Got questions? Try Alpha!

Food, talk, and good conversation about life’s big questions

Why am I here? Where am I heading? Is there more to life than this?

These are some of humanity’s biggest questions – and ones the Christian faith proposes some reasonable answers to. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith (Why did Jesus have to die? How can we have faith?) and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the world – and everyone is welcome.

“Alpha” is the first letter of the Greek alphabet—it marks the beginning, the start. This program is a great start covering the basics of our faith in God.

We’ll be running 10 evening sessions here at Santa Maria through the seasons of Lent and Easter, each of which includes a delicious dinner, an engaging video on a new topic, and honest discussion – the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic as a small group. There’s no obligation to say anything, and nothing you can’t say. It’s an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly, and open environment.

Next weekend we’ll be presenting a video at all the Masses with more information on Alpha.

The adventure begins this Lent.
Anthony and his brother Dominic were both Confirmed two years ago, and helped out with CI as well! Their dad is one of the Knights and their younger sisters are in Faith Formation.

Blood Drive in Honor of Anthony Bradley

Saturday, February 1
9:00am to 3:00pm
Parish Hall

Youth Mass will follow at 5:00pm

Anthony Bradley is an 18-year-old Miramonte High School Senior. Anthony is currently battling Osteosarcoma (bone cancer) and will require blood transfusions during his cancer treatment.

Anthony lives in Orinda with his parents, twin brother and two younger sisters. He is an avid swimmer, lifeguard, Rugby player and friend. He is raising awareness for the importance of blood donations to cancer patients.

To schedule your appointment or for more information visit redcrossblood.org and enter code: AnthonyBradley

Eat crab, support our Youth Ministry programs

The Knights of Columbus and Youth Ministry are hosting our 6th annual Parish Crab Feed on February 8th after the 5pm Mass. If you’re a prayer warrior for our young Catholics, if your family is involved in Youth Ministry (or if you wish you had the gifts or charisma to volunteer with YM!), if you know you’re going to be entering YM in the next couple years, join us for the Crab Feed!

If you like delicious food, if you want a great evening with your friends, if you like supporting a good cause that empowers young people, join us for the Crab Feed!

Tickets are available now on the Parish website.

Infant Baptismal Preparation Classes

If you have a child that you would like to have Baptized over the next two months, the first of two required parent classes will begin soon. Dates of both classes are: January 15 and January 22; both classes begin at 7pm.

Contact the Parish Office at 925-254-2426 for more information about the Baptismal process or if you would like to register for these classes.

St. Perpetua Catholic School is now enrolling TK-8th grade for 2020!

Did you know that there is an amazing Catholic school less than 4 miles from Orinda? “St. Ps” inspires students through challenging academics (with outstanding STAR test results) and is dedicated to an educational experience that cultivates knowledge, leadership, and service in the Catholic tradition.

Our students have a 100% acceptance rate to De La Salle and Carondelet, and have exceptional alumni success at Lamorinda high schools.

Tuition is $8,762 per year; financial aid is available. TK/K tuition includes before/after
school care until 3pm.
Open House is Sunday, January 26 from 11am to 1pm.
Call the school office at 925-284-1640 or email Suzanne Kozel at skozel@csdo.org with any questions.

Haiti on the Rise: Benefitting Education in Haiti
You are invited to Haiti on the Rise’s 5th annual fundraising dinner and auction benefitting education in Haiti.

Your support will help with their current project, La Grotte High School, in a desperately underserved area. Building this school means some children will no longer have to travel 5 miles to school.

Getting a High School education will vastly improve these children’s prospects for the future, while lifting up their families as well.

Saturday, February 8
5:00pm-9:00pm
Saint Mary’s Cathedral Event Center
1111 Gough Street
San Francisco
RSVP by February 6, 2020 at haitiontherise5thannualdinner.eventbrite.com

We’re updating the Food Donations schedule!
In the past, donations in the food bins in the narthex have been split up weekly between St. Peter Martyr and St. Cornelius. To simplify things for our donors and our volunteers Rose Wilson and Mary McCosker, each collection will now be for an entire month!

January donations will be taken to St. Cornelius, February will be St. Peter Martyr, and the two will continue to trade off throughout the rest of the year.

Thank you for continuing to support these collections!

Outreach

Donations can be placed in the containers that will be in the narthex.
This collection coordinates with the Walk for Life West Coast that will take place January 25 in San Francisco!

Walk for Life West Coast
Join fellow Catholics and Pro-Lifers from all over California and beyond as we stand up for the littlest among us and their mothers at the 16th annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on January 25.

The rally begins at 12:30pm in the Civic Center Plaza, and the Walk down Market Street begins at 1:30pm. Last year’s Walk drew over 50,000 people!

Our parish group will meet to take the 12:05 BART train from the Orinda station so we catch part of the Rally and the Walk.
To join the parish group, email megan@smparish.org.

Baby supplies needed this and next weekend
The Social Justice Team is organizing a collection of maternity and baby items for Birthright of Concord the weekends of January 18-19 and 25-26!

The center accepts new or “nearly new” maternity clothes, and baby clothes up to 18 mos. Warm jackets, infant clothes, diapers, and baby wipes are greatly needed.

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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 requests to be sponsors/godparents and other ministries. Please register at www.santamariaorinda.com/registration.
Santa Maria Parish Group
Meet at Orinda BART in time to take the 12:05 train
Wear comfortable walking shoes and sunscreen; bring water and a snack!
Saturday, January 25, 2020

Rally starts at Civic Center Plaza, walking down Market Street (2 miles). Ends at Embarcadero Plaza/Ferry Building.

BART stations at both locations. Ample parking.

Register and info:
415/658-1793 | email: info@WalkforLifeWC.com
WalkforLifeWC.com