



# Church of Santa Maria

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

## "Earth to God; Come in, God"

*A contemporary psalm in time of distress*

*Pictured: Country star John Rich performs his brand-new hit single "Earth to God"*



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
October 4, 2020

This Sunday is Confirmation Sunday for 19 of our teens! One of our Confirmation dads actually came up to me before Mass last Sunday to show me that [John Rich's Earth to God](#), "a song about God," had made it into the number one spot on some list of music he'd seen the previous day. He was shocked and excited that such a secular world was so into a song that's essentially a prayer (and was certain that I could somehow turn it into a bulletin article).

It seems as if country music star John Rich has done what Youth Ministry excels at: taking the Word and translating it to today's culture. When I heard it, it immediately struck me as a modern-day psalm, like especially to [Psalm 86](#) (labeled as "Prayer in Time of Distress" in [my own Bible](#)):

David: "Incline your ear, Lord, and answer me." (86:1)

John: "Earth to God; come in, God." (Verse 1)

David: "Gladden the soul of your servant... Lord, you are good and forgiving." (86:4)

John: "We need your light, we need your love; save us now in our darkest hour with your amazing grace." (Chorus)

David: "Give your strength to your servant." (86:16)

John: "We're holding on, but not for long." (Verse 2)

The music video seems to run a commentary that although our presenting issues may appear as men vs. women, black vs. white, police vs. civilians, nature vs. civilization, virus vs. humanity, etc., instead our real problem is a lack of connection with God. "We've got to reach out to Him and talk to Him," Rich said.

To me, the fact that this song was number one on ANY chart means that the world is desperately seeking God, even if they don't know it. **That search for meaning in the chaos, comfort in distress, hope in despair is really our soul's searching for its home in the Lord.** As St. Augustine said, "our hearts are restless until they rest in You, O Lord."

Maybe this song can be the connecting point for some who have been disconnected or are searching for God. Is there someone you feel called to share it with today?

*Megan Arteaga  
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

## **Weekend Worship Opportunities**

### **27th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 4, 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](#)

### **Sacrament of Confirmation**

**6:00pm** | Mass in the Parking Lot; also [Livestreamed](#)

[Download and print the Confirmation 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! This Sunday we also celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for 19 of our teens at 6pm. We are blessed to be able to celebrate with you.

**If you are unable to physically join us, we will continue to livestream the 8:30am Mass and the 6pm Confirmation Mass** for you to participate from home.

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## **Welcome back to public Daily Masses!**

We are happy to announce that Daily Mass will be celebrated publicly outdoors at **8:30am on Mondays and Wednesdays** (please note the new time and days!) **starting this coming Monday, October 5.** Daily Masses have been celebrated privately for the last few months, and we are finally able to transition to celebrating them publicly, outdoors, two days a week (weather permitting).



**Daily Mass  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
8:30am on the St. Francis Plaza**

Socially-distant chairs and worship aids will be set out on the plaza by the St. Francis statue directly in front of the Hall. (A different set of chairs and worship aids will be used on Mondays and Wednesdays to reduce chances of virus transmission on surfaces.)

Please come wearing a face mask properly covering your nose and mouth, and be prepared for either chilly shade or a little bright sunshine in your eyes - we'll find out together which it will be on Monday!

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## Contra Costa is now in the "Red Tier" - what does that mean for Santa Maria?

Early this week, Contra Costa County issued [a press release](#) sharing information that more businesses and services can reopen due to progress in the fight against COVID-19. **What does this mean for Santa Maria?**

County risk level	Adjusted cases	Positivity rate
<b>WIDESPREAD</b> Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed	<b>More than 7</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>More than 8%</b> Positive tests
<b>SUBSTANTIAL</b> Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed	<b>4-7</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>5 - 8%</b> Positive tests
<b>MODERATE</b> Some indoor business operations are open with modifications	<b>1 - 3.9</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>2 - 4.9%</b> Positive tests
<b>MINIMAL</b> Most indoor business operations are open with modifications	<b>Less than 1</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>Less than 2%</b> Positive tests

At the most basic level, we are grateful to be able to continue public worship services.

**For the time being, we will continue to worship outdoors with Parking Lot Masses on Sundays and Daily Masses on the St. Francis Plaza in front of the Hall.** Although we're allowed 100 people (or 25% of our maximum capacity, whichever is less) indoors for worship, we are keeping this as a backup option. We've been down the re-opening and re-closing road before, notice the spikes in of cases in Europe, and don't want to keep switching back and forth between indoor and outdoor like a ping pong ball!

Indoor worship would also require reservations to insure we don't go over 100 people (including the ministry team); socially-distant seating areas for singles, couples, and families based on group size; sanitization between Masses, and other logistical challenges. **We've decided it's better to continue to worship outdoors while the weather is decent and while we see how things develop.**

We are so grateful for your patience, cooperation, enthusiasm, and generosity during this pandemic! Let's continue to stay healthy in both body and spirit as we keep on keeping on!

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## Would you like a brick?

In the plaza in front of the Parish Hall are bricks engraved in memory or honor of our parishioners and their loved ones.

We already have a few requests for bricks, but there is a minimum number before the engraver will come out to do them! **If you have been thinking of having a brick (or series of bricks) engraved, now is the time to do it!**



The tax-deductible donation is \$365 per brick; up to 3 lines and 14 characters per line is allowed. Please [fill out and return this form](#) to Mirna in the Parish Office to order your brick!

## American Catholics: Beyond the Debate

In the words of Pope Francis, "progress in building a people in peace, justice, and fraternity depends on four principles" that provide a moral framework for Catholic engagement in society. These principles include:

- **The dignity of the human person:** the innate value of each human person that cannot be taken away
- **The common good:** ensuring that each person has sufficient access to the goods and resources of society so they can completely and easily live fulfilling lives
- **Subsidiarity:** what individuals or smaller institutions can accomplish by their own initiative and efforts should not be taken from them by a higher authority
- **Solidarity:** recognizing others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for their good and build relationships

These four principles call us to look beyond voting according to parties, single issues, and particular candidates. Use these four principles to examine candidates' positions on issues and consider their integrity, philosophy, and performance to see what and who will help build a better, more ethical, dignified society for all.

[To learn more about these four principles, click here!](#)



## 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!

[Faith Formation](#) begins October 19

[MSYG](#) begins October 4

[Teen Confirmation](#) begins October 18, with Parent Orientation on October 11 or 13 (your choice)

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!

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## 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



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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

[gmockel@smparish.org](mailto:gmockel@smparish.org)

**Deacon Rey Encarnacion**

[dcn.rey@smparish.org](mailto:dcn.rey@smparish.org) x310

## 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

**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 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*

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  
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.*

**Support Santa  
Maria**

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Facebook**