You may recall that Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil, a Salesian priest from Kerala, India, was serving as Chaplain to the Missionaries of Charity Sisters in Yemen. On March 4, 2016, a group of unidentified gunmen barged into the care home for the elderly, run by the Sisters, killing 16 persons including four Sisters. Fr. Tom was abducted. What followed was 557 days in rather lonely captivity in some unknown locations until he was released on September 12, 2017.

Since the release of Fr. Tom, never has anyone heard from him a word of anger or rancor. Even though he was living in the shadow of death, the thought of death did not worry him. Being blindfolded and tied in captivity meant that he had lost the sense of time and count of days. But Fr. Tom did not just survive it, he positively described the loneliness he was subjected to as “time he got to pray and reflect.” Instead of being grumpy and complaining, he preferred to focus totally on graces and blessings he was receiving.

Fr. Tom’s testimony will be inspirational as he narrates his life as a hostage and his God-experiences--even in the midst of blood and gunfire around. His autobiography “By The Grace of God” is a classic testimonial to the truth that the Lord hears our prayers and answers them in His own good time. He will also sign copies of his book at the reception.

Fr. Tom will visit our parish on September 22nd. He will celebrate 5:00 p.m. Mass followed by a reception in our Parish Hall at 6:00 p.m.
Father Daniel is back—and is leading another parish series!

We welcome back Father Daniel Pereira for the month of September! Father Daniel visits us every year from Goa, India, and will again be celebrating Masses with us, spending time around the parish, and leading a two-week series on Monday evenings, the first on Gaudete et Exsultate and the second on Amoris Laetitia.

We will be gathering Sept 10 and Sept 17 at 7:30pm in the Parish Library.

For more details, visit our parish website at www.santamariaorinda.com.

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.

Santa Maria Children’s Choir

The Santa Maria Children’s Choir is open to all children in 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.

R.C.I.A. Process Begins

When: Tuesday, October 2
Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

We currently have one new inquirer starting the program, if you know of someone who may be interested in inquiring about the Catholic faith, please contact Tony Millette at tmillette@smparish.org or Margaret Govednik at mwgovednik@comcast.net

Celebrating Our Faith from the Islands to the Mainland

Our Faith, Our Journey, Our Mission

We look forward with gratitude and joy to March 16, 2021, the 500th Anniversary of Philippine Evangelization. In connection to a 4-year preparation for this celebration, the Filipino clergy, religious, and laity of the Diocese of Oakland invites you to its first symposium to be held on September 29, 2018 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Monsignor Cardelli Activity Center (Gym), St. Isidore Church. The event will be highlighted with the symposium, group dynamics, the Eucharistic celebration and agape.

The theme for this event is: "Rooting, Uprooting and Re-Planting: The Filipino Experience of Moving from Home (Philippines) to Home (Oakland Diocese, Bay Area)" dubbed as, "Celebrating Our Faith from the Islands to the Mainland."

Come and join us as we celebrate faith together. Thank you so much and we hope to hear from you soon.

Interested in helping out? Contact Deacon Rey Encarnacion at dcnrey@smparish.org.

Play golf, help kids in crisis

The Orinda Knights of Columbus’ Charity Golf Tournament is Monday, September 24

Join the Santa Maria Knights of Columbus for an afternoon of fun at their 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament on Monday, September 24 at the Moraga Country Club! All proceeds benefit the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, which provides free service for families in crisis.

For more details or to register, visit www.kocannualcharitygolftournament.com.

The Knights of Columbus of Santa Maria Council #16453 is a 501(c)8, PARISH LIFE

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 17
8am: Intention of the Presider

Tuesday, September 18
8am: Intention of the Presider

Wednesday, September 19
8am: Intention of the Presider

Thursday, September 20
8am: Intention of the Presider

Friday, September 21
8am: Intention of the Presider

Saturday, September 22
5pm: Lenor Lott (D)

Sunday, September 23
8:30: Anne and Henry Blanc (D)
10:30: Parishioners of Santa Maria
5:00: Nieves del Romeral (D)

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](http://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.

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### 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.

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**Formation Ministry Programs begin in two weeks!**

Our K-12th Grade formation ministry programs (Faith Formation, Youth Group, and Confirmation) will be starting the week of September 23. It’s not to late to register—there’s a link on our website homepage!

**Catechist Blessing: Sunday, September 23**

Please keep our catechists in your prayers as they prepare for the Faith Formation year! We will be celebrating a blessing of the catechists at the 10:30am Mass Sunday, September 23.

_Are you interested in joining the K-5 Faith Formation ministry team as a catechist or classroom aide? Email Sr. Mary Margaret at srmmphan@smparish.org!_

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**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, our 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 home and relax.

**Questions? Email Megan Arteaga at megan@smparish.org.**

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**Welcome, New Members!**

We encourage you to register in the parish so that you can receive regular communication via both email and regular mail. Registration information is essential for responding to request to be sponsors/godparents and other ministries. 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](http://www.santamariaorinda.com/registration)!
**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

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**PRAYER INTENTIONS**

*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 Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Bob Singer, Nancy Thumness

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**TREASURE**

**September 9, 2018**

Plate: $4,202.22  
Faith Direct: $3,469.48  
Total: $7,671.70  
Goal: $10,350.00  
Deficit: -$2,678.30  
Priest Retirement: $2,014.00

Upcoming collection:  
September 30—Maintenance

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**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

**Monday, September 17**  
Father Daniel Series - 7:30 pm in the Library

**Tuesday, September 18**  
12 Noon—Eucharistic Adoration

**Wednesday, September 19**

**Thursday, September 20**

**Friday, September 21**

**Saturday, September 22**

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

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

Sept 16—Youth Leadership Ministry Retreat  
Sept 24—Knights of Columbus Charity Golf Tournament

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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.

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**This Week’s Readings**

First Reading:  
Isaiah 50:4c-9a

Psalm  
116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Second Reading:  
James 2:14-18

Gospel:  
Mark 8:27-35
CONFIRMATION PARENT ORIENTATION

MANDATORY FOR EVERY FAMILY WITH A TEEN ENROLLED IN CONFIRMATION 1 OR 2

SUN, SEPT 23 | 6PM IN THE HALL
- OR -
TUES, SEPT 25 | 7:30PM IN THE CUMMINS CONFERENCE ROOM

FOR MORE INFO: EMAIL MEGAN@SMPARISH.ORG