



# Church of Santa Maria

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

## Seeing with the eyes of a painterly God

*Paint chips and thoughts about "color"*

*Pictured: A wall of paint chips is showcased with hundreds of options in varying levels of hue, saturation, warmth, and tone.*



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 6, 2020

This past week I painted the platform and stairs we use for Parking Lot Mass. We'd been talking about doing it, but now that the gazebo is up it was tough to look at 5-6 different wood tones up there. It was clearly time.

I went to my favorite big orange store one morning with a piece of the gazebo to find a paint chip to match ("Rave Raisin"), and to get a contrasting stain that would complement our liturgical furniture ("Tugboat"). As I waited for the paint desk to do their thing, I wandered back to the paint chips and, being me, decided to try to find one that matched my arm (don't ask where I get these ideas). It turns out that I am currently Behr's "Cinnamon Crunch."

This got me to thinking: people often comment how "brown" I get toward the end of summer, and I guess that's true after all my time in the sun. It's just that Cinnamon Crunch just sounds way more entertaining - **and I like to think I'm much more colorful than "brown."**

I'm sure others do, too. Linguistically speaking, cultural norms generally sort people as white, black, or brown - but even the most basic Crayola crayon box has more colors than that! What if, instead of three or eight colors (or, God forbid, claiming we're "colorblind"), we saw not just "Cinnamon Crunch," but also "Suede Beige," "Baked Sienna," "Harmonious Gold," "Pumpkin Seed," "Oak Creek," and all the other pinks, taupes, golds, olives, and coffees? None of these come burdened with connotations of racial stereotypes, and they're much more accurate to boot.



**MSYG** (6th-8th grade) will have "**Bring-Back Haversacks**" to pick up after an assigned Mass with materials for upcoming at-home meetings, which they'll "BRING BACK" to their once-monthly in-person meetings to be refilled for the next pickup.

**Confirmation** will be a hybrid of socially-distant or Zoom meetings focused on small group discussion, which will be augmented by online content on [an achievement-based online game platform called Ascent](#), developed by Megan and her Youth Minister friend Jacob at St. Bonaventure.

We're hoping registration opens soon - thanks for your patience and understanding as we navigate these new waters!

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## **American Catholics: Beyond the Debate**

Nobody wants to be told how to vote, and in truth, nobody should! **It's up to you** to thoroughly inform yourself on the candidates, issues, measures, and anything else on the ballot, and to make a decision in line with your own conscience.



**Over the next few weeks, we'll be including this column in the bulletin to help round out our knowledge of election issues so that we can be even better informed to make our decisions in November.**

We'll start off with the key to all of it: how our own conscience should help guide the decisions we make, and how we have a responsibility to form it through prayer, learning, and conversation. It is important to work continually on conscience formation so that we can be prepared to make decisions whenever the opportunity arises. Some specific ideas to form your conscience are:

1. Being **open to the truth** and to what is right
2. **Examine the facts** and background information about various choices, and be discerning in where that information comes from
3. **Study Scripture and the teachings of the Church**
4. Seek the **prudent advice** and good example of trusted leaders and others to support and enlighten our conscience
5. Pray for the **gifts of the Holy Spirit** to help us develop our conscience
6. **Regularly pray** as part of your reflection to discern the will of God

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## **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.

To get involved, contact [Janet Riley](#) or [Gail Gabriel](#).



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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 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!

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## Pastoral Team

**Reverend George Mockel**  
Pastor  
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**Tony Millette**  
Liturgy and Music  
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**Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC**  
Faith Formation (Grades K-5)  
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## Prayer Intentions

*For the Sick:*

Liduvina Acosta, Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoab Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Cara Bradbury, Miguel Briseno, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, Jan Coe, Grace Parent DeBoot, Rich Delany, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery, Nora Enriquez, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Jennifer Gray, 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*

**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  
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*ensure you have their permission, then contact Megan in the Parish Office at 925-254-2426 or at [megan@smparish.org](mailto: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.*

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