Ευχαριστία: it’s not “all Greek to me” — nor to you, actually!

How Thanksgiving (and giving thanks) is at the heart of our faith

Many families are drawn to celebrating our nation’s official day of gratitude at church: giving thanks at the Table of the Lord, hearing the Word of God, and sharing in the Eucharist. It’s a beautiful impulse, and one that reminds us that we as Catholics know Who to thank. We don’t give thanks to “the universe,” or to some vague nameless and faceless being. Rather, we know personally the One to whom all thanks and praise is due—and even more than that, are His sons and daughters, brothers and sisters to His Son, Jesus Christ. If that isn’t a reason to give thanks, I don’t know what is.

While Thanksgiving Day isn’t a Holy Day of Obligation, it’s an important day to celebrate Mass nonetheless. We’ll call it a “holy day of opportunity.” There’s no better place to give thanks to God than in His House.

Allow me to be a little nerdy for a moment (our teens will tell you all about my penchant for “fun facts” — they’re a Megan classic). The word for Thanksgiving in the Greek text of Scriptures is ευχαριστία, pronounced “yoo-car-ees-TAY-yuh.” Sound familiar? (Ask your neighbor to say it out loud.)

The heart of what we do at Mass is giving thanks. We hear and share in the story of our salvation, and hopefully can’t help being thankful to the God who saves—in other words, being a Eucharistic people. Or, if you prefer, a ευχαριστιακές people.

Megan Arteaga, Youth Minister
Parishioners: would you like to “adopt a family” for Spirit of Giving Christmas service?

We still have a few spots open to our parishioners if you’d like to participate in our Christmas service project—Spirit of Giving, through Contra Costa Interfaith Housing!

Sign up now so you can be assigned a family to shop for, buy presents for, wrap them, and deliver them to Pleasant Hill by the December 2 due date.

Details and sign-ups can be found at bit.ly/2R7ZSgJ or you can email coordinator Megan Arteaga, megan@smparish.org, for more details.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Intention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, November 19</td>
<td>(I) Joe Guglielmo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 20</td>
<td>Deceased Benefactors of Holy Cross Sisters (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 21</td>
<td>Mauricio Morales (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 22</td>
<td>Tom and Stephen O’Brien (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 23</td>
<td>(I) Dolores Codde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, November 24</td>
<td>Nancy Thummess (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 25</td>
<td>Mildred Lighthouse (D)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Join us for Thanksgiving Day Mass!*

It’s not a Holy Day of Obligation, but it’s one of the most popular days to attend Mass anyway.

We’ll be celebrating Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00am in the Church. Bring your family and friends and remember to whom it is we give thanks!

**“IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE”**

Don’t miss out on Santa Maria’s Annual Parish Christmas Party!

Come kick off the holiday season with your parish community.

**Friday, December 7 - 6:30pm to 10pm - $50.00 per person**

Tickets will include appetizers, drinks, dinner, dancing and dessert

Ticket sales available online on our website, outside after Masses, or by calling the Parish Office. Don’t miss this great party!
Thank you for signing up for ministering!

Thank you to those of you who signed up last weekend at our Stewardship Sign-Ups! It was heartening to both see so many renewing their commitment to our parish ministries, and also so many new names!

If you missed the sign-ups, feel free to stop by the Parish Office to pick up a sign-up form, or email the staff member in charge of your ministry.

**PASTORAL CARE**

Rosary and Communion

On Monday, December 3, all are welcome to gather at Orinda Senior Village to pray the Rosary and celebrate a Communion Service starting at 10:30am.

Come support our parish community at Senior Village!

**OUTREACH**

Want to be a tutor?

Teens needed! A few times a month, volunteers from our parish tutor the Klaw Reh family in the English language.

The tutors need you to tutor and babysit the younger kids while they’re working with the parents and older siblings.

*Contact Theresa Gonzales at tmgonzo2@comcast.net for more info. Volunteers must organize their own transportation. This is not a Santa Maria parish event.*

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.

**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!*

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Giving thanks to our donors for Thanksgiving

We’d like to take a moment to thank everyone who supports our parish with their financial donations, especially those who do it through our online giving program Faith Direct. Using Faith Direct helps us more easily keep accurate records, keep costs down by reducing the number of envelopes we mail, and lets Sister Magdalena do her job more efficiently.

If you’d like to enroll, 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.*
PASTORAL TEAM

Reverend George Mockel
Pastor
gmockel@smparish.org

Reverend Joseph Duong Nguyen
Priest in Residence

Reverend Michael Amabisco, OP
Sacramental Assistance

Reverend Christopher Fadok, 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

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Sick
Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann,
Shoaib Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, 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 Kouspus, Rose Mary McPhee, Edward Millpointer, Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Bob Singer

For the Deceased
Harlon Berg and Nancy Thummess

Would you like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list?
Please contact Mirna in the Parish Office at 925-254-2426 or
mirnawong@smparish.org.

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Monday, November 19
Staff Meeting—10:30
No Faith Formation

Tuesday, November 20
Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel
12:00 - 3:00 pm

Wednesday, November 21
No MYSG for Thanksgiving holiday

Thursday, November 22
Thanksgiving Day Mass - 9:00 am
Parish Office Closed

Friday, November 23
Parish Office Closed

Saturday, November 24
Communion Service - 8:00 am
Sacrament of Reconciliation- 4:00pm

Sunday, November 25

We apologize for the mistake in last Sunday’s bulletin—the next upcoming Confirmation class is December 9, not November 11.

TREASURE

November 11, 2018
Plate: $4,853.80
Faith Direct: $3,859.35
Total: $8,713.15
Goal: $10,350.00
Deficit: $1,636.85

Faith Formation: $120.00

Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:

Dave & Joan after the 8:30am Mass

Dariana Ross after the 10:30am Mass

This Week’s Readings

First Reading:
Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm
16:5, 8, 9-10, 11

Second Reading:
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

Gospel:
Mark 13:24-32
Happy Thanksgiving!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. ~1 Chronicles 16:34