Words from Father George on our “His Heart, Our Hands” campaign

These past few weeks, we have been encouraging you to participate in our “His Heart, Our Hands” program. The theme emphasizes that much of God’s work is done through our hands. As I indicated in my homily a few weeks ago, Santa Maria is richly blessed by the services and ministries we are able to provide.

While we have done much, there is much more to be done. The reality is, we need financial resources to do God’s work.

Some of you have already submitted your commitment card to the church to support our mission. Thank you! Many of you have not yet submitted your commitment card. Our budget for next year will be based on your response to those commitment cards. **Please turn in your commitment card this week if you have not already done so.**

I thank you for your generosity and am humbled by those who have made a sacrifice. Let us pray that we will continue to use our hands to do the work of His heart.

-Father George

*Stewardship is often divided into three categories: time, talent, and treasure. All three categories must flourish in our parish for us to best carry out its mission. Read on for more ways to practice stewardship.*

Paul sums up stewardship pretty well: “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Pt 4:10). Whether God’s grace has made itself manifest in your life through personality, skills, strengths, monetary value, or other resources, we’re called to use it to serve others as good stewards.

Following are a few of the ways our parish is specifically in need of your stewardship. We encourage you to take some time as a family to pray over these opportunities this week, and join us next Sunday to sign up for or renew your commitment to them!

**LITURGY AND PRAYER**

Every day here at the parish, we gather to worship the Lord by celebrating Mass. Our website has many more opportunities to practice stewardship at Masses, but here are a few we are in specific need of:

**Have people described you as “personable” or “gregarious”?**

*Be a Greeter!*

A big part of community is the feeling of belonging. Greeters help foster that sense of community before visitors even walk through our doors.

If you could commit to arriving a few minutes early for Mass and welcoming people to Santa Maria as they arrive, we would love to have you.

Greeters are especially needed at the 5pm Sat/Sun Masses.

**Do you like order and attention to detail?**

*Be a Sacristan!*

There are a lot of small logistics that go into Mass: preparing the appropriate books, lighting candles, setting out the various accouterments, and more. Sacristans take care of these details, and also lock up the church after Mass.

Sacristans are especially needed at the 5pm Sat Mass.

Contact Tony Millette at tmillette@smparish.org or 925-254-2426 for more information on these ministries.

**FAITH FORMATION**

Another important part of our faith is sharing our stories of God and teaching about our Church – whether for children or adults, or anyone in between. There are many opportunities for stewardship in this capacity, but these are where we need the most help:

**Do you have a way with kids?**

*Be a Catechist!*

Catechists support parents in passing on our faith to younger generations. We have classes for K-5th graders on Monday afternoons to help children grow closer to Jesus, love our Church, and learn who God is. We also celebrate Children’s Liturgy of the Word, where kids can grapple with the Sunday Scriptures on their own level during Mass.

Catechists for both the 2:30 and 4pm classes, and CLW leaders for the 10:30am Mass...
are especially needed.

Contact Sister Mary Margaret at srmmphan@smparish.org or 925-254-2426 for more information on this ministry.

Have people asked you where you get all your energy?

Help at Youth Group!

Middle School is the age when a lot of our youth really start getting curious about their faith. Don't you want to be there when they have their first “aha” moments or share about their answered prayer?

If you can commit to coming to a few 7pm Wednesday night sessions per month, we’d love to have you.

Are you more of a listener than a talker?

Be a Small Group Host!

Hear us out – teens are not scary. They’re simply more curious and less jaded human beings exercising their ability for critical thinking for the first time. Small Group Hosts walk with our teens in the Confirmation program asking about their doubts, fears, triumphs, and successes, and sincerely listening to answers.

Contact Megan Arteaga at megan@smparish.org or 925-254-2426 for information.

We are blessed to have a full-time Pastoral Care Ministry staff person – but this is far more than a one-person task!

Do you have a kind and caring demeanor?

Be a Pastoral Care Minister!

Ministers visit the sick and home-bound, join in at local rest home and senior center Masses and prayer opportunities, and lead Bible Study and the Rosary for residents.

Contact Sister Magdalene at sistermn@smparish.org or 925-254-2426 for information.

Service is how we put our faith into action. There are many opportunities throughout the year to serve, but these leadership roles can always use new volunteers:

Do you want to make a difference in the community?

Join Social Justice!

The Social Justice Committee both directs our parish tithing and has led the charge in sponsoring refugee families, Winter Nights Shelter, and other volunteer opportunities.

Contact Janet Riley or Gail Gabriel at bjriley@pacbell.net or gail.gabriel@gmail.com to get involved.

Are you welcoming?

Be Office Help!

We pride ourselves on always having a real live person answer the phone – but staff can’t always manage everything or be here at all hours. We occasionally rely on volunteers help to watch the front desk and answer the phones as we do more specialized tasks.

Contact Mirna Wong at mirna@smparish.org or 925-254-2426.
Have you noticed the beautiful flowers?

Many thanks to Sister Magdalene, who has been arranging the flowers in the sanctuary these past weeks. Thank you, Sister, for sharing your talents with us!

Next Parish Book Group

The first Catholic Authors book group was a lively, dynamic gathering! The next meeting is this Tuesday, November 12 from 6:30-8pm in the Library. We will focus on short stories by Flannery O’Connor. Contact heidiannndonner@gmail.com.

Want to be a Knight?

On November 13 from 7:30-8:30pm in the Parish Hall, the Santa Maria Knights of Columbus will have an informal gathering for you to learn more about their Council. Meet some of the officers and members, hear about the largest fraternal organization in the world, and find out about the good work they do for the parish and the greater Bay Area! Refreshments will be served.

Contact Grand Knight Dean Akazawa for more information at dean.akazwa@wellsfargo.com.
BLESSING BAGS
Saturday of Service
November 16 | 9am- 2pm | Meet in the Youth Room

Youth Ministry and Social Justice have teamed up for a November Saturday of Service on November 16!

Middle School Youth Group will be assembling Blessing Bags this Wednesday.

All parishioners are invited to join Social Justice in distributing them on Saturday.

Want to bring materials to help? Drop them off to the Parish Office before 7pm this Wednesday! Needed items: tinyurl.com/SMBlessingBags