



# Church of Santa Maria

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

## Creator of the Stars of Night

### *Continuing our Advent meditation*

*Pictured: An artistic rendition of Advent - art and music can help us step back from the business of life*



Second Sunday of Advent  
December 6, 2020

Since last week's combo of brief article and music was so popular, I've decided to continue the theme throughout Advent! I've chosen four very different pieces I'll be sharing with you, starting with the very contemporary [Prepare Him Room](#) last week and continuing this week with [Creator of the Stars of Night](#) - **returning to the past with a very simple, meditative plainsong hymn that's still beautiful today.** It tells the story of God, Creator of all things, who grieved that an "ancient curse" would doom His cherished people to death and so sent Christ to redeem us and set us free. I especially love this particular rendition by St. John's Episcopal in Boulder, CO, as each verse changes slightly to bring you deeper into the experience. [Enjoy!](#)

*Megan Arteaga  
Youth Ministry Coordinator*



## Weekend Worship Opportunities

### The Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 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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## St. Peter Martyr Christmas Food Boxes available this weekend to fill!

Santa Maria has always been a great supporter of Pittsburg's St. Peter Martyr Parish at Christmastime - and this year the need is different and much greater!



"Santa Maria can make a huge difference for our brothers and sisters," says Knights of Columbus Grand Knight **Dean Akazawa**. "We have been very generous in the past; this year let's outdo ourselves! We hope families will take a box (or two) to fill with staples and essential food items - like flour, cooking oil, soup, canned goods, cereal, and other basic food items. You may also consider writing a check to help with primary expenses in this time of COVID-related job losses and lower family incomes."

**The Knights will begin distributing boxes for non perishable food donations after Masses on the 6th and 13th in the Park and Ride Lot. You can also write a check to "St. Peter Martyr Conference SVdP"** (St. Vincent de Paul). Please consider participating. Filled boxes should be returned the weekend of December 19-20.

*Want more information on how to help? [Contact Dean Akazawa!](#)*

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## **We're doing Advent Reconciliation - and getting a little creative with it!**

Although we can't have our annual Communal Reconciliation service, we'll still be offering SIX different opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent!



Come to the Plaza in front of the church during the following dates and times, where we'll be celebrating Reconciliation outdoors:

**9-9:45am Thurs, Dec 17**  
**4-4:45pm Thurs, Dec 17**

**9-9:45am Fri, Dec 18**  
**4-4:45pm Fri, Dec 18**

**9-9:45am Sat, Dec 19**  
**4-4:45pm Sat, Dec 19**

Please come and celebrate this beautiful Sacrament of healing in preparation for Christmas!

*Please note: if we are experiencing inclement weather on any of those dates or times, then Confessions will move inside the Church (but NOT into the Confessionals), and Parking Attendants will be present to keep the line in order so that one person can go inside at a time to receive the Sacrament.*

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## Celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This Tuesday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary!



We will be live-streaming Mass at 8:30am. Please note that due to County restrictions, this Mass is not open to the public. We invite you to participate at home for your safety and that of our team.

[Click here at 8:30am on Tuesday to watch the Immaculate Conception Mass!](#)

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## Join us for Christmas Carols in the Parking Lot!

Mark your calendars now to join your fellow parishioners for some Christmas Cheer!

**Sunday, December 20**  
**5:00pm | Parking Lot**  
[Click here for the livestream](#)



We'll prepare for the coming of the Lord by singing Christmas carols and hearing Sacred Scripture that remind us of what these holy days are all about.

Bring family and friends! Bring fellow parishioners! Bring some cookies and hot cider or chocolate to enjoy in your car! And most importantly - bring your singing voice as the Adult Choir will be leading us in the carols!

*Bundle up and join us in your car, or stay cozy and join us from the comfort of your home by [watching our livestream!](#)*

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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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## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, Dec 6

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

10:30am: Stephen Myron Gentry (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.*

**“What’s for dinner tonight?”**

**Check out:**

**[themainkitchencafe.com](http://themainkitchencafe.com)**



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## Pastoral Team

### Reverend George Mockel

Pastor

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

### Deacon Rey Encarnacion

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### Deacon Louie Hotop, SJ

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### Deacon James Pearce

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### Mirna Wong

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper

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### Tony Millette

Liturgy and Music

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### Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)

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

## Prayer Intentions

*For the Sick:*

Liduvina Acosta, Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Miguel Briseno, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, 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, 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 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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