saturday, Sept. 22, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 Sunday, Sept. 23, 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 St. John the Evangelist, 501 Moraga Way, Orinda

Santa Monica Church

Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible Weekly bible Study
WHEN: Every Thursday, Starting September 6
TIME: 9:40 -10:00 Coffee & Fellowship, 10:00-11:00 Bible Study
PLACE: Peace Room

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!

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<th>Name</th>
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**TREASURE**

**September 2, 2018**

Plate: $4,511.00  
Faith Direct: $3,469.48  
Total: $7,980.48

Goal: $10,350.00  
Deficit: -$2,369.52

Mission Co-op $2,870.00

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**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 Koukus, Rose Mary McPhee, Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Bob Singer, Nancy Thumness

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**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

**Monday, September 3**  
**Tuesday, September 4**  
**Wednesday, September 5**  
**Thursday, September 6**  
**Friday, September 7**  
**Saturday, September 8**

- 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

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**This Week’s Readings**

- **First Reading:** Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
- **Psalm:** 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5
- **Second Reading:** James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
- **Gospel:** Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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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 months’ projected giving. For more information or to enroll, see page 3.
Church of Santa Maria

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Potluck BBQ

SEPT 9TH, 2018 | BRING A SIDE OR DRINK!
11:30AM-1:30PM BY THE HALL AFTER MASS

please rsvp to tmgonzo2@comcast.net