We’re trying something new.

Starting off at “ground zero” in Confirmation 1

“So—if it turns out God is actually real, what’s one question you would ask him?”

This question hung on the television screen in front of about 25 teenagers and their peer and adult small group hosts a few Sundays ago. It was the last discussion question of the first C1, or first-year Confirmation, session.

“It’s pretty rare to see a church program that asks the question that way—by not assuming you already believe in God,” one of the leaders had mentioned. We wanted to start at “ground zero” with our teens this year, taking into account the reality of many (but not all) Catholic families: after First Eucharist, faith formation and sadly, even Sunday Mass can be put on the back burner after homework, sports, and other extracurriculars. As a result, many our teens haven’t really had a chance to wrestle with or even talk about their faith—and don’t know where to start.

Our Confirmation program this year is implementing a new tool, the Alpha Youth series (alpha.org/alpha-youth-series). Alpha is a program designed to provide a space to ask life’s big questions, share their doubts, triumphs, and points of view—no matter where they are in their life and faith journeys. Each session starts with food (of course!), looks at a different question related to faith, and invites good, honest conversation. Keep us in your prayers as we try something new!
October is the month of the Rosary—will you celebrate with us?

We will be holding our annual candlelight rosary prayer service on Wednesday, October 9 at 7:30pm in honor of our Blessed Mother, the patroness of our parish.

Whether you pray the Rosary every day or the beaded strands have always confounded you, you’re encouraged to join us. We’ll gather on the plaza of the church and conclude inside.

Have you read Bishop Robert Barron?

This past Tuesday, we welcomed Chancellor of the Diocese of Oakland Steve Wilcox to speak about the history and context of the sexual abuse scandal.

For those who would appreciate a more in-depth opportunity to respond or take action, we encourage you to sign up for a Faith Sharing Group book study.

Our text will be “Letter to a Suffering Church,” by Bishop Robert Barron. Free copies are available in the Parish Office.

If you or your FSG are interested, please email megan@smparish.org to be added to the list.

The Guild is welcoming someone from the Orinda Historical Society

The Women’s Guild will be having their Membership Luncheon on Wednesday, October 30 with a speaker from the Orinda Historical Society.

Anyone who has attended Mass at the old chapel on Miner Road, or who has pictures of old Church activities should join us! Anyone who’d like to know more about the history of our parish should also join!

Call Judy Eben at 254-7969 or Lynne Lloyd at 254-6287.

Pray for our RCIA candidates!

Our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults has begun! Please pray for those discerning, praying, and pondering their journey to becoming Catholic.

Know someone who’d like to become Catholic? Pass on Tony

PARISH LIFE

The 2019 Santa Maria Oktoberfest

Join us for brats, sauerkraut, grilled chicken, salad, German beer, pretzels, and strudel!

Hot dogs and pasta provided for the kids.

All parish families are invited! Bring your friends and family!

Hosted by the Santa Maria Knights of Columbus

Saturday, October 26
in the Parish Hall
6pm-10pm
$21 per adult
Kids eat free!

Buy your tickets online at www.tinyurl.com/SMOktoberfest19

Join us for brats, sauerkraut, grilled chicken, salad, German beer, pretzels, and strudel!

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Sick with the Liturgy of the Word will be Saturday, October 26 at 11am, followed by a reception in the Hall.

Bring a parent, friend, or yourself if you need healing or comfort while suffering from a physical or mental illness and wish to celebrate this beautiful Sacrament.

Are you unsure if you’re in need of this Sacrament, or want to know more about it? Contact Sr. Mary Magdalene at 925-254-2426.

Join us for Mass at Orinda Senior Village!

This Monday, October 7th at 9:30am is our monthly Senior Village Mass. The Mass allows those who live at the Senior Village to gather for prayer with members of our parish community.

On the other Mondays of the month, members of the parish gather with the residents of the OSV at 10:30am to pray the Rosary and to celebrate a community service. Come and join us!

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 mmckimmey@cceb.org or 510-768-3176.

Weekly Food Collection

1st and 2nd weekends: St. Cornelius School, Richmond
- Fruit cups, crackers, granola bars, cereal, Cup-o-Noodles, mac-and-cheese, pantry staples

3rd and 4th weekends: St. Peter Martyr Food Pantry
- Canned meats and fish, cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit

Are you or a loved one in need of healing?

Our annual Anointing of the
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/YMRRocks19-20