Movies, vigils, and meals

Kicking off Respect Life Month early—with a bang

A poster hangs on the wall in one of our classrooms that says, “Don’t believe everything you think.”

Join us to experience, listen, and feel—as well as think on—what it means to protect those who are most vulnerable during Respect Life Month. Each October, the Catholic Church in the U.S. asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of human life, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. Here are some ways you can join in:

“Unplanned” movie showing: 9/25 at 7pm in the Conference Room
Hear the moving and shocking story of 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 annefuller@sbcglobal.net for details.

40 Days for Life Vigil: 9/25-11/3, Walnut Creek Planned Parenthood
Bishop Barber has called us to, as Pope Francis says, “bear witness through your work that ‘those who have been conceived are children of the whole of society’” and to be a voice of support to families struggling with a difficult pregnancy. Check out 40daysforlife.com/walnut-creek

Respect Life Gathering: 10/5 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light
This annual event will feed you in more ways than one! Register at oakdiocese.org/respectlife
Introducing “His Heart, Our Hands”
Over the next few weeks, you’ll be hearing about the upcoming Increased Offertory Program at Santa Maria. In order to continue our mission and ministries in our community, we encourage all parishioners to spend time in prayer and discussion with your family reflecting on the work we do. Our Commitment Weekend will be October 19-20!

Join us Tuesday night for a session on the clergy sexual abuse scandal
Steve Wilcox, Chancellor of the Diocese, will speak in Santa Maria Parish Hall this Tuesday, September 24 at 7:30pm to give an overview of the Diocesan policy and response to allegations of clergy sexual abuse. Following his presentation there will be an opportunity for questions as well as an invitation to join a subsequent optional discussion group based on a book by Bishop Robert Baron: “Letter to a Suffering Church.”

Is this your kid?
Put their musical lungs to good use and sign them up for our Children’s Choir!
Kids in 1st-5th grades gather to rehearse 30 minutes on Monday from 3:30 to 4:00pm in Room 1 of the school. The first Children’s Mass is November 3.
Contact Tony Millette at 254-2426 x303 or by email at tmillette@smparish.org.

A little over 5% to go!
Santa Maria is steadily raising funds for the 2019 Bishop’s Appeal, and the latest report is that we are at 94.90% of our goal of $34,700—all we need is $1,771 to make it!

Our ears hurt, too.
You may have noticed that our PA system is a little fussier even than usual. Please be patient—we’ll recalibrate it when the permanent carpet is installed!

Thank you, Fr. Daniel!
Father Daniel, who has stayed with us the past four weeks, will be returning to “real life” in southern India as his summer vacation comes to a close. If you see him this weekend, make sure to say farewell for now!

Learn about and celebrate the Philippines’ San Lorenzo Ruis
The Santa Maria Fil-Am Community invites you to honor San Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint. The Novena began this past Thursday and will end on Friday, September 27. It will be held in the Convent Chapel Mon-Fri 7:00pm; Sat & Sun 4:00pm
On Saturday, September 28 after the 5:00pm Mass, we will host a celebration in the Church Hall. All are welcome!

Do you like to eat?
Join our brothers and sisters in Christ at St. John the Evangelist Antiochian Orthodox Church this weekend doing something Jesus really loved—eating Middle Eastern food!

Saturday 9/21: 11am till 8pm
Sunday 9/22: 12pm till 7pm
501 Moraga Way, Orinda

Savory food, sweet food, refreshing food, live music, vendors, and more await you!

Response to Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas

The Bahamas is reeling from the catastrophic Category 5 Hurricane Dorian of September 1-3. Catholic Relief Services is coordinating with partners on the ground to coordinate transportation, relief supplies, shelter, safe water, and more.

To make a donation, visit www.crs.org. For more information, contact the Diocesan CRS office at mmckimney@cceb.org or 510-768-3176.

Congratulations Amini Family on baby Muslim!

Ramina gave birth to their new baby boy, who they named Muslim, on September 1 at 5:50am. Since he was born 5 weeks early, he will have an extended stay at the hospital. However, both mother and baby are doing well! Thank you for your prayers and support!

Social Justice is in action around here!

Members of the Social Justice Team toured the unique Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School in Oakland—which we support with our stewardship. Then, on Labor Day Sunday, members of our parish served the seniors and homeless at St. Mary’s Center in Oakland.

For more details, visit our Parish Website!

Golfing together for good

Our Knights of Columbus have been hard at work planning their annual Charity Golf event, which will take place this Monday.

This year, the designated charity recipients are:
St. Raymond’s Home
St. Mary Center
St. Anne’s Home
Birthright
The Malta Clinic

Donations are still accepted.
Email Steve Berg at berg543@comcast.net!
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
It’s too late for the piñata.

But it’s not too late to join us for the rest of the year. Register for MSYG online at tinyurl.com/YMRocks19-20