Thanks be to… you.

“I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.” ~1 Cor 1:4

As we approach a later-than-usual Thanksgiving, we’ve been blessed with what seems like more time to consider to whom and for what we’re grateful for—not just on Thanksgiving day, but throughout our lives. Here’s what we’ve come up with:

To old parishioners who have been coming since this church was built, and to visitors and pilgrims peeking their heads round the doors;

To those bringing kids to Faith Formation at the request of their own parents, and to children encountering Jesus at those exact same classes;

To crying babies, and to those content in their long lives;

To the sick, the feeble, the heartbroken; and to the joyful and those at peace;

To the steadfast, the faithful, the evangelizers, and the rocks, and to the doubters, the curious, the skeptical, and those on the fringe;

To those deeply ingrained in the life of our parish ministries; and to those walking in unsure of the welcome they’ll receive:

We thank God for you.

Without you, Santa Maria would not be the same. Thank you for being here.
Give thanks to God this Thanksgiving!
Our Parish Mass on Thanksgiving will be celebrated at 9am in the church. What better way is there to start the day of thanks by giving God thanks and praise with your faith community?

Thanksgiving Office Schedule
The Parish Office will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day Nov 28, and Friday Nov 29 (in observance of post-turkey food coma).

Get crafty for Jesus!
Our annual Advent Wreath Workshop hosted by Faith Formation is December 1 (the 1st Sunday of Advent!) in the Parish Hall following the 10:30am Mass.
Come make an Advent wreath as a symbol of our waiting in hope for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
The suggested donation is $20 including a wreath, candles, evergreens, ribbons, and Advent family activities.

Come by for some Advent Spiritual Renewal
The Women’s Guild is hosting a Spiritual Morning on Wednesday, December 11 at 9:30am in the Convent chapel.
This is a great chance during the busy Christmas season to stop, focus, and pray. Our celebrant and presenter will be Fr. John Mark Ettensohn, OMI, and the morning concludes with liturgy and a light lunch.

PARISH LIFE
Do you love to decorate?
Then your “love” needs to be shared on Friday, November 29th at 11am, as the Art and Environment Team decorates the church for the season of Advent.

If you are able to help, contact Lynne Lloyd at 254-6287.
Are linked together within the Church, and are sent to God. Peace, calm, and a sense of belonging with all those present and those unable to be at the Church, as well as those who are ill around the world, were all enveloped into this feeling of oneness in the loving warmth of our God’s tender embrace.

Afterwards, stillness still resonates within me. Days later we continue to hold the reflections and feelings of the Sacrament to carry us through tough moments, hours, and days.

To be a part of this ministry, please contact author Sr. Magdalene at 254-2426 or by email at sistermn@smparish.org.

Weekly Food Collection

Feed the Hungry
Give Drink to the Thirsty
Give Alms to the Poor

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
Leader and chaperone Joe Field joins the teens in playing “I Love My Neighbor” on the meadow.

Retreatants enjoy entertainment and s’mores by the campfire.

Chris Pareja of St. Charles Borromeo helps the teens see evidence of the Holy Spirit already present in their lives.

One of our small group “families” tries to get untangled from the Human Knot.

Spikeball jump shot!

EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT