Using “Our Hands” to further the mission of “His Heart”

It’s Commitment Sunday this weekend!

Last weekend we heard Father George give his “Sermon on the Amount” - making reference to Jesus’ many parables about money, coins, and riches and joking that he “must not be doing his job very well” if this was his first time talking about the same.

This weekend, each Mass will hear from a regular parishioner (Bob Semar, Laura Lamison, and Megan Arteaga) speaking to his or her experience at Santa Maria and how our parish has impacted their life and that of their family. We pray that our parish has affected you as well as we try to live out our mission “to know Christ better and to make Him better known.”

In the Gospel this Sunday we hear the parable of the “persistent widow” who keeps pestering the judge for a decision, and who finally receives one solely because of her persistence. (In the Gospel, the judge is actually afraid the widow will come and wallop him if he doesn’t act!)

We don’t think we’ll reach that level of persistence (and we trust that you’ll tell us before we’re even close!). However, we do trust that as we continue to pray together as a parish community, speak honestly about our needs, and share our stories about what the Lord has done in our lives, then “His Heart, Our Hands” will truly help Santa Maria continue to thrive as a place to encounter the Lord here in Orinda.
**PARISH LIFE**

**Sign up for a Bishop Robert Barron book study!**

Come pick up a free copy of “Letter to a Suffering Church,” by Bishop Robert Barron. Copies are available in the Parish Office or in the Church Narthex.

We’ll be beginning a book study on the text—sign up by emailing the Parish Office by Oct 30!

**Were there really camels in Orinda?**

The Santa Maria Guild’s Membership Luncheon will be at 11:00am on Wednesday, October 30th in the Parish Hall. Enjoy a lovely lunch prepared by the Guild Board and find out lots of interesting bits of Orinda History. Please sign up on the Poster in the Narthex.

**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.

**It’s time to get your Oktoberfest tickets!**

Mark your calendars and buy your tickets for the 7th annual Santa Maria Parish Oktoberfest, hosted by the Knights of Columbus on October 26.

Tickets available at tinyurl.com/SMOktoberfest19

**Did you know the Mass is the “perfect prayer”?**

You can have a Mass said for anything you pray for! Has someone been in your heart recently? Did a family member or friend pass away? Is there an anniversary or celebration you’re joyful for? Is there something you’re grateful for?

Call the Parish Office and ask for a Mass to be said for any of those intentions! It doesn’t cost anything—but if you’re able to give, a $10 offering is appreciated.

**FAITH FORMATION**

**Would you come to share your story?**

We’re going back to Mount Hermon November 9-10, and need people willing to tell their stories and host a small group so we can make this retreat possible for our teens!

Email megan@smparish.org if you are intrigued—or if you want to volunteer someone!
We’re serving pancakes!
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.

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!

PASTORAL CARE

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.

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.

If you would like to be part of this team, please contact Sister Magdalene at 925-254-2426 or sistermn@smparish.org.

ALL SAINTS DAY
AND
ALL SOULS DAY

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!

Bring your photos for our altarcito remembering our beloved dead! Label them discreetly with your name and phone number and place them in the narthex office (to the right as you enter church).

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

PASTORAL CARE

Are you or a loved one in need of healing?
Our Parish Pastoral Care Ministry is made up of parishioners who share their love of God and others by visiting those who are sick or homebound. Team members bring the Eucharist to those unable to join us for Sunday Mass; others gather at the Orinda Care Center and Orinda Senior Village for Mass and Scripture during the week; and others help plan and execute the reception which follows our twice-a-year celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

If you would like to be part of this team, please contact Sister Magdalene at 925-254-2426 or sistermn@smparish.org.

COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

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
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
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