



# Church of Santa Maria

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

## Physical gesture for a present God

*A reminder of our faith's concrete reality here on earth*

*Pictured: A simple but beautiful arrangement of a rose and some greenery has been placed at the feet of the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the side niche of our church*



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
November 15, 2020

"Hey. Come look at this." Father George beckoned me over to the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the side niche of the church, gesturing to a small, simple flower arrangement. "Isn't it beautiful? Someone has been leaving flowers here!" There were more by the statue of Mary and by the tabernacle. I was unsure if his comment on beauty referred to the rose itself (which *was* beautiful) or the gesture, which in my mind was equally so - but in truth it didn't really matter.

Some anonymous person (or multiple people, who knows) has been making the time to gather flowers and greenery, place them in front of our statues and our Lord, and keep them refreshed throughout the weeks.

There were so many lessons I immediately took, inspired by this gesture - the need to show our care to our loved ones (earthly and divine) during this pandemic, the importance of small actions in showing love, and the intention with which we use our time - but for the bulletin decided to focus on this devotion to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother, and the importance of the physicality of our faith.

As far as I know, our faith is the only one where God is made present on

earth regularly - in the holy sacrifice of the Mass. The precious body and precious blood of Christ are actually there, present, under the appearance of bread and wine in the Eucharist! How many more of us would flood the kneelers and overflow the spaces with flowers in front of tabernacles around the world if we really understood this, that we could be present with Our Lord and make some small physical gesture of gratitude to Him in such an accessible way?

Of course, it's different with statues - we're not actually worshipping the statues. Instead we use them as an image to help us focus our prayers to God. This actually kind of reminded me of live-streaming Mass and things like that - there's a huge difference between a statue of Jesus and the living Lord present in the tabernacle, just as there's a huge difference between focusing your prayers with the image of the Blessed Sacrament on your Sunday television screen and being able to physically receive that Sacrament in Holy Communion.

I wonder, when this is all over and we're invited back to churches around the world, how many of us will fail to remember what - or rather, Who - we are missing when we don't participate physically in the Supper of the Lord. I encourage you to take a moment out of your week, take a clipping of greenery or some beautiful autumn leaves from your yard, and come gift them to Our Lord in the tabernacle, who is always inviting you to come and stay with him, and who is yearning for the day you next receive Him in Holy Communion.

*Megan Arteaga  
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

## **Weekend Worship Opportunities**

### **33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time November 8, 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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## **Share the Christmas spirit with a family in need!**

Are you looking for an opportunity to give this holiday season? Participate in Spirit of Giving!



You'll be assigned a family of 2-5 people and then can purchase two gifts per person from their wish list, plus a Grocery Outlet gift card to provide for their Christmas Dinner!

[Email Megan to sign up](#) - we only have **7 families left** to care for, so act fast!

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## Join us for Thanksgiving!

We know Thanksgiving will be a little strange this year, but wanted to make sure you know you're welcome at our table - or rather, God's table!



Mark your calendars and get the car ready!

## Thanksgiving Day Mass 10am | November 26

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## Important: Planning Ahead for Inclement Weather

Thank you to everyone who has made our Parking Lot worship services happen over these past nine months, from Benediction to Mass!



As we head into the winter, weather has become a greater concern for everyone. Here's what you need to know about **grounds to cancel Parking Lot Masses and switching to livestream only:**

1. If the [Weather Channel](#) is predicting ORANGE level rain in the radar
2. If there is lightning within a 10-mile radius of Orinda
3. If there is a planned or occurring PG&E Power Safety Shutoff

Whenever possible, we will send an email out to everyone on this distribution list at 7pm Saturday (the evening before) if Mass will switch to livestream only the following morning. We will then **stream the 8:30am Mass**, which will be available all day to watch from the safety of your home!

However, some of these issues only present challenges on the day of. Please use these criteria before leaving your home if you are wondering if Mass is cancelled!

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## October Collection Report

*Our Finance Council has determined our monthly goal for the Sunday Plate. Here is our*

total for the month of October:

Goal: \$42,000.00

**Total: \$37,689.40**

**Deficit for October: -\$4,310.60**



## 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!

## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, Nov 15

8:30am: Pat Owens (D)

10:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased



**Monday, Nov 9** 8:30am: Rose Rogina (D)

**Wednesday, Nov 11** 8:30am: Special Intention (D)

**Friday, Nov 13** 8:30am: Joseph Nguyen Pham (D)

*Mass Intentions are a beautiful way of praying for your intentions or for the souls of our deceased loved ones. To request a Mass Intention, please contact Mirna in the Parish Office.*

## 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, Miguel Briseno, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, Jan Coe, Grace Parent DeBoot, Rich Delany, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery, Nora Enriquez, Al Ferreira,

**Deacon Louie Hotop, SJ**  
x301

**Deacon James Pearce**  
[dcnpearce@smparish.org](mailto:dcnpearce@smparish.org) x301

**Mirna Wong**  
Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper  
[mirnawong@smparish.org](mailto:mirnawong@smparish.org) x301

**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  
[sisttermn@smparish.org](mailto:sisttermn@smparish.org) x309

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, Patricia McGuire, Rose Mary McPhee, Robert Nick, Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Ben Richey, Brian Riley, Patrick Sheehy, Scott Treter, 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).*

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Maria**

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