How you can support your parishioners trying Alpha

Tips and requests for the rest of our first Alpha

This past Wednesday was the kickoff for our first Alpha program at Santa Maria—a huge thank-you to those who joined us to “try Alpha”!

If you weren’t able to make it but heard good things, or if you still feel something tugging at your heart to come check it out, don’t worry—you’re not too late! Join us Wednesday from 6:30-8:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Here are a few things we ask you to do to support Alpha:

1) **Pray:** Keep the table hosts, kitchen teams, planning committee, and especially the participants in your prayers through the duration of the program. Hearts don’t change by magic—it’s the Holy Spirit working.

2) **Let us know you’re coming:** If there’s food, you’ll definitely be eating some! Help us make sure there’s enough food for everyone else who pops in by letting us know you’re coming.

3) **Bring a friend:** If you have a friend, family member, neighbor, or coworker who occasionally questions you about your faith, or who is Catholic but hasn’t come to church in awhile, invite them to come with you! At the least, they’ll get a free meal and the opportunity for honest conversation. At the worst they won’t come back the next week.

*Sign up to join us by clicking the link on the parish website!*
Sunday collection income, because the weekly income reports are no longer giving a meaningful picture.

This is due to several factors: more people are using Faith Direct and making their contributions on a monthly basis, and others contribute monthly, bi-annually, or even annually to the Sunday plate. Our weekly reports are showing extreme swings in income because of these factors, such that they no longer give a useful picture of the state of the plate. Going forward, we will try a monthly report that will hopefully help smooth out some of those swings to give everyone a more useful picture of our income.

What can you do to stay healthy?

As we face the annual cold and flu season, complicated by concerns over the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), let’s remember to understand and promote healthy practices while at church.

On our end, we have suspended the distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass. We also continue to provide hand sanitizer for all of our ministers and maintain clean, fresh holy water in our font.

For your part, please feel free to refrain from holding hands at the Our Father or shaking hands during the Sign of Peace if you fear infection. It is also a sign of consideration for others that if you are suffering from flu-like symptoms, you may remain at home, reading the appointed Sunday Scripture and offering your illness for a spiritual intention.

There are also the common-sense methods to help you stay healthy—if you cough or sneeze, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue (or, lacking a tissue, into your elbow); wash your hands thoroughly and often with soap.

Parishioner awarded the Diocesan Medal of Honor

This past Monday at the Orinda Senior Village Mass, parishioner Isabel Golez was awarded the Diocesan Medal of Honor by Father George.

Isabel has been an outstanding parishioner, giving of her time and talent to a whole host of ministries both at Senior Village, by organizing and providing for the spiritual needs of our parishioners living there, and as an active member of our parish Fil-Am Community. All of this has been done with humility, grace, and poise.

Thank you, Isabel, for your ministry and “behind-the-scenes” goodness!

Collection reporting updates

We are changing the frequency and manner of reporting our Sunday collection income, because the weekly income reports are no longer giving a meaningful picture.

This is due to several factors: more people are using Faith Direct and making their contributions on a monthly basis, and others contribute monthly, bi-annually, or even annually to the Sunday plate. Our weekly reports are showing extreme swings in income because of these factors, such that they no longer give a useful picture of the state of the plate. Going forward, we will try a monthly report that will hopefully help smooth out some of those swings to give everyone a more useful picture of our income.
and warm water; avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; get vaccinated; and stay home if you are ill.

If the issue becomes more serious and we are advised by the authorities to take further actions, we will reassess the matter and keep you informed of any changes. Meanwhile, we pray for the health and recovery of those who are ill and not with us today.

**Washed in the holy waters of Baptism**

If you have a child that you would like to be baptized over the next two months the first of two required parent classes will begin soon. Dates of both classes are: March 11th and 18th – both start at 7:00 pm.

*Please contact the Parish Office for more information about the baptismal process or if you would like to register.*

**Guide Dogs for the Blind**

Come hear parishioner Maureen Balogh, who is the Puppy Raising Leader of San Ramon Guide Dogs for the Blind. We will meet in the Conference Room at 10:00 am on Wednesday, March 18. Sign up on the poster in the narthex!

