Appreciating (and feeding!) those who make our parish thrive

Staff hosts the Parish Stewardship Appreciation Dinner

The Parish Hall was bustling one Friday in mid-November – Father Joseph and Sister Magdalene hanging handmade decorations on the back wall, Sister Magdalena and Megan unfurling tablecloths and placing centerpieces, Mirna and Sister Mary Margaret setting out snack trays, Tony getting the background music ready, and Deacon Rey and Father George stocking the bar. All this preparation was for the parish’s annual Stewardship Appreciation Dinner, put on by the Parish Staff to express our thanks in a tangible (and delicious) way to all those whose ministry and volunteer work keep our parish running throughout the year.

There was definitely an energetic and upbeat atmosphere in the room as our volunteers gathered from all walks of parish life. Finance Council members, catechists, Pastoral Care ministers, the Art and Environment team, Youth Ministry adult mentors, and more came together for a social evening. Father George led us in grace and in thanksgiving for those around us and for their generosity of their time and talent. Catering by family-owned Dad’s BBQ was a hit, as four generations of the family came to serve the meal. Of course, the staff is not just thankful to these wonderful people during the dinner! Our gratitude continues year round – even after the beautiful decorations come down and the leftovers are eaten.
Collection for Fire Relief

We will be taking a special collection to support those who have been affected by the devastating wildfires in our state. This collection will be taken for Catholic Charities USA, who will be sending 100% of contributions to those suffering from the California wildfires.

Give online anytime by visiting our website and clicking on the link to “Support Fire Relief,” OR give to the Second Collection next Sunday, December 9 at all the Masses.

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Are you ready for the Advent season? It starts today!

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 srmmphan@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 this weekend to Bourke Tasker at 925-258-4949 or to Madeleine Kraus at 925-988-9304.

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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mass Times</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 3</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Aguiles Tejada (D)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, December 4</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Cristina &amp; Amparito Guilatco (D)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 5</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Leo Rollandelli (D)</td>
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<td>Thursday, December 6</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Maria Tran (D)</td>
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<td>Friday, December 7</td>
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<td>Holy Souls in Purgatory</td>
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<td>Saturday, December 8</td>
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<td>Parishioners of Santa Maria</td>
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<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Intentions of the President</td>
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<td>Sunday, December 9</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Jo Kirby (D)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Parishioners of Santa Maria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Christopher Lloyd (D)</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.
Have you thought of your end-of-year giving yet?

December is one of the biggest months for charitable giving—maybe it’s the holiday season that makes people think of others! This December, consider supporting Santa Maria through 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.

“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!

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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**TREASURE**

**November 18, 2018**

- **Plate:** $3,873.00
- **Faith Direct:** $3,859.35
- **Total:** $7,732.35
- **Goal:** $10,350.00
- **Deficit:** -$2,617.65

**November 25, 2018**

- **Plate:** $3,906.00
- **Faith Direct:** $3,859.35
- **Total:** $7,765.35
- **Goal:** $10,350.00
- **Deficit:** -$2,584.65

Thanksgiving: $906.00

2nd Collection 12/2: Faith Formation

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**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

**Monday, December 3**
- Faith Formation - 2:30 & 4:00 pm
- (Advent Reconciliation Service for 3rd to 5th grade and families)
- Children’s Choir - 3:30pm
- Liturgy Coordinating Team - 7:00 pm

**Tuesday, December 4**
- Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel 12:00 - 3:00 pm
- Adult Choir Practice - 7:00 pm
- R.C.I.A. - 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, December 5**
- Guild Board Meeting - 9:30 am
- OCH Mass - 11:00 am
- MSYG - 7:00 pm

**Thursday, December 6**
- Adult Choir Practice - 7:00 pm

**Friday, December 7**
- Parish Christmas Party - 6:30 pm

**Saturday, December 8**
- Holy Day of Obligation
  - Mass - 8:00 am & 5:00 pm
  - Sacrament of Reconciliation - 4:00pm

**Sunday, December 9**
- Fil-Am Community - 12:30-4:30 pm
- C2 - 3:00 pm
- Youth Mass - 5:00 pm
- C1 - 6:15 pm

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

- Dave & Joan after the 8:30am Mass
- James & Jackie Bava after the 10:30am Mass

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**STAFF**

- **Pastor**
  - Reverend George Mockel
  - gmockel@smparish.org

- **Priest in Residence**
  - Reverend Joseph Duong Nguyen

- **Sacramental Assistance**
  - Reverend Michael Amabisco, OP
  - Reverend Christopher Fadok, OP

- **Administrative Assistant**
  - Mirna Wong
  - mirnawong@smparish.org x301

- **Liturgy and Music**
  - Tony Millette
  - tmillette@smparish.org x303

- **Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)**
  - Megan Arteaga
  - megan@smparish.org x308

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

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

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**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, Nora Enriquez, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Norreen Gillham, Doris Hale, Brian Kelly, Mason Kelly, Aileen Kelly, Jerry Kirk, Lawrence Knapp, Carol Koups, 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 Thummes

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.
Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
~Isaiah 40:1

Advent Communal Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, December 19, 7:30pm