



Church of Santa Maria

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

How 'bout them apples?

Parishioners ponder why there would be an apple in the manger before Christmas

Pictured: Traditionally, the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil is portrayed as an apple



Epiphany Sunday
January 3, 2021

Last week, we posed the question: why would Father George have put an apple in the manger before Christmas?

This week, we share some of your creative answers:

"Apples for the animals!" ~Vicki and Diane

"Jesus is the apple of our eyes." ~Tom and Mary Anne

"The apple represents the Holy Trinity, as the apple has three parts in one, the peel, the fruit, and the core. The manger holds Jesus who is the son of God and was born through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit and the three of them comprise the Holy Trinity." ~Gail

"If Adam and Eve hadn't eaten the apple, we probably wouldn't be celebrating the birth of Jesus." ~Jim, Margie, and Rose (plus Gail, for her Take 2 answer)

And my personal favorite:

"Father George wants to get rid of some of his apples" ~Shirley

My own answer was **"Ave fit ex Ava,"** a line from a 15th century Christmas hymn. It translates to "'Ave' has been made from Eve," referencing how Mary's obedience "cured" Eve's disobedience with Christ our savior.

Of course, Father George couldn't just leave it at that. He found out that in China, there's a **tradition to gift apples at Christmas Masses!** Homophones play a big part in Chinese poetry and communication, and in

Mandarin, the word for apple (苹果, pronounced *píngguǒ*) sounds similar to the word for peace (和平, pronounced *héping*)!

But wait, there's more! Stay tuned next week for Father George's premeditated take on the pre-Christmas apple!

*Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Weekend Worship Opportunities

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Friday, January 1, 2021

10:00am | Mass [Livestreamed](#)

[Download and print the Worship Aid here](#)

The Epiphany of the Lord Sunday, January 3, 2021

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.

Mary, Mother of God: Livestreamed at 10am!

On this First of the Year, we always honor Mary, Mother of God!

[Join us from home for a Livestreamed Mass at 10am](#) - if you can't make it at 10, Mass will be available all day!



[Download or print the Worship Aid](#)

Happy New Year, Santa Maria!

Thank you so much for sticking with us throughout 2020 - we're looking forward to the continued creativity, positivity, and connectedness we'll share with you in 2021!

Many blessings to you and yours for the new year.

-The Pastoral Team



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, Jan 3

8:30am: Richard and J.O. Kirby (D)

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

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



Pastoral Team

Reverend George Mockel

Pastor

gmockel@smparish.org

Deacon Rey Encarnacion

dcn.rey@smparish.org x310

Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

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,

Deacon Louie Hotop, SJ
x301

Deacon James Pearce
dcnpearce@smparish.org x301

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)
srmphan@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
sisttermn@smparish.org x309

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.

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