**“Rebuild my Church” begins this weekend!**

Come this week with mind and heart open to what God can accomplish through our Diocese! Imagine what can be done in the name of God if every parishioner were inspired to “Rebuild my Church” and participate!

**Thank you, Santa Maria!**

*From Birthright rep Liz Froelich*

Birthright of Concord wishes to thank the very thoughtful and generous parishioners of Santa Maria for the wonderful donations for our moms-to-be and babies, collected in conjunction with the Walk for Life West coast. Special thanks to Father George Mockel, Gail Gabriel, Janet Riley, and the Social Justice Team for hosting and promoting this parish activity for life.

**Flowers for a cause**

The annual daffodil sale benefitting A Friendly Manor will be held after all Masses this weekend. As in the past, the cost is $12 for a pot of beautiful yellow daffodils.

All proceeds help with costs to provide the day center for homeless women in Oakland. Please support this wonderful organization with a purchase of these winter blooms!

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**Lenten Regulations**

Lent is a time of prayer and penance. Our Church has a few ways of practicing these things during Lent:

**Fasting**

Catholics aged 18-59 are bound to fast on both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means consuming at most one full meal that day, while taking other smaller quantities of food at the other customary mealtimes is permitted. Food and drink between meals (excepting water and medicine) is not permitted on fast days.

**Abstinence from Meat**

Catholics aged 14 and up are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday. This means refraining from eating meat products, although eggs, milk, and fish and shellfish are permitted.

**Lenten Practices**

All the faithful are encouraged to receive Holy Communion, participate in penance services, take part in public and private exercises of piety, give generously to works of religion and charity, perform acts of kindness toward the sick, aged, and poor, and to pray more fervently. All of these practices will help you have a more fruitful and holy Lent!
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.

**Pastoral Team**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reverend George Mockel</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gmockel@smparish.org">gmockel@smparish.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverend Jude Pooppana</td>
<td>Priest in Residence</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverend Christopher Fadok, OP</td>
<td>Sacramental Assistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deacon Rey Encarnacion</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:dcn.rey@smparish.org">dcn.rey@smparish.org</a> x310</td>
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<tr>
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<td><a href="mailto:dcnpearce@smparish.org">dcnpearce@smparish.org</a> x301</td>
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<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
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<td>Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sister Magdalena Duong, LHC</td>
<td>Bookkeeper</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sistermagdalena@smparish.org">sistermagdalena@smparish.org</a> x305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**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, Edmio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Doris Hale, Florentino Ibabao, Brian Kelly, Mason Kelly, Aileen Kelly, Michael Kelly, Jim Kennedy, Jerry Kirk, Lawrence Knapp, Carol Koupus, Judy Lazarus, Jim Marchetti, Rose Mary McPhee, Robert Nick, Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Ben Richey, Patrick Sheehy, Jean Wells, 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 9</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Louise Govednik Rogina (D)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 10</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Conrad Castellino (D)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 11</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Special Intention</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 12</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Ana Govednik Rogina(D)</td>
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<td>Friday, March 13</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>John Rogina (D)</td>
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<td>Saturday, March 14</td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Marie Reggo (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 15</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Tom O’Brien (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Jerry Utz (D)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Parishioners of Santa Maria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I=Intentions 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!

**Welcome, New Members!**

As noted, we are transitioning to a monthly reporting of our plate amounts. Please see the article on p.2 of this Sunday’s bulletin for more details.

**Treasurer**

**WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!**

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 our Youth Ministries!
We’re so grateful for the generous merchants, businesses, and friends who contributed to the 2020 Parish Crab Feed!

Casa Orinda
CVS Orinda
Entourage Spa on Brookwood
Europa Hof Brau
Fourth Bore Tap Room & Grill
Geppetto’s Cafe
LaPiazza Restaurant
McDonnell Nursery
Morrison Jewelers
Orinda Books
Orinda Hardware
Orinda Motors
Orinda Village Antiques
Parker Thatch Orinda
Reem’s Steaks
Safeway Orinda
Saffron Indian Restaurant
Sanvitalia Home & Garden
Siam Orchid
Starbucks Theater Square
Taverna Pellegrini
Zamboni’s Pizza