



Church of Santa Maria

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

Putting out roots

How persistence and patience can move mountains - I mean, fountains.

Pictured: A big ole' root sticking out of the ground after its little capillary roots were dug out of the fountain reservoir



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 27, 2020

I love fountains. They're so relaxing, listening to the water, watching the birds take a drink and do their little birdie shake-bath thing in them, and just having that little bit of quiet, gurgling movement in the yard.

This particular one, however, was acting up a bit - although its reservoir gets refilled every time the sprinkler comes on, it was acting like it didn't have enough water, and choking on its gurgle. Upon closer analysis, it wasn't a broken pump or a loose water line - it was a HUGE MASS OF LITTLE TINY ROOTS that had infiltrated the reservoir to block the pump. I mean, huge. I wish I'd taken a picture. The only thing I took a picture of is this big ole' guy.

It was amazing to me that such little teeny weeny roots could have such a huge impact on this fountain - the parent tree was just minding its own business, seeking out water, finding a great reliable source in the fountain, and settling in so well it almost stopped the flow of water from, well, flowing.

It made me wonder how many tiny little things have slowly infiltrated our own lives without us noticing, and at what point we'll realize that the metaphorical flow of our own lives has been affected - what negativity, news, worldviews, understandings, misconceptions, assumptions, practices do we have that are choking off our flourishing and thriving as the best version of ourselves we can be?

On the other hand - what impact on the world have our tiny little actions had for others? How have our own capillary exploratory roots affected

those around us, in our families, workplaces, grocery stores, highways, gas stations, and online communities? Are we putting out roots that bring new growth and flowers, or roots that choke off others' fountains?

Either way, roots can move mountains and fountains. Let's be roots that give new life, like our Lord calls us to be.

*Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Weekend Worship Opportunities

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 27, 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~~
(Unavailable at the time of publication)

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.

Parish Office will be closed Oct 9

Please take note that the Parish Office will be closed Friday, October 9. Feel free to stop by or call either Thursday or the following Monday, October 12.

Monthly Collection Report

Our Finance Council has determined that our monthly goal for the Sunday Plate is \$42,000. Here are our totals for the months of July and August:

July 2020: \$45,255.00

August 2020: \$38,478.20



Program registration IS OPEN!

[Sign up for Faith Formation, MSYG, and Confirmation - registration is finally open!](#)

Please pass the word along to families you know, especially those in 1st grade, 6th grade, and 9th grade!



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!

Where is God in the American Dream?

[Click here to read a thought-provoking article](#) from The Catholic Thing about the benefits of recasting the typical American Dream within a God-centered mindset - and what this has to do with the upcoming elections.



Drive-Thru Food Collection THIS 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

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)

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

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, 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 x308

Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC

Pastoral Care of the Sick
sisternm@smparish.org x309

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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Maria**

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