



# Church of Santa Maria

40 Santa Maria Way | Orinda CA 94563 | 925-254-2426 | [www.SantaMariaOrinda.com](http://www.SantaMariaOrinda.com)

## **Senses and Sacraments: how birthdays and the Eucharist teach us about ourselves**

*Reflecting on the infinite wisdom of God*



Pictured: Megan and her amazingly beautiful friends celebrate a birthday in the pre-quarantine era of hugs and gatherings

4th Sunday of Easter  
May 2, 2020

I've been trying to go to the High Noon at Santa Maria events (despite the giggle-worthy name), and it struck me how many people miss receiving Communion and going to church IN our church - as much as they appreciate the livestreamed Masses.

It reminded me, in a roundabout way, of my birthday.

I celebrated this year's birthday within the first couple weeks of the quarantine, which meant no dinner out with family, no drinks with friends, and no trip to my favorite nursery so my husband could buy me a present (crossing county lines for houseplants apparently not being an "essential business").

Now, don't get me wrong - Zoom cocktail parties, phone calls, and waving and talking at people through car windows are nice and all, but there's just no substitute for in-person quality time like splitting an ice cream sundae, sharing a hug, or taking group photos with memorably weird faces.

And here's the amazing thing - GOD KNEW that there's no substitute. HE KNOWS we live in a physical world, with tangible things we touch, smell, taste, hear, and see. HE KNOWS we thrive by being in the actual, physical presence of those we love, hearing their voices, watching them move.

So in His infinite wisdom, He gave us the Sacraments - tangible things we can touch, smell, taste, hear, and see that help us know, in our physical

human way, that He is here with us and loves us.

No matter how sophisticated technology gets, how agile our philosophizing, how much we convince ourselves we're "beyond all that superstition," we really do need the physicality of the Sacraments.

I know my family and friends were thinking of me on my birthday, just like I know that nothing can hold Christ back from entering my heart and life as I receive Spiritual Communion rather than actual Communion. But I'm human - I like those tangible, physical signs. I want to actually eat the Precious Body and Precious Blood in the Eucharist, not imagine it. I want to actually hear real words that say I am forgiven in Reconciliation, not just in my head. I want to be cleansed of my sins with real water in Baptism, not with hope and air.

So I've got a new appreciation for the Sacraments now that I'm away from them. Maybe this was the birthday that finally made me wise. At the very least, I think I look a little more gentle.

Megan Arteaga  
Youth Ministry/Communications

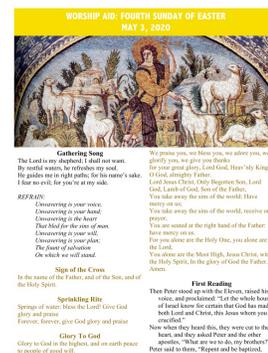
## Weekend Worship Opportunities May 3, 2020

8:30am | [Livestreamed Mass](#) (available all day)  
10:30am | Parking Lot Benediction

[Download and print the Worship Aid here](#)

Join us again in the parking lot at 10:30am for the Liturgy of the Word and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Click on the image to open or print this Sunday's worship aid for your convenience. All text in BLACK will be used for Benediction.



## A special guest is joining us Sunday!

We have some good news! A special guest will be presiding at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the parking lot this Sunday at 10:30am: Bishop Barber has accepted our invitation to join us for our weekly gathering!



While it is not possible to personally greet Bishop because of the social distancing requirements, we are nevertheless honored to welcome him "from a distance"

## Is that a new sign?

You may notice a "For Lease" sign near the school building next to the parking lot. This is due to the fact that our lease agreement with Fountainhead Montessori expires this summer, and our lease negotiations have stalled.

Therefore, we are taking the prudential step of seeking other interested parties, believing this to be the best approach for the good of the parish. If you have any questions or know of any possible interested parties, please let Father George know at 925-254-2426 or [gmockel@smparish.org](mailto:gmockel@smparish.org).

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### High Noon at Santa Maria: Monday through Thursday!

Our Pastoral Team recently subscribed to the Pro version of Zoom, which means we're able to do it for more cool things now. Here are a our new weekday offerings this week:



#### Monday Prayer Hour at Noon with Megan

[Join Zoom Meeting by clicking here](#)

Meeting ID: 986 6498 4683

Password: 574014

#### Tuesday Adoration at Noon on Facebook Live

[Click here at or slightly before noon](#)

*No account or password needed; simply scroll down to the "Happening Now" section*

If you DO have a Facebook account, feel free to comment your prayer intentions and we will add them to ours!

#### Wednesday Faith Sharing at Noon with Tony

[Join Zoom Meeting by clicking here](#)

Meeting ID: 981 1876 8033

Password: 822861

#### Thursday Rosary at Noon with Deacon Jim

[Join Zoom Meeting by clicking here](#)

Meeting ID: 984 2873 9419

Password: 361075

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### How can I keep supporting Santa Maria?

Thank you so much for thinking about us and continuing to support our parish during these trying times! We are greatly appreciative of any help you can provide.

You may mail a check to the Parish Office (40



Santa Maria Way, Orinda CA 94563), or [make a one-time donation using Faith Direct](#), our eGiving service, to make your Easter offering.

If you would like, you can also [sign up for recurring giving through Faith Direct](#) to continue to give to the Sunday plate even though you can't come to the church to drop it in the basket as usual. Again, we thank you for your planning and your generosity!

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## **Pastoral Team**

### **Reverend George Mockel**

Pastor

[gmockel@smparish.org](mailto:gmockel@smparish.org)

### **Reverend Christopher Fadok, OP**

Sacramental Assistance

### **Deacon Rey Encarnacion**

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### **Deacon James Pearce**

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### **Mirna Wong**

Administrative Assistant

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### **Tony Millette**

Liturgy and Music

[tmillette@smparish.org](mailto:tmillette@smparish.org)

### **Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC**

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)

[srmmphan@smparish.org](mailto:srmmphan@smparish.org) x306

### **Megan Arteaga**

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12),

Communications, and CYO

[megan@smparish.org](mailto:megan@smparish.org) x308

### **Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC**

Pastoral Care of the Sick

[sisternm@smparish.org](mailto:sisternm@smparish.org) x309

### **Sister Magdalena Duong, LHC**

Bookkeeper

[sistermagdalena@smparish.org](mailto:sistermagdalena@smparish.org) x305

## **Prayer Intentions**

*For the Sick:*

Liduvina Acosta, Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoab Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Cara Bradbury, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, 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, 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](mailto:mirnawong@smparish.org).*

## **Mass Intentions**

**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.*

**Support Santa  
Maria**

