Different personalities, ages, experiences connect over life

Diving into the Walk for Life West Coast

This year, a small group of parishioners joined the flow as 50,000 people joyfully walked down the middle of Market Street on a Saturday afternoon, praying as a Dominican friar would lead the Rosary through a megaphone, listening as teen groups passed us by with their tambourines and trumpets, and waving to the curious kids standing in the windows of the apartments above street level, observing a sea of happy people passing them by.

One of the common myths of the Walk for Life (fed by experiences from a decade ago) is that a riotous mass of protesters surrounds the Walk, likely screaming, and possibly throwing things as they protest. In truth, only a few pockets of people protested, some screaming profanities, others holding up signs with “my body, my choice,” still others wearing costumes from Handmaid’s Tale.

This year, the line was blurred—some in those small pockets held up posters protesting “keeping children in cages,” or ignoring the needs of the mother and focusing only on the child. “I, too, protest that!” I wanted to say, and ask how they could possibly think I was “pro” kids in cages because I am “pro” the sanctity of life—they’re logically incompatible views.

My prayer during the Walk was that real conversations can happen so understanding and more connectedness can grow.
On Holy Communion

During this flu season, Father George thinks it wise that we suspend distribution of Holy Communion from the chalice for the duration of the season.

Editor’s fun fact: did you know that both the Precious Body and the Precious Blood are fully present under both species (the appearances of bread AND wine)? It’s true—the ‘bread’ isn’t “only” the Body of Christ and the ‘wine’ isn’t “only” the Blood of Christ.

We’re closing the office!

...just for a day. This Monday, February 17 we will be closed in honor of Presidents Day.

Lent

“Sign us with ashes” - join us for the beginning of Lent next Wednesday

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.

We’ll be eating good next Sunday!

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.

All are welcome!

Be renewed on Ash Wednesday

The Santa Maria Women’s Guild is hosting its Spring Morning of Renewal on February 26, Ash Wednesday. Meet at 9:30am in the Chapel. Father Bart Hutcherson, O.P., will be the speaker, and the morning will conclude with Mass and a light lunch. What a great way to begin your Lenten journey!

Sign up on the poster in the Narthex.

STEWARDSHIP

Seeking businesses to partner with Cristo Rey

The Cristo Rey De La Salle Corporate Work Study Program is an innovated staffing solution for Bay Area organizations large and small. Our students work at Fortune 500s, small businesses, and local nonprofits one day a week to fund their Catholic Lasallian college prep education.

Cristo Rey alumni nationwide attend (and graduate from) top universities, and many go on to successful careers across a range of fields, due in part to their work experience while in school.

We’d love for you to learn more about our school and join our mission of providing quality education, work experience, and social capital to youth from low income families in the East Bay!

John Coughlan, director of the Corporate Work Study Program, will be speaking at all the Masses on February 23 with more information.

“Rebuild my Church” continues as 2020 theme of the Bishop’s Appeal

Bishop Barber decided to continue with the theme “Rebuild my Church,” a phrase inspired by St. Francis of Assisi. By sacrificially sharing our talent and treasure with our sisters and brothers, we are returning to God a small portion of the many gifts He has given to us.

As we prepare for the 2020 Bishop’s Appeal, please begin or continue praying for our fellow parishioners, clergy, leadership, and those served by the ministries offered by the Church, and for the success of the 2020 Appeal.

Imagine what can be done in the name of God if every parishioner were inspired to “Rebuild my Church” and participate!

OUTREACH

Toiletries and work clothes needed

A Friendly Manor is a drop-in center for homeless women in Oakland managed by St. Mary’s Center. Santa Maria has been supporting A Friendly Manor since 1987 by collecting supplies or providing lunch for the 30 residents.

On an ongoing basis, they need women’s toiletries (e.g., deodorant, razors, feminine hygiene products), women’s underwear, adult diapers, socks, washcloths, hand towels, rain gear, and work wardrobe items.

If you can donate any of these items, please drop them off in the closet in the narthex on the shelf marked “A Friendly Manor,” and they will be delivered on a regular basis by members of the Social Justice Committee.
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
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUTH MINISTRY!