The Epiphany after Advent

Keeping our eyes “vigilantly” open to see as the Magi did

Epiphany” with a capital “E” is the festival this Sunday commemorating the visit of the magi to the newly born Jesus—the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. The word with a lowercase “e” connotes a sudden, striking realization of something simple (and, once known, seemingly obvious). Both are relevant as we celebrate today’s feast.

As I write this, it’s still Advent—that period of, as Pope St. John Paul II put it, “intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously” (December 18, 2002).

As you read this, Advent probably feels like the distant past—before the bustle, chaos, and excess that always surround the turn of the year. However, John Paul II also wrote that “the whole of our lives must be an ‘advent,’ a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ.”

As Joseph had an epiphany about his family after Jesus’ conception, Elizabeth had an epiphany about Mary’s unborn child during the Visitation, and the Magi had an epiphany (on Epiphany!) about the nature of the unassuming baby lying in a manger, I hope that we, too, can have our own epiphany following our “vigilant” watch for Jesus.

It’s often my experience that when I have the realization that Christ has made himself manifest to me, it’s sudden and striking—and once known, seemingly obvious—but previously a mystery. May we enter into that mystery with eyes open this year, ready for our own Epiphany.
**LiveScan Fingerprinting in the Hall for Volunteers**

If you're a volunteer working with minors or vulnerable adults, come have your fingerprints taken by the Diocese on **Sunday, January 6 between 9:00am and 1:00pm** so our parish can fulfill Diocesan Safe Environment requirements!

If you've received an email about LiveScan from a member of our Pastoral Staff, this is the date for you to come.

**In High School? Join us for the LinC Retreat!**

If you like the beach, tri-tip, meeting other young Catholics, and Jesus Christ, then the Life in Christ (LinC) Retreat is for you: January 18-20 in Aptos! This year’s theme is “Bringing Christ Home,” and focuses on where we can encounter Christ in Scriptures and service.

*Contact Megan Arteaga at megan@smparish.org for details or to sign up.*

**Santo Niño Novena Masses and Party**

The newly-formed Santa Maria Fil-Am Community invites one and all to our parish’s first celebration of the nine-day evening Novena Masses in honor of the feast of Santo Niño (the Holy Child) from January 11 through January 19. More details coming soon!

**Follow us on Facebook!**

Did you know Santa Maria has a Facebook page? Stay up-to-date with our upcoming events, see our photos, and connect with your fellow parishioners.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

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**Search @SantaMariaOrinda or type “Church of Santa Maria”!**

**OUTREACH**

**Join us for the Walk for Life West Coast in SF**

This year’s annual Rally and Walk for Life West Coast is Saturday, January 26 beginning at Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco.

Santa Maria will again be attending as a group—we will hear part of the rally and join the walk down Market Street toward the Embarcadero.

Our departure time on Saturday is TBD, but we will be leaving from Orinda BART, so please bring your Clipper Card or a way to pay for a BART ticket.

*Interested in joining us? Email megan@smparish.org so we know you’re coming!*  

**Baby clothes and more needed at Birthright**

On January 19/20 and January 26/27, containers will be in the narthex of the church.

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Your generosity makes this parish “go”!

Thanks to you, we’re able to provide faith formation programs for 101 children and 84 youth and teens, not to mention being able to support two refugee families and provide RCIA and Baptismal preparation classes.

Your consistent donations make it possible for us to continue these vital ministries.

If you’d like to enroll in Faith Direct for regular financial partnership with your parish, 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.

Birthright needs new or nearly new baby AND maternity clothes, diapers (size 4,5,6,), baby wipes, jackets for 3 to 18 months, and boys clothes 9-18 months. Your kind and generous donations will help support a client throughout pregnancy and babies up to eighteen months.

Birthright is a non-profit organization offering support, hope and love to women and families facing potential crisis pregnancies. Services provide mentoring, community/medical resources, pregnancy testing kits, maternity and baby items free of charge. Volunteers are needed (just a few hours a week). For further information: 925.798.7227 or www.concordbirthright.org

Volunteers needed for Winter Nights

This year, the Orinda Community Center is opening its doors to host the annual Winter Nights Shelter, a rotating shelter that provides homeless families with children a clean, safe, and warm shelter with bedding and daytime services. (More information is available at www.cccwinter nights.org)

We need 2 volunteers to tutor and 2 child care volunteers for nights of January 14, 15, 16 from 5pm-8pm

Contact Susan Lundstrom at 925-639-2884 or Sheila Eversole at 510-703-4134 if you can help out.

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.

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!

Name

Address

Phone       Email
**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**  
dcnpearc@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

**Treasurer**

December 23, 2018

Plate: $4,067.00  
Faith Direct: $3,469.48  
Total: $7,536.48  
Goal: $10,350.00  
Negative: -$2,813.52  
Christmas: $37,695.00  
Fire Relief: $3,390.00

Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:

Vickie Leutza after the 8:30am Mass  
Jim & Jackie Bava after the 10:30am Mass

**Prayer Intentions**

**For the Sick**


**For the Deceased**

Bob Singer, Orval Millette

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, January 7**  
Rosary & Communion Service—Orinda Seniors Village - 10:30am  
Faith Formation - 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm  
Children’s Choir - 3:30 pm

**Tuesday, January 8**  
Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel 12-3pm  
R.C.I.A. - 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, January 9**  
Ladies Guild - Bridge Marathon 9:00am - Conference Room  
Bible Reading & Communion Service - Orinda Care Center 11:00 am  
MSYG - 7:00 pm

**Thursday, January 10**

**Friday, January 11**

**Saturday, January 12**

Minister of the Word - 9:00 am  
Sacrament of Reconciliation- 4:00 pm

**Sunday, January 13**

C2 - 3:00 pm  
Youth Mass - 5:00 pm  
C1 - 6:15 pm

**This Week’s Readings**

First Reading:  
Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm  
72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Second Reading:  
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel:  
Matthew 2:1-12
SIGN UP NOW FOR THE

LINC

RETREAT 2018

FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS

JANUARY 18-20, 2019

CAMP ST. FRANCIS, APTOS

THIS YEAR’S THEME:

BRINGING

Christ

HOME

EMAIL MEGAN TO SIGN UP