Welcoming a new family—and a new baby!

Celebrating the Amini Family’s baby shower

A few weeks ago, a small group of parishioners gathered in the Conference Room to celebrate an American tradition for an Afghani family: a baby shower.

Inspired by Mirna Wong, our parish Administrative Assistant, the Social Justice Committee helped host a baby shower for our newest refugee family from Afghanistan. Ramina (the mother-to-be), Mujeeullah, and Neha (the baby’s one-year-old older sister) Amini enjoyed buffet lunch prepared by the Committee, and opened many baby gifts for the new baby boy, who is expected to arrive in early October.

The idea of a “baby shower” was foreign to them, so the American tradition of showering a newborn with gifts was explained. While Ramina was opening gifts, their daughter, Neha (whose first birthday was two days away), played happily with her birthday balloon. Mujeeullah, the young father, took many photos to memorialize this special occasion.

With many smiles and much gratitude, this beautiful family took home a new crib complete with mattress, mattress pad, and sheets, an infant car seat, a bassinet, baby clothes, and a gift card.

Congratulations to the Amini Family!
Important note from the Finance Council

Your Finance Committee continuously monitors the overall status of Santa Maria’s financial status, including weekly collections.

We have noticed a significant decline in these collections (both what is collected in the baskets as well as electronic payments via Faith Direct). Starting around mid-June, our weekly collections have declined by about 22%.

This does not seem to be a summer-related problem. As you can imagine, such a steep decline in our weekly collections will have a significant negative impact on our financials if it continues.

If you are using our Faith Direct automatic payment system we ask that you check your credit card or bank account to make sure that payments are still being made (note: if your credit card number has changed recently, please call Mirna Wong at the parish office to give her your new card number).

If you put checks or cash in the baskets at mass, we ask that you continue to give on a regular basis. Please consider automating these donations by using our Faith Direct system.

Good news, bad news, good news.

The good news is that we are back in the church now.

The bad news is that the wrong color carpet was ordered by the supplier!

The OTHER good news is that the supplier is installing a temporary carpet throughout the entire church at his expense until the new carpet can be manufactured and installed. So don’t be surprised, shocked, or disappointed when you see the carpet—IT IS TEMPORARY!

We should have known things were going too smoothly! We plan. God laughs!

Jesus is back!

Okay, he never left. But Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Adoration) followed by Benediction begins again in September! The Chapel will be open for Adoration from noon-3pm on Tuesdays starting on September 3 (the day after Labor Day).

Mark your calendars for Back to Church Sunday!

Join over 13,000 churches nationwide for National Back to Church Sunday, September 15. We’ll be blessing the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry parents and catechists, starting off our ministry year with the first Youth Mass at 5pm, and hosting a BBQ potluck after the 10:30am Mass!

Can you help us with the potluck? Sign up at tinyurl.com/BTCS-SM2019 to help!

We need young adults!

Have you recently been Confirmed, graduated from High School and are sticking around, or just moved back to Orinda after college?

Tony and Megan would love to have you minister at the twice-monthly Youth Masses!

Contact tmillette@smparish.org if you’re interested!

Classes are starting!

K-5 Faith Formation begins Monday, September 9; Middle School Youth Group has its 8th annual Piñata KICK-Off Wednesday, September 11; and Confirmation hosts its first Youth Mass and Confirmation sessions Sunday, September 15!

Faith Formation—not just for kids.

Did you know we have adult Faith Sharing Groups that meet to learn and discuss the Sunday readings, current church events, the history of the Catholic Church, and more?

Email Tony at tmillette@smparish.org for more info!
Seeking the unqualified, the curious, the skeptical

If this describes you, our Confirmation program needs your help!

We’re running a program designed to provide a safe space for our teens to ask questions, wrestle with doubts, encounter the Lord, and find a community who is willing to journey with them. If you’re willing to be vulnerable enough to be the first person to express those curiosities, doubts, and wonders that they’re already thinking of, our discussions will be much more fruitful!

Training, practical support, and moral support all provided.

Email Megan if this describes you at megan@smparish.org!

“Unplanned” movie showing at Santa Maria

Join us 7pm, September 25 for a showing of, Unplanned, by a woman who was once the abortion industry’s most passionate advocate.

“No matter which side of the fence you’re on, no one will leave this film unmoved by Abby’s journey,” their website claims.

Email Anne Fuller for details at annefuller@sbcglobal.net.

Golf for good.

It’s time to have fun and help those less fortunate in our community! The Santa Maria Knights of Columbus are hosting their annual Charity Golf Tournament Monday, September 23 at the Moraga Country Club. The entry fee is $200, which includes 18 holes of golf, beverages, carts, and a delicious dinner after.

Contact Steve Berg at berg548@comcast.net for more information or to register!

Celebrate Life Birthright Fall Dinner

You are invited to our Celebrate LIFE Fall Dinner and Fundraiser to benefit Birthright of Concord on Saturday, October 12th. No host bar at 5:30 pm. Dinner at 6:15 pm. Catered by Bambino’s.

Christine Watkins, a popular speaker, best-selling author and guest on Christian radio and tv, will share her inspiring pro-life story. A former dancer in the SF Ballet, she is the Founder of Queen of Peace Media. A Birthright client will also share her testimony.

Raffle, Silent Auction, and Live Music!

Where: St. Mary’s Church Gym, 1198 Bont Lane, Walnut Creek.

Cost: $40.00 per adult: $20.00 children 5-12, and under 5 free.


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

BAPTISMAL PROCESS

If you have child that you would like to be baptized over the next two months the first of two required parent classes will begin soon. Dates of both classes are: September 18th and 25th – both start at 7p. Please contact the parish office for more information about the baptismal process or if you would like to register. 254.2426

Weekly Food Collection

1st/2nd Weekends: St. Cornelius School
3rd/4th Weekends: St. Peter Martyr Church Pantry
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
Middle School Youth Group’s

8TH ANNUAL piñata KICK-off

Register for MSYG at tinyurl.com/YMRRocks19-20

SEPT 11
7:00pm
in the youth room