A new perspective on the sick: praying, sharing, offering

Sharing in this beautiful observance in our community

The World Day of the Sick is an observance in the Church instituted on May 13, 1992 by Pope Saint John Paul II. Each year since, it has been celebrated on the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11. For all believers, this is a special time of prayer and sharing of one’s suffering, or offering up one’s suffering.

St. Paul gives us a beautiful illustration of what this means when he insisted, “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church” (Colossians 1:24).

Pope Saint John Paul II further elaborated, “In bringing about the Redemption through suffering, Christ has also raised human suffering to the level of the Redemption. Thus each man, in his suffering, can also become a sharer in the redemptive suffering of Christ” (Salvifici Doloris 19).

We are inviting all who are seriously ill, in danger of death, or anticipating surgery, and all who suffer from physical or mental illness to come to **Mass with the Anointing of the Sick** on **Saturday, February 15 at 11:00am in the Church**. Your presence at this Mass shows God’s love to our fellow parishioners by joining in prayer and sharing our suffering. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.
February 8th after the 5pm Mass. Even if you can’t join us, we encourage you to make a donation by clicking the “Make a One-Time Gift” link on our Parish Website and typing “Youth Ministry” in the ‘Note’ section. By supporting our programs, you make retreats, service projects, catechesis, evangelization, community support, outreach, and more possible for our young people. Tickets and a donation link are available through the end of Sunday on the Parish website!

Entering into the holy season of Lent with ashes

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. They also symbolize grief—in this case, our grief that we have sinned and caused division between us and God. Everyone is allowed to accept the ashes—so bring a friend to our Ash Wednesday Masses and introduce them to this age-old practice!

Our entrance into the Holy Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 26th. Masses will be celebrated in the church at 8am, 4pm, and 7:30pm.

Aren’t our parking lots convenient?

A reminder that if you’d like to park your car here for a few hours while taking BART to the City, carpooling on a day trip, or anything else not affiliated with a parish event, you need a parking pass from the Parish Office.

Come a few minutes early so Mirna can write you out a pass for the day! Each time you park you need a new day pass. Thanks for helping us keep our parking lots secure and our campus safe.

Everyone has questions.

This Lent and Easter, we’re making space for life’s biggest questions with Alpha—a series of about ten sessions exploring life, faith, and meaning.

Our plan is to meet Wednesday evenings at the parish, gathering for dinner, a video presenting some quality content on questions like “Why did Jesus have to die?” and “Why and how should I tell others?” We’ll end with honest discussion where nothing is off the table, and there’s no pressure to share.

Come for the food, stay for the conversation, leave with a purpose.

Aren’t feeling crabby?
Make a donation to support YM instead!

The Knights of Columbus and Youth Ministry are hosting our 6th annual Parish Crab Feed on
for Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, and Montessori!

**Calling all children and lovers of pancakes!**

On Sunday February 23rd at 10:30am there will be a Children’s Liturgy, as we prepare ourselves to enter into the holy season of Lent the following Wednesday, Ash Wednesday. Following the Children’s Liturgy will be a “Fat Sunday” Pancake Breakfast for the entire parish, hosted by the Faith Formation Parents. Mark your calendars now!

**Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults**

Soon, fellow parishioners Adrienne Wong, Tom Balogh, and Tim Reynolds will be formerly welcomed into the RCIA process. They have journeyed through the Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate, and now will gather to celebrate the first formal step of the RCIA process with the celebration of the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome. Those preparing for Baptism into the life of the Church will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the order of catechumens, and those already baptized into the Christian life will celebrate the Rite of Welcome and complete their initiation within the Catholic Church.

Please add them to your prayers as they take this first formal step to their initiation at the Great Easter Vigil.

**Lost your charitable tax deduction because of tax law changes?**

Not to worry—there are other ways to receive tax benefits from your charitable contributions to Santa Maria. We’ll be inspiring you with a few creative ways of giving in the next couple weeks.

Are you 70½ or older and have a Traditional IRA (Individual Retirement Account)? You’re obligated to take a required minimum distribution, or RMD, annually—even if you don’t want or need the income.

Because RMDs increase your taxable income, there’s a potential that this additional income will push you into a higher income tax bracket. You can redirect your RMDs (and avoid higher tax rates!) by making Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from your IRAs to Santa Maria! You can make a direct transfer of up to $100,000 to the Church of Santa Maria annually without this amount being included in your adjusted gross income. QCDs can be a tax-efficient way to accomplish your giving to the Church of Santa Maria!

**We reached our Bishop’s Appeal goal!**

Thank you to the 78 donors who made it possible for us to reach and surpass our Bishop's Appeal goal once again. This year, we were assigned a goal of $34,700, and are currently at 100.16%!

While parishes rely on the financial support of their parishioners through the weekly offertory collections, the Bishop's Appeal helps offset expenses for parishes and schools in need, pastoral ministries and services, clergy formation and retirement, and religious education and formation.

Donations and pledges can still be made by visiting www.oakdiocese.org/bishops-appeal—make sure to say you’re from Santa Maria!
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

We welcome new members!

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
dcn.rey@smparish.org x310

Deacon James Pearce
dcnpearce@smparish.org x301

Mirna Wong
Administrative Assistant
mirnawong@smparish.org x301

Tony Millette
Liturgy and Music
tmillette@smparish.org x303

Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC
Faith Formation (Grades K-5)
srmmphan@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

Sister Magdalena Duong, LHC
Bookkeeper
sistermagdalena@smparish.org x305

TREASURE

January 26, 2020

Plate: $ 5,488.00
Faith Direct: $ 2,299.60

Total: $ 7,787.60
Goal: $10,350.00
Negative: - $ 2,562.40

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Sick

Liduvina Acosta, Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Cara Bradbury, Maria Carmen, Rosemary Catton, Fred Chavaria, Delores Codde, Grace Parent DeBoodt, Rich Delany, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery, 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 Koupus, Judy Lazarus, Peter Locke, Jim Marchetti, Rose Mary McPhee, Robert Nick, Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Ben Richey, Si Seiwert, Patrick Sheehy, Faye Young

Would you like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list? Please contact Mirna in the Parish Office at 925-254-2426 or at mirnawong@smparish.org.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 3
8:00am: Louise Govednik Rogina (D)

Tuesday, February 4
8:00am: Kitch Guinto (D)

Wednesday, February 5
8:00 am: Karl Rogina (D)

Thursday, February 6
8:00 am: Ana Plut (D)

Friday, February 7
8:00am: Dan Cummings (D)

Saturday, February 8
5:00pm: Ruth Filkins (D)

Sunday, February 9
8:30am: Clara Da Costa (D)
10:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria
5:00pm: Mercedes Breton (D)

I=Intentsions of [N.]; D=Deceased

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

The offering of the Mass is “the perfect prayer.” Masses can be said for a living person’s intentions, or for the repose of the soul of someone who has died.

We encourage you to have Masses said for all of your loved ones, or for your own intentions!
SANTA MARIA’S 6TH ANNUAL
CRAB FEED
PLUS RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION
A PARISH EVENT HOSTED BY THE ORINDA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FEBRUARY 8, 2020
6pm IN THE PARISH HALL
DUNGENESS CRAB | SALAD | PASTA | DESSERT
BEER | WINE | AND A SPECIALTY DRINK

$65 PER PERSON
PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT OUR PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE & AFTER MASSES THROUGH FEB 2