A (hopefully) unique Easter

*Distance worship and Parking Lot Benediction*

If nothing else, the COVID crisis is forcing all of us to be more creative in our ministries and in the way we do our work.

That creativity led to a unique Holy Week and Easter, where only the Sisters and a few staff members gathered to bring the liturgies into everyone’s homes, and we borrowed ideas from other parishes and churches to make an encounter with our Eucharistic Lord possible on Easter Sunday.

Tony saw a video online of another Christian church doing their Sunday service in the parking lot, with churchgoers sticking “praise hands” out their sunroofs as worship music played. Father George heard of other parishes offering drive-through Sacraments. Megan’s husband Anthony helped put on Benediction in the parking lot at St. Bonaventure.

We all wanted to continue to offer the Mass to everyone at home, but the ideas started flowing about how to safely gather for Easter Sunday. We developed a brief service with hymns, the Easter Gospel, a homilette, prayer intentions, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

This format was so successful (with many cars honking their horns in celebration, joy, and gratitude at the end of the ceremony!) that we’re hosting it again this Sunday!

Join us at 10:30am in the upper parking lot (immediately above the church) for Parking Lot Benediction. Mass will continue to be live-streamed at 8:30am, and will be available all day on our Facebook page.
"Did I hear you say Mass is on FACEBOOK?!

We assure you – you do not need a Facebook account to watch our livestreamed Masses!

Here are two options for when you can watch our Sunday Masses:

Watch it live at 8:30am:
1. Open your internet browser anytime after 8:20am and type in www.facebook.com/santa mariaorinda/live
2. If we are streaming, you will see a “Happening Now” section with our video, and hear music. If not, keep refreshing the page until we do start.
3. If a popup window comes up asking you to sign up for Facebook, scroll to the bottom and click “Not Now”

Watch it after it’s ended:
1. Open your internet browser and type in www.facebook.com/santa mariaorinda/live
2. SCROLL DOWN to the “Past Live Videos” section. Click on the video you want to watch.
3. If a popup window comes up asking you to sign up for Facebook, scroll to the bottom and click “Not Now”

What happened to YouTube Masses?

Unfortunately, we had to switch platforms from YouTube to Facebook. But why, you ask?

During Lent, we were able to pre-record Masses and have Megan edit them by combining audio and video tracks and adding subtitles, transitions, and other things like that. However, for the Triduum, we couldn’t pre-record those liturgies – they are time-specific – so we had to do them live.

Here was the challenge: the only audio/video equipment we had been using consisted of Megan’s and Father George’s current and “old” cell phones. No cool cameras, no external microphones, nothing. Unfortunately, YouTube won’t let anyone live-stream with mobile devices if they have fewer than 1,000 subscribers, which meant we’d either have to downgrade our production quality by using a laptop’s webcam and internal microphone (ew), or we’d have to switch platforms to allow us to continue using the equipment we were comfortable with and knew gave us good quality audio and video.

We decided to keep the quality and switch platforms, praying that people would understand that Facebook wasn’t necessary to watch Facebook Live! So thank you for your flexibility and understanding as we continue to navigate these new waters!

Are you in “Constant Contact” with us?

Are you receiving our parish emails? At least once a week, usually more as we shelter in place, our Pastoral Team members send out email messages including information about upcoming Masses online, reflections from Father George, and other announcements.

If you’re not receiving these emails, please call or email Mirna in the Parish Office: 925-254-2426 or mirnawong@smparish.org. Thank you!

“Will we still celebrate Confirmation in May?”

Unfortunately, we don’t know.
We will continue to follow the appropriate civil authorities’ instructions regarding-sheltering in place and avoiding gatherings, and hope that the restrictions will be lifted before Pentecost on May 31 so we are able to celebrate Confirmation as scheduled.

Of course we’ll keep you updated as to whatever our course of action is!

In the meantime, Confirmation classes will be held on Zoom, and candidates are asked to attend our parish Sunday Masses online.

