The love of God in Walnut Creek

Community finds support during fires, outages

“It’s about a two-hour wait,” the hostess said apologetically. Yet another Lamorinda resident was at the Walnut Creek Buttercup looking for a hot breakfast last Sunday morning during the power outages.

The waiting area was filled with people (all strangers) chatting as they shared their struggles, fears, and triumphs without electricity. Some had devised ingenious ways of making hot coffee, others shared anecdotes from evacuated family members, and a few seemed relatively unfazed. (As our piano accompanist Lino Rivera told me later that Sunday, “This is how it was in the Philippines when I was growing up.”)

While our Confirmation teens gathered for Confirmation by Candlelight, they, too, told stories of their own evacuations, woes of no WiFi, and joys of no homework – the latter all being online.

It struck me how everywhere, people seemed to be connecting, sloughing off the façade of self-sufficiency and ability and letting their true selves shine through. It seemed as if the fires, evacuations, and power outages served as yet another reminder that our help is in the Lord, not our own selves, and that God’s love sometimes makes itself known in odd places – like the lobby of a Buttercup Diner.
A reminder – every event marked with this icon is an event that allows you to practice the Corporal and/or Spiritual Works of Mercy!

**PARISH LIFE**

Our teens enjoyed Confirmation by Candlelight during last weekend’s power outage

**It’s a good thing Christ is our light.**

Thank you for your patience this past weekend as we celebrated Masses without a PA system or light bulbs. (We told the teens after the 5pm Sunday Youth Mass that it was like worshipping in the catacombs as early Christians.)

While our power is out, our parish phone system, WiFi, and other communication systems are down. However, it is likely that some of our staff will still have internet access at their homes, so during power outages please rely on email as our primary means of communication for which events are cancelled and which will still be held!

If you need to update your email address or be added to the list, please email megan@smparish.org.

**Restore and Renew: Phase 4 continues**

Our new and correct carpet is scheduled to arrive this week! During its installation, we will be moving the Blessed Sacrament to a small chapel created in the narthex office. If you come to the church for a visit during the day, please turn right as you enter through the main doors of the church to enter our temporary Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament.

Did you know we have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament?

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of your busy week to sit with Christ at Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Join us Tuesdays in the Convent Chapel from 12:00pm to 3:00pm. Drop in

Time to return your Commitment Cards!

Thank you to everyone who returned their Commitment Cards! We are so grateful for your support by beginning regular offertory giving or by increasing the amount of your regular giving.

Please complete and submit your card to us, even if you are unable to make a change in your current level of giving.

If you are not currently supporting Santa Maria with regular offertory gifts, please consider a monthly donation to support the needs of our wonderful parish.

To fulfill the pledge made on your Commitment Cards, we encourage you to sign up for Faith Direct, our online giving service! Visit www.SantaMariaOrinda.com and click on “Give” for details.
for a brief prayer, or stay for awhile!

It’s not yet the First Day of Christmas, but...

Ticket sales begin this weekend for our annual Parish Christmas Party on Friday, December 6. Mark your calendars and buy your tickets for this year’s “12 Days of Christmas” party!

**FAITH FORMATION**

**Baptismal classes begin this week**

If you have a child that you would like to be baptized over the next two months, the first of the two required parent classes is this week. The first class is November 6th, and the second is November 13th. Both begin at 7pm.

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

We’re going back to Mount Hermon November 9-10 with our Confirmation teens, and we need people willing to tell their stories and host a small group! Without one more male chaperone (or leader!), we can’t make this retreat possible for our teens.

Email megan@smparish.org if you are intrigued – or if you want to volunteer someone!

**EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

**Saturday of Service: Blessing Bags**

Saturday, November 16, our parishioners will be creating and distributing “blessing bags” in San Francisco. These bags hold a variety of useful items like nonperishable snacks, cozy items, useful toiletries, feminine hygiene products, and more. We need people to provide items to fill these bags, and also to join us as we distribute them.

*Visit the Parish Website for a link to the Sign-Up Genius so you can volunteer to provide needed items or to join us!*

**The Muffin People need your help!**

33 years ago, our neighbor parish St. Monica began collecting food about to reach its sell-by date, and delivering it to St. Vincent de Paul in Oakland, the St. Mary Center, Friendly Manor, and the Emeryville Community Assistance Program – 6 days a week. It takes 24 vehicles each week to perform this ministry! More volunteers are needed.

To take a ride with a current member to see if this is a good fit for you, contact Jack Dice at 376-7189 or pair-of-office@att.net.

**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
### Pastoral Team

- **Reverend George Mockel**  
  Pastor  
  gmockel@smparish.org

- **Reverend Jude Pooppana**  
  Priest in Residence

- **Reverend Michael Amabisco, OP**  
  Sacramental Assistance

- **Reverend Christopher Fadok, OP**  
  Sacramental Assistance

- **Deacon Rey Encarnacion**  
  dcrey@smparish.org x301

- **Deacon James Pearce**  
  dcnpearce@smparish.org x310

- **Mirna Wong**  
  Administrative Assistant  
  mirnawong@smparish.org x301

- **Tony Millette**  
  Director of Liturgy and Music  
  tmillette@smparish.org x303

- **Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC**  
  Faith Formation (Grades K-5)  
  sistermmphan@smparish.org x306

- **Megan Arteaga**  
  Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12), Communications, and CYO  
  megan@smparish.org x308

- **Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC**  
  Pastoral Care of the Sick  
  sistermn@smparish.org x309

- **Sr. Magdalena Duong, LHC**  
  Bookkeeper  
  sistermagdalena@smparish.org x305

### Prayer Intentions

- **For the Sick:** Liduvina Acosta, Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Cara Bradbury, Mike Buzzell, Maria Carmen, Rosemary Catton, Delores Codde, Grace Parent DeBoot, Rich Delany, Lorna Elliott, Nora Enriquez, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Paul Guess, Doris Hale, Florentino Ibabao, Brian Kelly, Mason Kelly, Aileen Kelly, Jim Kennedy, Jerry Kirk, Lawrence Knapp, Carol Kroupus, Judy Lazarus, Rose Mary McPhee, Robert Nick, Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Ben Richey, Patrick Sheehy, Faye Young

### Mass Intentions

- **Monday, November 4**  
  8:00am: All Souls Novena

- **Tuesday, November 5**  
  8:00am: All Souls Novena

- **Wednesday, November 6**  
  8:00am: All Souls Novena

- **Thursday, November 7**  
  8:00am: All Souls Novena

- **Friday, November 8**  
  8:00am: All Souls Novena

- **Saturday, November 9**  
  5:00pm: All Souls Novena

- **Sunday, November 10**  
  8:30am: All Souls Novena  
  10:30am: Bob Singer (D)  
  5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria

**I=Intentions of [N.]; D=Deceased**

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

We encourage you to have Masses said for all of your loved ones, or for your own intentions. Mass is, after all, “the perfect prayer.”

### Treasurer

**Oct 27, 2019**

*Due to the power outages, the total for the October 27 Masses was not available at the time this bulletin was published. Thank you for your patience.*

### Welcome, New Members!

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 your request to be a sponsors/godparents/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