Judged by the future, mirroring the past

Walking in the dusty shoes of those who have gone before us

Pictured: One of the more shaded and entertaining portions of my "pilgrimage" from my home within St. Agnes parish boundaries to neighboring St. Bonaventure Church.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 9, 2020

Last week, my husband's parish (St. Bonaventure in Concord) celebrated 5 separate outdoor, socially-distant Confirmation liturgies for 100 teens. I went over one evening to glean ideas for what to do and what not to do once we're able to celebrate ours here at Santa Maria.

I had the great idea to walk there. It’s about 4 miles away, about half of which would be traveled on unnamed neighborhood shortcut trails and paths through Newhall Park before being confined to sidewalks. Of course, I was wearing my lauhala hat and trusty walking shoes (leather sandals I made sort of like these) along with my Confirmation-appropriate dress.

About halfway through Newhall I started questioning my idea to get there by the power of my own two feet. It was hot, the shade had disappeared, I’d downed half my water bottle, and I was "glowing" (because, as my great-grandmother said, "horses sweat, men perspire, but women glow"). My feet and ankles were astonishingly dusty, but I figured Jesus wouldn't have washed the disciples' feet had they not also been in a similar state, which made them acceptable for a Confirmation.

It was around this point in the journey I started fancying myself to be like one of the original California missionaries: making a pilgrimage out on the dusty, brush-lined, sun-soaked trails of El Camino Real, faithfully traveling on foot for the perilous journey between parishes. (I've never been accused of having an under-active imagination.)

As I pondered their journeys, thousands of treacherous miles walked, I
admired again their dedication to their parishioners, to their Order, to their mission, and to their faith. "How sad," I thought, "that these simple, faithful men who sacrificed so much for the love of their people have become the scapegoats for all the colonialism of that era. And why do we judge them according to the criteria of our time instead of theirs? Weren't they doing the best they could with what they had and what they knew?"

I started wondering what the people of 2270 will be judging us for by their own moral and cultural standards, as we're doing today to those from the 1770s. For what will our posterity condemn us that we think is right today? Upon what side of history will we end up on in our fight or lack thereof to defend life, to feed the hungry, to combat systemic injustice and class or racial warfare, to nurture the family, to share the Good News?

But the more important question is, does it even matter what side of history we'll be on when we compare it to what side of the Lord we'll be on?

Were those missionaries the sheep on the right or the goats on the left? They seem a little more sheepish than goaty to me, but in the end God will be the judge so my opinion really isn't that important anyway. Neither is the opinion of our 2270s progeny. God will judge mercifully and with love according to His own righteous criteria, not that of any earthly era (cf. Isaiah 33:22). Our only duty is to earn the dusty feet of those who, like the apostles and the missionaries, do their best every day to go out and do His will.

Megan Arteaga
Youth Minister

Weekend Worship Opportunities
August 9, 2020

8:30am | Mass in the Parking Lot; also Livestreamed (available all day)
10:30am | Mass in the Parking Lot

Download and print the Worship Aid here

Editor's Note: This week's Worship Aid was unavailable at the time of publishing. It will be on the Parish Website when it becomes available.

Turn on your car's Accessory Mode and tune in at 87.9 KGOD!

Join us this Sunday in the Parking Lot at 8:30am or 10:30am for Mass! We are blessed to be able to celebrate Masses publicly with you again. If you are unable to physically join us, we will continue to livestream the 8:30am Mass for you to participate from home.

Click on the image to open or print this Sunday's new printer-friendly worship aid for your convenience.

Backpack Drive: Success!
Thank you, Santa Maria parish, for your
Through your generous donations, I was able to deliver 19 backpacks and 32 sets of school supplies on Monday. The St Vincent de Paul group in Oakland was very grateful for the amount and quality of our donations. Our parishioners did a really wonderful job assembling the school supplies. Thank you! Thank you!

- Ethan and team

PS - St. Vincent de Paul will be delivering the materials to kids in need this week!!

---

**Do you miss your favorite Pastoral Team?**

Our Pastoral Team is planning to reopen the office from **10am-noon Monday through Friday** beginning **Monday, August 3**! Each team member will have a certain assigned day, in case you need to speak with someone specifically:

- Monday: Tony
- Tuesday: Megan
- Wednesday: Deacon Jim
- Thursday: Deacon Rey
- Friday: Sr. Magdalene/Sr. Mary Margaret

We will be strictly following County protocol regarding health regulations. Mirna's husband Ken has installed a **plexiglass screen** between the staff and guest area, **hand sanitizer** is available for your use, **masks are required** for both staff and parishioners, and a **limited number of people** will be allowed in the Parish Office at one time.

Please stop by (wearing your mask!) if you have questions, want to request a Mass Intention, or just to chat!

*Note that this plan is subject to change, according to State and County requirements and regulations. We will keep everyone updated.*

---

**Updates on K-12 Faith Formation Programming**

Usually at this time of year, registration is opening up for K-5 Faith Formation, First Eucharist, Middle School Youth Group (MSYG), High School Confirmation, and the Faith in Action Team (FIAT) leadership.

This week, Father George, Megan, and Sr.
Mary Margaret will be meeting to determine possibilities for what these programs will look like this year.

Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Note that any plans in this area are subject to change, according to State and County requirements and regulations. We will keep everyone updated.

---

**Mass for the Assumption of Mary**

This year, the August 15 Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on a Saturday!

While this is normally a Holy Day of Obligation, due to both the dispensation from the Sunday Obligation by Bishop Barber and the placement of the feast on a Saturday, it is not an obligation to celebrate Mass this year, but rather a holy day of opportunity!

Take the opportunity to join us for a Livestreamed Mass at 10am on Saturday, August 15 celebrating our patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary, on the great feast of her Assumption into Heaven.

---

**Tuesday Gardening**

Join us each Tuesday, 8am to 11am at the Rectory level parking lot with your gloves and mask and we will give you a task.

Bring your gloves, mask, hat and water bottle, plus any of the suggested tools: clippers, broom, dust pan, hoe, rake, large outdoor garbage bags. We have a huge jug for water bottle refills.

To get involved, contact Janet Riley or Gail Gabriel.

---

**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 drop your collection in the offertory baskets at Parking Lot Masses, 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 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**

**Reverend George Mockel**  
Pastor  
gmockel@smparish.org

**Deacon Rey Encarnacion**  
dcn.rey@smparish.org x310

**Deacon James Pearce**  
dcnpearce@smparish.org x301

**Mirna Wong**  
Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper  
mirnawong@smparish.org x301

**Tony Millette**  
Liturgy and Music  
tmillette@smparish.org

**Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC**  
Faith Formation (Grades K-5)  
srmmpphan@smparish.org x306

**Megan Arteaga**  
Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12), Communications, and CYO  
megan@smparish.org x308

**Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC**  
Pastoral Care of the Sick  
sistermn@smparish.org x309

---

**Prayer Intentions**

*For the Sick:*
Liduvina Acosta, Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Cara Bradbury, Miguel Briseno, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, Jan Coe, Grace Parent DeBoot, Rich Delany, Mary Dodge, 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, Herman Lee, Rose Mary McPhee, Robert Nick, Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Ben Richey, Brian Riley, Patrick Sheehy, Jean Wells, Faye Young

Would you like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list? Please ensure you have their permission, then contact Megan in the Parish Office at 925-254-2426 or at megan@smparish.org.

---

**Mass Intentions**

Most 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.