Kicking off His Heart, Our Hands

Practicing stewardship in our parish community

“To know Christ better and to make Him better known” is our official parish mission, shared with the Diocese of Oakland. When I tell our teens this, they often (rightly) ask, “But, why?” The reason behind this mission, in my humble opinion, is that in so doing, we introduce more people to the God who loves them, cares for them deeply, and walks with them in every moment of life. When people live truly knowing and believing that, they’re freer to be themselves, and want to share that good news with others.

This is the real motivation behind all of our programming, service work, organizations, and ministries at Santa Maria.

In the past, we’ve emphasized everyone’s stewardship of our parish by giving of their time and talent to support these ministries and programs—volunteering, serving, etc. This year, we’re focusing on treasure.

If you peruse the bulletin regularly, you’ll notice the gap almost every week between our weekly plate collection and our goal. That goal includes things like salaries, utilities, supplies, maintenance, program expenses, and enough money to put aside for savings and capital improvements. As a donations-funded nonprofit, we are dependent upon the generosity of our parishioners in order to continue operations and further our parish mission. And—we don’t want to simply maintain, we want to grow and look outward! We’re looking forward to seeing the many ways we can “know Christ better and make Him better known” with your support, for many years to come.
Honor the Blessed Mother this Wednesday

We will be holding our annual candlelight rosary prayer service this Wednesday 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.

Get a free book—and it’s a good one!

Come pick up a free copy of “Letter to a Suffering Church,” by Bishop Robert Barron. We’ll be beginning a book study on the text—sign up by emailing the Parish Office by Oct 30!

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

New women’s book group will explore Catholic writers, Christian topics

A group of Santa Maria women are meeting to explore and enjoy powerful authors who have enriched our faith. We will meet twice a month on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

We'll begin with C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity), and Flannery O’Connor (selected short stories). Later subjects may include lives of the Saints, Catholic architecture, and art.

Please contact Heidi Donner at heidianndonner@gmail.com if you have questions and/or can attend the first meeting on Oct. 22 so that we can book a space to accommodate all.

Ein prosit! Oktoberfest is around the corner!

Mark your calendars and buy your tickets for the 7th annual Santa Maria Parish Oktoberfest, hosted by the Knights of Columbus!

Tickets available at tinyurl.com/SMOktoberfest19

Retreat leaders needed—teens and adults!

We’re going back to Mount Hermon November 9-10, and need people willing to tell their
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.

First Children’s Liturgy and Pancake Breakfast

Mark your calendars now for our first Children’s Liturgy of the new Faith Formation year—Sunday, November 3rd at our 10:30am Mass! Hear our Children’s Choir sing, and worship with the children.

Following the Mass will be a Pancake Breakfast hosted by our Faith Formation Families.

PASTORAL CARE

Are you or a loved one in need of healing?

Are you or a loved one in need of healing? Our annual Anointing of the 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.

All Saints Day (Nov 1) is a Holy Day of Obligation, and allows us to remember and celebrate those who have gone before us in faith—and who we trust live now forever in God’s heavenly love. It’s an opportunity to recommit ourselves to living holy lives, imitating the Saints who have gone before us.

All Souls Day (Nov 2) is the day we pray for all the faithful departed, our sisters and brothers with whom we are united in faith by Baptism. Join us for Mass at 8:00am in the church, and bring your family and friends.

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COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

Save the Date: Nov 16

Social Justice and Youth Ministry are teaming up for a Saturday of Service, bringing Blessing Bags to the streets of San Francisco. Details to come!

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
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

**We encourage you to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list. Please contact Mirna in the Parish Office at 925-254-2426 or at mirnawong@smparish.org.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Monday, October 14</strong></th>
<th><strong>Tuesday, October 15</strong></th>
<th><strong>Wednesday, October 16</strong></th>
<th><strong>Thursday, October 17</strong></th>
<th><strong>Friday, October 18</strong></th>
<th><strong>Saturday, October 19</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sunday, October 20</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am: Intention of the Presider</td>
<td>8:00am: Ana Govednik Rogina (D)</td>
<td>8:00am: Anthony Martis (D)</td>
<td>8:00am: Kenneth Berg (D)</td>
<td>8:00am: Intention of the Presider</td>
<td>5:00pm: Intention of the Presider</td>
<td>8:30am: Stephen &amp; Tom O’Brien (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria</td>
<td>5:00pm: (I) Doris Hale</td>
<td>5:00pm: (I) Doris Hale</td>
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I=Intentions of [N.]; D=Deceased

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

The offering of the Mass is “the perfect prayer.” Masses can be said for a living person’s intentions, or for the repose of the soul of someone who has died.

We encourage you to have Masses said for all of your loved ones, or for your own intentions!
CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit

- NOVEMBER 9-10, 2019 -

at Mount Hermon

JOIN US FOR THIS JOINT CONFIRMATION RETREAT WITH ST. CHARLES BORROMEO

PERMISSION SLIP IS ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE
SIGN UP AT TINYURL.COM/MOUNThERMON2019