Church of Santa Maria
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 4, 2019

Congratulations and many thanks to Father Joseph Duong Nguyen!

Father Joseph is safely settling back into life in Vietnam

For the past two and a half years, Father Joseph has been in residence at Santa Maria, celebrating daily Mass with us, studying his philosophy texts, and (as the office staff often teased him) “keeping Amazon in business” with his book orders.

Father Joseph lived here during his course of study at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley. He earned a Master of Arts in Philosophy after six semesters of courses on thought processes, worldviews, and the art of critical thinking.

Upon earning this degree (which coincided with his 10th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood), he was able to return to his home Diocese of Hai Phong to be a professor at their major seminary. He will teach philosophy to seminarians, helping form the next generation of the Vietnamese church. He will also be installed as pastor of a parish, returning fully to the ministerial life he loves.

To support programs like that which allowed Father Joseph to study with us, and the development of the Church in Vietnam, please send contributions to the Office of Propagation of the Faith, 2121 Harrison Street, Oakland CA 94612.
Vegetation abatement and a costly replacement

Perhaps you may have noticed some trees and shrubbery missing around the parish property? PG&E has trimmed pine trees along their “right of way” on our property next to the Park and Ride lot to reduce fire danger.

Also, a rather wide swath of greenery is being removed from the main entrance road up the hill behind the Rectory, the church, and the hall to make way for equipment to trench for a new main water line. Our water line has to be replaced as it is leaking and can no longer be repaired.

The cost for this project is substantial (in excess of $100,000)! We do not have sufficient funds in our operations account to cover this cost, so we will have to dip into our reserves.

We depend on your regular weekly contributions to help build up a reserve for these kinds of expenses. Thank you for your generosity!

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 15th – a Holy Day of Obligation with Masses at 8am and 7:30pm in the Church. The dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was proclaimed in 1950, but this observance has been celebrated on this day from the middle of the fifth century. On this day we profess our belief that Mary has gone before us, body and soul, into Heaven. For Her, the Resurrection of the dead has taken place already.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is a journey of faith for adults inquiring about becoming a Catholic. The process recognizes that all who join us have already experienced God in their lives and are now searching for a community in which they can join in worship of God and learn more about living a spiritual life of faith.

Have you been searching? Do you know someone who is searching? Come and join this discovery of who God is and who we are as Church and people of faith. The RCIA Journey begins on Tuesday, October 1.

For more information and to set up a meeting please contact Tony Millette @ 254.2426 x303

OUTREACH

Weekly 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.
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 register at www.santamariaorinda.com/registration