I think it might be appropriate to communicate some decisions and information relative to the parish and staff as a result of the current COVID-19 virus.

First, the Diocese implemented a hiring freeze and mandated that every parish review its financial situation and staff needs with a view toward reductions as a result of the consequences of the pandemic. You should know that initially I kept the staff on full salary and benefits for the first 6 weeks of the Shelter-in-Place orders.

However, as it became evident that Shelter-in-Place had no clear in sight, good stewardship and prudence constrained us to make some changes and reductions. While these decisions were made in consultation with the Bishop, Human Resources, legal counsel, the Finance Council, and others, I take responsibility for the ultimate decisions. While respecting the privacy of individual staff, I can say that all have been affected. Some of us have had salary reductions, some have been furloughed, and others have taken on additional job responsibilities as a result of the furloughs and already-planned staff changes.

Additionally, thanks to assistance from our Finance Council Chair, Diocesan staff, and our bookkeeper, we applied for and received a PPP loan for approximately $50,000.

Finally, in the midst of this, the lease agreement with the Montessori school using our school building expires this June and the negotiations were stalled. Did someone mention "a perfect storm?" I am confident we
will come through these challenges thanks to the support and understanding of our many good parishioners.

Father George Mockel
Pastor

Weekend Worship Opportunities
May 24, 2020

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

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.

Drive-Thru Food Collection: Success!

Click the photo to see more pictures

Santa Maria's Drive-Thru Food Collection for St. Peter Martyr and St. Cornelius on May 20 was a big success. Many generous parishioners brought 190 bags of groceries! Social Justice volunteers wearing masks and gloves took the groceries from the donors' cars, filled up SIX SUVs, and delivered everything to Pittsburg and Richmond. At St. Peter Martyr, the delivered food should last them through the middle of summer. At St. Cornelius, they had enough to hand out to families the next day. Both parishes could not have been more thankful for Santa Maria's generous donations.

In addition, donations were collected from Gail Gabriel's handmade masks and other cash donations for a total of $150. People are awesome! We plan to put that sum toward meals at St. Mary's Center, Garden Park, or Friendly Manor.

A big thank-you to everyone who participated - especially the volunteers who helped at the drive-thru: Bill and Jane Caldwell, Marita Platon and Walter Peyton, Mary McCosker, Angie Lundgren, and Monya Manning and her son Graham.
Thank you for your financial support!
Thank you for your extraordinary financial generosity during this "extraordinary" time. Our Easter collection was $33,967.00. I am most grateful.

It has taken longer to compute and report our collections because, due to "Shelter in Place" orders, we do not have our wonderful crew of collection counters, and must utilize some staff maintaining both social distancing and the required separation of duties. We appreciate your understanding.

Middle School Youth Group trades their annual "Loards Pilgrimage" for more sessions
Every Wednesday at 7:30pm, the computer at Megan's house starts to "ping" - the signal that middle schoolers have signed onto Zoom and are requesting entry into the "Zoom room."

This past Wednesday was scheduled to be their annual "Loards Pilgrimage," where all of MSYG and a few adult chaperones would walk from the parish to the Loards Ice Cream in downtown Orinda. Megan offered them the option to continue meeting online a few more weeks and they all wanted to keep going "like, maybe until we're done with quarantine or something." We'll see how long it takes them to get tired of Megan and Joe! ;)

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 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](#)
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!

Pastoral Team

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srmmphan@smparish.org x306

Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12),

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, 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.
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.