#GivingCatholic this Giving Tuesday

How you can support our Church’s good work in our community

Between relief services, social justice committees, soup kitchens, food pantries, hospitals, care facilities, orphanages, health clinics, et cetera, the Catholic Church is one of the biggest aid agencies in the world.

As we kick off the charitable giving season with Giving Tuesday (the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, and philanthropic counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday), think about how you can support the work our Church does in the community by #GivingCatholic! Here are a few suggestions:

1. **Santa Maria**: In *Life’s Greatest Lesson* by Allen R. Hunt, Grandpa said, “it was important to invest in our parish because that was our home.” It’s where people get to know Jesus and where we’re fed the Eucharist.

2. **Catholic Charities of the East Bay**: CCEB helps resettle refugees, provides immigration consultation, combats exploitation, supports those suffering trauma or mental health issues, and more. They also are sending 100% of disaster relief funds directly to those affected by the wildfires.

3. **Fire Relief through Hope Center, Oroville**: This highly-rated organization has been activated as a donation-receiving center for the Camp Fire Emergency Response Program.

4. **St. Anthony Foundation, San Francisco**: St. Anthony’s works to feed, clothe, heal, and lift the spirits of San Franciscans in need. They also have an addiction-recovery program, technology training, and a medical clinic.
Are you ready for the Advent season? It starts next Sunday!

Advent is the quieter counterpart to Christmas: it’s a reflective season that provides us space to consider the Christ-shaped hole in our hearts that can only be filled by the coming of the Lord.

If you’d like to enter deeper into this season, join us on Sunday, December 2 for our annual Advent Wreath Workshop! You and your family can create an Advent wreath and receive instructions and prayers you can use together to count down the weeks until Christmas.

For more information, please contact Sister Mary Margaret at srmphan@smparish.org or 925-254-2426.

Join us for the Annual Christmas Tea hosted by the Women’s Guild

The Santa Maria Women’s Guild Annual Christmas Tea on Wednesday, December 5th at 1:00pm. We’ll be gathering in the Camellia Room, 828 First Street in Benicia California.

RSVP by December 1st to Bourke Tasker at 925-258-4949 or to Madeleine Kraus at 925-988-9304.

Fil-Am Community Meets again this Thursday

Santa Maria’s Fil-Am community will be meeting again this Thursday evening, November 29, at 6:30pm in the Conference Room.

If you’re interested in joining, or in getting involved in the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the evangelization of the Philippines, please contact Deacon Rey at dcnrey@smparish.org.

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!

If you’re interested in Pastoral Care Ministry, or in serving our parish community residing at Orinda Senior Village, please contact Sister Magdalene at sistermn@smparish.org or 925-254-2426.

OUTREACH

Christmas Food Boxes

Keep an eye out – over the 12/2 and 12/9 weekends, our Knights of Columbus will be distributing empty boxes to fill with food for families who need a little extra help this Christmas.

Food Collection

1st/2nd Weekends: St.
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 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.

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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Due to the early publication deadline of this bulletin due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the actuals for the November 18th collection will be published in the December 2nd bulletin. Thank you for your patience!

December 2 - 2nd Collection - Faith Formation

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 Koupus, 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.

This Week’s Readings

First Reading: Daniel 7:13-14
Psalm 93:1, 1-2, 5
Second Reading: Revelation 1:5-8
Gospel: John 18:33b-37
Happy Thanksgiving!

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.
~I Chronicles 16:34