Upholding the social and sacred traditions of the Philippines

Santa Maria Fil-Am Group celebrates Christmas, Santo Niño

Amidst tables decorated with poinsettias and surrounded by warm smiles, and bearing platters of pancit and bibingka (but to everyone’s amusement, no lumpia!), the Santa Maria Fil-Am, or Filipino-American, Community gathered for a Christmas party in the Parish Hall. The lively party provided an opportunity to become acquainted with the members of the group, their families, and a few of Santa Maria’s dedicated staff and volunteers.

A few months ago, with the encouragement and guidance of our pastor Father George and one of our deacons Deacon Rey Encarnacion, the Santa Maria Fil-Am (Filipino-American) Community was formed. To mark its formal organization, the group will celebrate the Feast of Santo Niño as a means of upholding sacred traditions of Philippine culture and heritage. This feast celebrates a religious image of the Christ Child (the Santo Niño) venerated as miraculous by Filipino Catholics.

The devotion will be expressed here at Santa Maria with a 9-day novena from January 10 through January 18 with Masses in the Chapel at 7:00pm Monday through Friday, and at 4:00pm Saturday and Sunday. The celebration will culminate with the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, January 19, 2019, and a reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

For more information on the Santo Niño celebrations, please contact Mariel Melarpis at mariel.melarpis@gmail.com or by phone at 415-823-8308.
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.

This is one of TWO options this year for a Confirmation retreat. Those in C1 or C2 can attend either this or the March 8-10 Confirmation Retreat at Mount Hermon.

The LinC Retreat costs $150. Permission Slips available on the YM Announcements page of the website. Payment and permission slips due January 15.

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

**Baptismal Process for Infants**

If you have a child that you would like baptized over the next two months the preparation process begin on Wednesday **January 23rd**. Please contact the parish office for more information about the baptismal process.

**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.

**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.

We will be leaving from Orinda BART at noon, 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. 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.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, January 14**
8:00am: Lenny Barretto (D)

**Tuesday, January 15**
8:00am: Yau Lin Liu (D)

**Wednesday, January 16**
8:00am: Noel D’Souza (D)

**Thursday, January 17**
8:00am: Jack Day (D)

**Friday, January 18**
8:00am: Luciano Alejo (D)

**Saturday, January 19**
5:00pm: Holy Souls in Purgatory

**Sunday, January 20**
8:30am: Stephen & Tom O’Brien(D)
10:30am: Christopher Lloyd (D)
5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria

*L=Living ; D=Deceased

To request a Mass Intention, please contact Mirna in the Parish Office or email mirnawong@smparish.org
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.

Ecumenical Choir
Concert Benefit for Camp Fire Victims at St. Bonaventure

The week of January 18-25 is traditionally known as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year, St. Bonaventure, 5562 Clayton Road, Concord will be holding a choral benefit concert on Saturday January 19 at 2 pm to directly help some of the affected Christian churches in the Paradise, CA area. We are working on collaboration with Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church, Concord United Methodist Church and Good Shepherd Church.

Food Collection
1st/2nd Weekends: St. Cornelius School
3rd/4th Weekends: St. Peter Martyr Church Pantry

All items can be put in the barrel in the Narthex.

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.

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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### Pastoral Team

**Reverend George Mockel**  
Pastor  
[gmockel@smparish.org](mailto: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)  
srmphan@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

### Week-at-a-Glance

**Monday, January 14**
- Faith Formation - 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm
- Children’s Choir - 3:30 pm

**Tuesday, January 15**
- Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel 12-3pm
- R.C.I.A. - 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, January 16**
- Bible Reading & Communion - OCC 11:00am
- MSYG - 7:00 pm

**Thursday, January 17**

**Friday, January 18**

**Saturday, January 19**
- Minister of the Word - 9:00 am
- Sacrament of Reconciliation - 4:00pm
- Fil-Am Santo Nino Reception-6:00pm

**Sunday, January 20**
- C2 - 3:00 pm
- Youth Mass - 5:00 pm
- C1 - 6:15 pm

### Treasure - Continued

**January 6, 2019**

**Plate:** $4,619.83  
**Faith Direct:** $2,341.85  
**Total:** $6,961.68  
**Goal:** $10,350.00  
**Negative:** -$3,388.32  
**Faith Formation:** $1,178.00

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**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:** $40,042.00  
**Fire Relief:** $3,390.00

**December 30, 2018**

- **Plate:** $6,389.90  
- **Faith Direct:** $3,469.48  
- **Total:** $9,859.38  
- **Goal:** $10,350.00  
- **Negative:** -$490.62

**Solemnity of Mary:** $1,285.00  
**Maintenance:** $1,624.00

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**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.
Join the Santa Maria parish group!
Meet at Orinda BART at noon
Bring $12 for your ticket!
BARTing by yourself?
Meet us at the Civic Center! Email megan@smparish.org for details!

Rally starts at Civic Center Plaza, walking down Market Street (2 miles). Ends at Embarcadero Plaza/Ferry Building.
BART stations at both locations. Ample parking.

Register and info:
415/658-1793 | email: info@WalkforLifeWC.com
WalkforLifeWC.com