“Should we plan on First Communion?”
Unfortunately, we aren’t able to provide a concrete answer for this question, either.

We want to ensure both the physical and spiritual health of our young Catholics and their families, while providing appropriate mental and catechetical preparation as well. We’ll continue to keep in touch and keep you updated as the situation changes.

“What about RCIA?”
You may have noticed our RCIA candidates and catechumens were not initiated at the Easter Vigil – that is because the only “essential” business churches currently have is providing remote worship services, not celebrating in person.

RCIA courses will switch to Zoom until Initiation Sunday, hopefully on Pentecost!

All Mass Intentions during Shelter in Place orders are either postponed or celebrated privately. Mirna is contacting all those who requested the currently scheduled intentions.

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

For the Sick: Liduvina Acosta, Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Cara Bradbury, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavarria, Grace Parent DeBoot, Rich Delany, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery, Nora Enriquez, Emidio 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, Arsí 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.
WORSHIP AID: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 19, 2020

Gathering Song
People of God, see the morning is new, rise from your sleeping and run to the tomb,
Come and see! Come and see! He is alive!
A grave that is empty a promise fulfilled.
God who was with us is here with us still, He is here! He is here! He is alive!

Alleluia! Love is alive; conquered the grave and defeated the night.
Alleluia! Love is alive; The Son is a risen for all.
Your people sing Alleluia!

Sign of the Cross
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Sprinkling Rite
Springs of water: bless the Lord! Give God glory and praise
Forever, forever, give God glory and praise

Glory To God
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks
for your great glory, Lord God, Heav’nly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, In the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

First Reading
They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life,
to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.
Awe came upon everyone,
and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.
All who believed were together and had all things in common;
they would sell their property and possessions
and divide them among all according to each
one’s need.
Every day they devoted themselves
to meeting together in the temple area
and to breaking bread in their homes.
They ate their meals with exultation and
sincerity of heart,
praising God and enjoying favor with all the
people.
And every day the Lord added to their number
those who were being saved.

Responsorial Psalm

Give thanks to the Lord
for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

Second Reading

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ,
who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to
a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from
the dead,
to an inheritance that is imperishable,
undefiled, and unfading,
kept in heaven for you
who by the power of God are safeguarded
through faith,
to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in
the final time.
In this you rejoice, although now for a little
while
you may have to suffer through various trials,
so that the genuineness of your faith,
more precious than gold that is perishable
even though tested by fire,
may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor
at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
Although you have not seen him you love him;
even though you do not see him now yet
believe in him,
you rejoice with an indescribable and
glorious joy,
as you attain the goal of your faith, the
salvation of your souls.

Gospel

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the
disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, “Peace be with you.”
When he had said this, he showed them his
hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”
And when he had said this, he breathed on them
and said to them,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained.”
Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.
So the other disciples said to him, “We have
seen the Lord.”
But he said to them,
“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his
hands
and put my finger into the nail marks
and put my hand into his side, I will not
believe.”
Now a week later his disciples were again inside
and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.”

Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.”

Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.

But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

### Eucharistic Acclamations

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.
Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, We proclaim your Death, O Lord, Until you come again.

Amen, amen, amen.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.

### The Lord’s Prayer

**Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

### Communion Song

Christ has died and death is dead! Earth and heaven boldly wed!
Joyous cup and hearty bread! Alleluia!

### Meditation Song

In the silence of the heart you speak, and your mercy is the air we breathe.
You come to us in whispers and forgiveness sings.
In the silence of the heart you speak; Lord, you speak.

To the quiet of this room you come; we are captivated by Your love.
You light the darkened corners, and we’re overcome.
To the quiet of this room you come; Lord, you come.

### Closing Song

Alleluia! Love is alive; conquered the grave and defeated the night.
Alleluia! Love is alive; The Son is a risen for all. Your people sing Alleluia! (repeat)