Walking the Stations of the Cross

How this pilgrimage can enhance Lent and your faith

One time in Confirmation class, I did an experiment. I’d been reading about how teenage brains process information, and a recurring suggestion was to get them moving. One teacher at an all-boys school gave his lectures while walking with his students around the track. It was an intriguing suggestion. (It was also springtime, dazzlingly sunny, and invitingly warm outside—in the interest of full disclosure.)

So, I took the teens up to the baseball field for a walking class, which, after all (I rationalized) was backed up by the idea of pilgrimage in our Church for ages. It was a success, and a memorable class for those teens and for me.

The whole pilgrimage thing can be memorable and have an impact on us during Lent, too. It doesn’t need to be big; we can take a mini-pilgrimage to follow Jesus’ last steps on the way to His crucifixion any Friday during Lent.

Here are a few reasons to pray the Stations of the Cross with us this Lent:

1. **They help us to remember what the Cross of Christ is all about.** We see crucifixes everywhere—at church, in our homes, around our necks—and can become desensitized to its meaning. (See Romans 5:18-19 or come to Stations to refresh your memory!)

2. **They provide an opportunity to draw closer to Jesus.** Walking the Stations helps us realize that what we’re meditating on was actually done for us. For you. For me. If we can appreciate more what Jesus did for us, it will draw us into a deeper relationship with him.  

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3. Walking will help us process what we’re praying. Remember that experiment from that Confirmation class? It might work for you, too! Walking through the Stations in the Church (or through Orinda at 12:15 pm on Good Friday!) connects us in a physical way with what we’re praying.

Basically, if you want to know why Jesus is important, or if you wonder if He really loves you, come pray the Stations of the Cross. Details are on page 3.

Megan Arteaga
Youth Minister

PARISH LIFE

Sign up for your directory photoshoot!

Visit our website today to sign up for the best time for you!

Call the Parish Office if you have any questions or want to confirm that it’s really Father George sending you the email.

Save a life—give blood

The Knights of Columbus and Santa Maria will host a Blood Drive on Good Friday, April 19, 2019 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

To schedule your life-saving appointment, visit www.bloodheroes.com and click “Locate a Blood Drive” and enter Sponsor Code: Santamaria. The Blood Mobile will be parked in the lower Church parking lot. Don’t forget to bring your photo ID, and eat and drink plenty of water before donating!

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.

Questions? Contact Bob Semar at thebobs2@comcast.net or 925-283-1348.

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.

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!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

| Name |
| Address |
| Phone | Email |

Visit www.santamariaorinda.com/registration!
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, April 8**
8:00 am: John Caravco (D)

**Tuesday, April 9**
8:00 am: All Souls

**Wednesday, April 10**
8:00 am: Intention of the Presider

**Thursday, April 11**
8:00 am: Intention of the Presider

**Friday, April 12**
8:00 am: Maria Dinh Soi (D)

**Saturday, April 13**
5:00 pm: Barbara Christensen (D)

**Sunday, April 14**
8:30 am: Stephen & Tom O’Brien (D)
10:30 am: Egon (Gene) Kraus (D)
5:00 pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria

*I=Intentions of N.; D=Deceased

To request a Mass Intention, please contact Mirna in the Parish Office

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**FORMATION**

Learn about Catholic social teaching and put your faith into action

Continue to “Fan the Flames” of your faith after our Parish Mission!

Learn about Catholic Social Teachings from expert Steve Mullin of Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Oakland, then put what you learned into action as we discuss and determine Santa Maria’s 2019 social justice projects.

**Thursday, April 25**
6:45 pm - 9:00 pm
Refreshments will be served!

Put your faith into action—follow Jesus’ example in the world today as preached by Pope Francis.

*RSVP to Janet Riley at hjriley@pacbell.net by April 22*

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**Prayer Network**

The Prayer Network is a small group of people who pray for the special and most urgent needs of others.

*If you or anyone you know is in need of special prayer, please contact Margaret Govednik at 925-254-1934 or mwgovednik@comcast.net, or Kathie Brady at Kathie.brady@gmail.com and we will include your prayer request in our daily devotions. All prayer requests are confidential.*

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**LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES**

**Stations of the Cross**
Fridays through April 19
7:30 pm in the Church

Join us to commemorate Jesus’ last steps before death at this traditional Lenten practice. Walk through the 14 Stations in the Church with guided reflections and sung refrains.

Stations of the Cross are preceded by a Simple Supper in the Parish Hall at 6:45 pm. All are welcome to join us.

**Lenten Reconciliation Service**
Wednesday, April 10
7:30 pm in the Church

Acknowledge and be forgiven for what’s holding you back from living a life in Christ in Confession, as you prepare for Easter Sunday.

*You may also join us any Saturday from 4:00-4:30 pm in the church for Confession.*

**Abstaining on Fridays**

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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**OUTREACH**

**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.

*For more information on the recipients of our donations, visit www.stcornelius-school.org and www.stpetermartyrschool.org.*

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*Food Pantry Needs*
**Pastoral Team**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reverend George Mockel</td>
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<td>Reverend Joseph Duong Nguyen</td>
<td>Priest in Residence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reverend Michael Amabisco, OP</td>
<td>Sacramental Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reverend Christopher Fadok, OP</td>
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**Treasure**

- **Plate:** $3,744.10
- **Faith Direct:** $3,448.98*
- **Total:** $7,193.08
- **Goal:** $10,350.00
- **Negative:** -$3,156.92
- **Maintenance:** $1,493.00
- **Catholic Relief:** $1,695.00

*This is the weekly average of the current month’s projected giving, not the actual amount.

**Weekly at a Glance**

- **Monday, April 8**
  - Staff Meeting - 10:30 am
  - Faith Formation - 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm
  - Children’s Choir — 3:30 pm

- **Tuesday, April 9**
  - Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel 12-3 pm
  - Adult Choir - 7:00 pm
  - R.C.I.A - 7:00 pm

- **Wednesday, April 10**
  - Bible Reading/Communion - OCC - 11:00 am
  - MSYG - 7:00 pm
  - Lenten Communal Reconciliation Service - 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
  - Reconciliation Reception - 8:30 pm

- **Thursday, April 11**
  - Parent Bible Study - 11:00 am
  - Adult Choir - 7:00 pm

- **Friday, April 12**
  - Lenten Supper - 6:45 pm
  - Stations of the Cross - 7:30 pm

- **Saturday, April 13**
  - Minister of the Word - 9:00 am
  - Sacrament of Reconciliation - 4:00 pm

- **Sunday, April 14**
  - C2 - 3:00 pm
  - Youth Mass Rehearsal - 4:00 pm
  - Youth Mass - 5:00 pm
  - C1 - 6:15 pm

**This Week’s Readings**

- **First Reading:**
  - Isaiah 43:16-21

- **Psalm:**
  - 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

- **Second Reading:**
  - Philippians 3:8-14

- **Gospel:**
  - John 8:1-11

- **Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:**
  - Dave & Joan after the 8:30am Mass
  - James & Jackie Bava after the 10:30am Mass
santamaria Youth Ministry

mark your calendars for the

sacrament of CONFIRMATION

June 9, 2019

Our Confirmation candidates and their sponsors will soon be gathering to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation (which we’ll celebrate on Sunday, June 9 at 10:30am).

Keep them in your prayers as they study the readings, learn about the symbols of the rite, reflect on what they bring to and receive from the Mass, and spend quality time together.

Interested in the Confirmation Program here at the Church of Santa Maria? Contact Megan Arteaga in the Parish Office.