Retreat inspires teens, leaders to “feed my sheep”

Confirmation “fed” in a weekend away at Mount Hermon

“You guys, here it is—the best line in the Bible,” one of the retreat leaders said excitedly, spontaneously annotating a reading from the Gospel of John late into the second night of the retreat. “Jesus said to them, “Come, have breakfast.” I told you they had a fish fry on the beach!”

Over 60 teens and almost 20 retreat leaders and chaperones from both Santa Maria and St. Charles Borromeo spent this past weekend in a joint Confirmation retreat at the Mount Hermon Conference Center in Scotts Valley. The retreat revolved around four different encounters with Jesus after His death and Resurrection, and led teens (and leaders) in reflecting on how they could better follow Christ: worshipping the Lord by their actions, listening for the Holy Spirit’s whispers, and keeping an eye out for Jesus when and where they least expect him.

Through witness talks, activities, games, and, of course, Scripture readings, retreatants learned a few new ways to live the command to “feed my sheep,” and were challenged on whether they were ready to take this commission seriously when they received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

“Jesus always fed people both spiritually and physically,” Youth Minister Megan Arteaga said, grinning, while setting up s’mores with a few other leaders. “I don’t see why we should do it any differently.”
Mark your calendars:

Directory Photoshoot

Sign-ups will soon be available for professional photography by LifeTouch for our brand new, updated Parish Photo Directory! Photography dates are April 30-May 4, and all sessions will take place here at Santa Maria.

**K-5 FF is planning ahead! Can you help?**

Even though it’s just March, we’ve begun to plan for the 2019-2020 Faith Formation year! If you have been feeling called to offer your talents as a catechist for K-5th grade Faith formation, please contact Sr. Mary Margaret at srmmphan@smparish.org or 925-254-2426 x306.

**How can I help someone who can’t pray for themselves?**

Having a Mass said for someone living or deceased is a comforting expression of faith and love. We have an obligation in justice and love to pray for one another—especially for the deceased, who can no longer pray for themselves. The Mass is the great prayer that can ever be offered. If you wish to have Masses said for someone living or deceased, contact Mirna in the Parish Office.

**Outreach**

“Thank You” from St. Peter Martyr Parish

We recently received a note from Fr. Jesus Hernandez, pastor of St. Peter Martyr parish in Pittsburg. Santa Marians generously donated nearly 100 boxes of food to the parish to brighten the Christmas of its many families who live near the economic margin.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, March 18**
10:00 am: Jack McGuire (D)

**Tuesday, March 19**
10:00 am: Matthew Marchinkowski

**Wednesday, March 20**
10:00 am: Intention of the Presider

**Thursday, March 21**
8:00 am: Intention of the Presider

**Friday, March 22**
8:00 am: Intention of the Presider

**Saturday, March 23**
5:00 pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria

**Sunday, March 24**
8:30 am: (I) Peter Sumner
10:30 am: Josephine Regan (D)
5:00 pm: Jerry Marino (D)

*I=Intentions of [N.]; D=Deceased To request a Mass Intention, please contact Mirna in the Parish Office or...*
"On behalf of St. Peter Martyr parish families I want to thank you for your generosity. We gratefully appreciate your support and toy drive/Christmas food baskets contribution. May God bless you, your parish, your family and your team for your giving support. Blessings!"

The parish also sent a copy of its parish history "From Ashes to Fire," written by Rev. Ricardo A. Chavez. The book tells of its founding as a community of Italian immigrants, mostly fishermen, then its midcentury transition to a predominantly Spanish-speaking parish. The book is in the narthex office with a sign-out sheet. Feel free to borrow it (and return it) after you've read it.

**Food Collection**

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

Please put all donations in the bins in the Narthex.

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**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Are you a Catholic professional?**

The Catholic Alumni Club members and guests (that’s you!) will be gathering Saturday, March 30 to enjoy dinner and a fun time. The club was started as a means for Catholic single professionals to meet.

Gather at the popular Primavera Ristorante, San Ramon.

If you’re interested, RSVP by 5:00pm on March 29 by calling Dorothy at 925-735-0208 or Earle at 925-300-8811.

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**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 requests 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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**LENTEN PRACTICES**

Catholics aged 18-59 are bound to fast on both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday—consuming one full meal a day and taking other smaller quantities of food at the other customary mealtimes without snacking.

Catholics aged 14 and up are to abstain from meat (beef, veal, pork, and poultry) on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday.

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**Fast. Pray. Give up envelopes!**

Help the Church of Santa Maria by giving up envelopes this Lent!

Enrolling with Faith Direct will provide the church with consistent support, and will simplify your giving without the wasteful envelopes. Join us in giving up envelopes this Lenten season!

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.

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**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

**Prayer Intentions**

**For the Sick**  
Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Edith Black, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Cara Bradbury, Maria Carmen, Rosemary Catton, Delores Codde, Lorna Elliott, Nora Enriquez, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Carol Hardy, 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, Jim Ryan, Patrick Sheehy, Hector Santiago, Peter Sumner

**For the Deceased**  
Patricia Newman

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.

**Treasure**

March 3, 2019

Plate: $ 4384.14  
Faith Direct: $ 3,448.98*  
Total: $ 7,833.12  
Goal: $10,350.00  
Negative: -$ 2,516.88

Ash Wednesday: $2214.50

*Estimate, not actual amount

**This Week’s Classes**

- **Monday, March 18**  
  Parish Mission - 10:00am Mass followed by Lunch in Hall
- **Tuesday, March 19**  
  Parish Mission - 10:00 am Mass followed by Lunch in Hall

**Week-at-a-Glance**

- **Monday, March 18**  
  Parish Mission - 10:00am Mass followed by Lunch in Hall
  Faith Formation: 2:30pm and 4:00 pm
  Children’s Choir— 3:30 pm
  Parish Mission - Women’s Session - 7:30 pm Hall
- **Tuesday, March 19**  
  Parish Mission - 10:00 am Mass followed by Lunch in Hall
  Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel 12-3pm
  Parish Mission - Men’s Session - 7:30 pm Hall
- **Wednesday, March 20**  
  Parish Mission - 10:00 am Mass followed by Lunch in Hall
  Bible Reading/Communion - OCC - 11:00 am
  MSYG - 7:00 pm
  Parish Mission - 7:30 pm General Closing Session in Hall
- **Thursday, March 21**
- **Friday, March 22**
- **Saturday, March 23**
  Minister of the Word - 9:00 am
  Sacrament of Reconciliation - 4:00pm
- **Sunday, March 24**
  The next C1/C2 classes are April 14.

**This Week’s Readings**

- First Reading:  
  Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
- Psalm  
  27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14
- Second Reading:  
  Philippians 3:17—4:1
- Gospel:  
March 16 – March 20, 2019
with Father Stan Fortuna, CFR

Join the Church of Santa Maria for a week of powerful, inspirational sessions and Masses sure to set your “Life on Fire”!

Saturday/Sunday: Ignite a Spark
Fr. Stan preaches all the Masses
6:00pm Sunday – Teen/Parent Session

Monday: Fan the Flames
10:00am – Morning Mass and General Session
2:30 and 4:00pm – Faith Formation and Parent Sessions
7:00pm – Women’s Session

Tuesday: Blaze a Trail
10:00am – Morning Mass and General Session
7:00pm – Men’s Session

Wednesday: Keep the Fire Burning
10:00am – Morning Mass and General Session
7:00pm – Closing Session for Everyone

All morning sessions are followed by lunch, and evening sessions include coffee and desserts!