



# Church of Santa Maria

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

## "We all have different gifts..."

### *Expressing God's grace and plain old graciousness*

*Pictured: New fence poles stand plumb and proud in their cement anchors between my and my neighbor's backyards after a day of hard labor with the pickaxe, post hole digger, two-man auger, shovel, hose, wheelbarrow, crowbar...*



All Saints Day  
November 1, 2020

Honestly, I wasn't feeling too saintly for most of this whole new fence thing. Taking the old one down involved the kind of unseemly reckless glee you only get while destroying something; digging the post holes drew quite a few grumbles (and a small amount of cursing); and trying to get the auger flighting (that big drill bit looking thing) un-stuck was a ridiculously challenging test of perseverance and ingenuity I felt I was miserably failing.

So when I started thinking about this week's article for All Saints Day, it was a bit of a challenge - until I remembered [that little line from Paul's letter to the Romans](#): "we have a variety of gifts, according to the grace God has given to us" (Rom 12:6).

While I might not be gifted with the size of body ideal for using an auger or a fence post digger, the Lord did instead give me the gifts of determination and really rewarding satisfaction at a job well done to get it all done anyway. Even He didn't gift Anthony with a love of manual labor, He did give him an attention to detail and a killer way with food that definitely helped my dad and I endure the finer points of hard work without doing anything stupid. Even if God didn't gift my dad with a strong back, He gave him lots of opportunities for experience and the grace to know when backup was needed.

Our saintliness comes in using the gifts we're actually given to the best of our abilities. **So often we try too hard to be "well-rounded," and forget that we naturally have particular strengths and abilities "according to the grace God has given to us."** Some are strong,

some better at reading comprehension, some do math, some listen, some are flexible, some build things, some can fold clothes perfectly, some are gentle, some are fearless, some have lots of life experience, some are innocent, some can cook, some can save, some barrel through obstacles, some endure... but **none of us can be, or even should try to be, everything**. As Matthew Kelly put it, "As wonderful as Mother Teresa was at helping the poor, she was never going to be the Lakers' star point guard." Or something like that.

We were gifted in unique ways, and saintliness means taking what God has given us and using it the best we can to bring about His kingdom here on earth. Make some time this week to reflect on the gifts the Lord has given you, and how you can use those in a joyful way - because the world doesn't need well-rounded people who are mediocre at and indifferent to everything. **It needs saints enthusiastic to share the gifts God gave them, all for His glory and honor.**

*Megan Arteaga  
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

## **Weekend Worship Opportunities**

**All Saints Day  
November 1, 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 with you.

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

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### **Join us for All Souls Day Monday!**

The month of November begins with All Saints Day and All Souls Day - the Church makes it clear that we are invited, and should, celebrate and remember the holy souls who have gone before us!



We encourage you to join us for **All Souls Day Mass at 8:30am** on the St. Francis Plaza on Monday, November 2 to celebrate your deceased loved ones! We'll be praying for our parishioners who have passed, parishioners' family members, and especially those who died within this past year.

All are welcome! Chairs will be provided; please wear a mask.

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## Would you share your thoughts with us?

The fall has rolled around again, which is usually when we restart Eucharistic Adoration once a week.



[Would you please take 3 minutes to share your thoughts on Adoration?](#) Whether you've never gone or you make it a weekly practice, we'd love to hear from you so we can make Adoration even better for everyone!

[Take the 3-minute survey here!](#)

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## 130 bags of groceries helped 3 different groups

A special thank you to all parishioners who donated bags of groceries this past weekend. Because of your generosity, the Social Justice Committee was able to deliver a 3-way split to the Friendly Manor, the Gael Pantry at Saint Mary's College in Moraga, and the Jewish Family Community Center in Walnut Creek (they are the agency that we "adopted" the Amini family from Afghanistan 2 years ago).



Each group was amazed with the gifts they received and expressed their very sincere thanks for your generosity. Our new Deacon Louie even experienced the unloading of bags and helped with those last drop offs before noon.

Stay tuned for the November 12 collection event for a Thanksgiving meal distribution for 27 families at Garden Park Apartments, (a community we have been working with over the years). This will be in lieu of our normal food drive.

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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!

## 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

### Deacon Louie Hotop, SJ

x301

### Deacon James Pearce

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### Mirna Wong

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper

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### Tony Millette

Liturgy and Music

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

### Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)

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

### 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

[sistermn@smparish.org](mailto:sistermn@smparish.org) x309

## Prayer Intentions

*For the Sick:*

Liduvina Acosta, Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoab Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, 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 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

### Nov 1

8:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

10:30am: Robert Singer (D)

### Nov 4

8:30am: Karl Rogina (D)

*To request a Mass Intention, please contact Mirna in the Parish Office.*

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Maria**

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