Dear Parishioners,

By now most of you have either seen or heard of the letter Bishop Barber wrote concerning my re-appointment to the office of Vicar General of the Diocese. In his letter the Bishop acknowledged my request to be relieved of that responsibility in order to place my full-time energies into the parish. The Bishop was most gracious in his compliments about my service to him and his predecessors since 2005, but at the same time indicated his decision that I remain as Vicar General.

Perhaps some reflections are appropriate.

I decided to become a diocesan priest because I wanted to be in parish work. It was parish priests and their ministry that attracted me to the priesthood. Very early in my priesthood, Bishop Begin indicated he felt I had certain administrative abilities that could be of service to the Diocese and the Church; therefore, as they say: “the rest is history.”

Some of you have asked about my reaction to the Bishop’s decision. It is obviously not what I asked for. However, I have discerned one very important truth in my life over the years: ever since I was ordained a deacon, I have never received a single assignment I sought or wanted and yet, in hindsight, I would never, in a million years, trade any of them for another. The friendships, the experiences, the joys, and even the sorrows and the crosses have come to be great blessings in my life. At the time of our ordination, every priest places his hands in the hand of the Bishop and promises “obedience and respect to him and his successors.” That is not always easy to accept at the time, but there is wisdom there. “God often has better plans for us than we have for ourselves.”

-Father George
Congratulations Father Christopher Fadok, O.P.!

Father Christopher Fadok, O.P. who provides Sacramental assistance to us has just been elected Prior Provincial of the Western Province of the Dominicans. The election took place January 10 and he now begins a four year term. Father Chris was raised in Phoenix, Arizona where he received an Air Force ROTC scholarship and studied engineering in Chicago. Impressed by the philosophical works of Saint John Paul II and after a period of searching and discernment in his life, he joined the Dominicans and was ordained a priest in 2010. Father Chris hopes to continue to offer Sacramental assistance to the parish as his time and schedule allow.

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.

World Day of the Sick: Parish and Cathedral

Do you know of a neighbor, friend, or loved one who could use prayers for healing or hope? Are you a healthcare provider or caregiver? Join us!

Mass with Anointing of the Sick at Santa Maria

Saturday, January 26
11:00am in the Church
Lunch reception follows

Mass at the Cathedral

Saturday, February 9
11:00am at The Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

Did you know our bulletins are online?

If you receive the Weekly Weekend Update emails, you'll notice a new link to the bulletin!

We want to make it easier for you to find parish information. If you have any suggestions for how else we can better communicate with you, or if you would like to be added to the Weekly Weekend Update email list, please email our Communications Director at megan@smparish.org!

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.

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.

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 21
8:00am: Orval Millette (D)

Tuesday, January 22
8:00am: Helena Wianecka (D)

Wednesday, January 23
8:00am: Peter Henry Ehler (D)

Thursday, January 24
8:00am: Maria Hoang (D)

Friday, January 25
8:00am: Anthony Phu Dinh (D)

Saturday, January 26
5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria

Sunday, January 27
8:30am: Intention of the Presider
10:30am: Christopher Lloyd (D)
5:00pm: Intention of the Presider

I=Intentions of [N.]; D=Deceased
To request a Mass Intention, please contact Mirna in the Parish Office or email mirnawong@smparish.org
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.

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

months. Your kind and generous donations will help support a client throughout pregnancy and babies up to eighteen months.

For more information on Birthright: 925-798-7227 or www.concordbirthright.org

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.
**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

**Treasure**

January 13, 2019

Plate: $4,952.00  
Faith Direct: $3,469.48  
Total: $8,421.48  
Goal: $10,350.00  
Negative: -$ 1,928.52

**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 21  
Office Closed - MLK Holiday

Faith Formation - cancelled  
Children’s Choir - cancelled

Tuesday, January 22  
Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel 12-3pm  
R.C.I.A. - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 23  
Mass - Orinda Care Center 11:00am  
MSYG - 7:00 pm  
Baptismal Class - 7:00pm

Thursday, January 24

Friday, January 25

Saturday, January 26  
Walk for Life - 12:00pm  
Minister of the Word - 9:00 am  
Sacrament of Reconciliation - 4:00pm

Sunday, January 27  
C2 - 3:00 pm  
Youth Mass - 5:00 pm  
C1 - 6:15 pm

**This Week’s Readings**

First Reading:  
Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm  
96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10

Second Reading:  
Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel:  
John 2:1-11

Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:

Dave Fulton after the 8:30am Mass

Maria Nunez after the 10:30am Mass
SANTA MARIA’S 5TH ANNUAL

CRAB FEED

TEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE!

A PARISH EVENT HOSTED BY THE ORINDA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FEBRUARY 2, 2019
6pm-10pm IN THE PARISH HALL
DUNGENESS CRAB | SALAD | PASTA | DESSERT
BEER | WINE | AND A SPECIALTY DRINK

CONTACT MEGAN TO BE A SERVER! EARN TIPS OR EARN VOLUNTEER/SERVICE HOURS!

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT OUR PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE & AFTER MASSES THROUGH JAN 27