



Church of Santa Maria

40 Santa Maria Way | Orinda CA 94563 | 925-254-2426 | www.SantaMariaOrinda.com

The Great Fall Transition and pandemic ministry

Struggles of an enjoyable yet uniquely challenging time of year

Pictured: Sister Mary Margaret prepares a group of First Eucharist students at an outdoor rehearsal - where practice not only included how to receive the Eucharist but also how and in what order to remove your mask one-handed.



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 20, 2020

Usually when the ministry year transitions from summer to fall, it's a welcome uptick in the pace for all of us. Our voicemail and email inboxes start to fill again with families registering for programs, young voices carry through the hallways on Monday afternoons, parking lots fill on Sundays not just with Masses but also with Confirmation teens (learning to drive to their sessions), and other groups using our facilities for their own programs. Life in general moves from quiet to bustling.

This year it's oddly different for me, but not in the ways you may think.

Over the summer months, we've worked extra hard to stay connected with you, our parishioners, by creating and then improving upon Parking Lot Masses, High Noon programming, Coffee Talks, this new e-bulletin, and in general, trying to ensure not just bodily health but also spiritual health during a global pandemic. This means that the summer wasn't spent in the usual doldrums of program tweaking, budget-checking, calendaring, and catechist/leadership recruiting, with the energetic splash of a week-long service project thrown in. Instead, it was jam-packed!

It has honestly been one of my favorite summers in ministry, ever, and that's due in no small part to the gratitude and appreciation of all of you for all the cool new stuff we've been doing.

So here's my problem - now that we're doing The Great Fall Transition, the usual autumnal stuff is definitely gearing up, but it's all happening *in*

addition to all the fun things we started over the last couple months – plus all kinds of new challenges. Program tweaking has become complete ground-up creation; budget-checking demands a new awareness of stewardship; calendaring seems impossible when restrictions, plans, and weather can change almost by the hour; and leadership recruiting and training includes not only theology and Safe Environment but also Zoom and social distancing. Oh – and we still haven't even finished LAST year's ministry, as First Eucharist and Confirmation Masses are on tap for the next couple weekends, which means refreshing and rehearsing with all the students.

While this may read as more of a blog entry rather than a bulletin article, I still think it provides a pretty accurate behind-the-scenes look into our parish life (or at least mine!). And if you, like us, are feeling overwhelmed by everything going on, please don't let that stop you from asking God if He's calling you to volunteer in a new ministry this year – at least we'll all be in this ministry ship together!

Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Weekend Worship Opportunities

**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 20, 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](#)

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.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Worship Aid for September 20, 2020
Turn on your car's Accessory Mode at 87.9 KGOD (supplemental sound)



Gathering Song
The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and all creation is declaring His praise.
Come, praise the Lord,
and bring forth the glory of the Lord,
and bring forth the glory of the Lord.

Psalm 150:1-3
Praise to the Lord, the King of glory,
the most high, the Lord of hosts,
the Lord our God.
The Lord is with us, the King of glory,
the most high, the Lord of hosts,
the Lord our God.

Prayer
The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and all creation is declaring His praise.
Come, praise the Lord,
and bring forth the glory of the Lord,
and bring forth the glory of the Lord.

First Reading
Isaiah 55:1-2
Heaven and earth are full of His glory,
and all creation is declaring His praise.
Come, praise the Lord,
and bring forth the glory of the Lord,
and bring forth the glory of the Lord.

Program registration opens soon!

Sister and Megan have the details figured out for their programs this year - all we're waiting on is wording for a new liability form that includes provision for online courses and streamed events.

Once we've got that, we're ready to go! Spread the word to current elementary-aged families that we're still doing formation this year, to new 6th graders that they should definitely join MSYG, and to High School freshmen that they've got a new opportunity to figure out the meaning of life with



Confirmation (no, that's actually not over-selling it).

To get involved or if you have any questions, contact [Sr. Mary Margaret](#) for K-5 formation or [Megan Arteaga](#) for 6th-12th grade programs!

Drive-Thru Food Collection Sunday Sept 27

Our next Drive-Thru Food Collection will be held before and after morning Masses on Sunday, September 27. To drop off your grocery bags of nonperishables, please come to the lower level Park and Ride Lot during one of these time periods:



8:00-8:30am
9:30-10:30am
11:30am-Noon

With 13.4% unemployment in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, we are seeing increasing rates of food insecurity - residents rely more than ever on our generosity!

Suggested Groceries (please - no glass containers):

- Canned protein (e.g., tuna, chicken, beef, spam, chili, beans)
- Canned tomato sauce
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Soup cans
- Rice and Pasta
- Plastic bottle of cooking oil (48oz)
- Cereal
- Flour
- Peanut Butter
- Snacks (e.g., protein or breakfast bars, nuts)

To get involved or if you have any questions, contact [Janet Riley](#) or [Gail Gabriel](#). Can't make it Sunday? Ask about alternate delivery options!

Aren't ready to leave your house? We have volunteer shoppers ready to shop for you - all you have to do is ask!

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](#).



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

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Megan Arteaga

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12),

Communications, and CYO

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Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC

Pastoral Care of the Sick

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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, Al Ferreira, 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 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.

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