



Church of Santa Maria

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

An apple for the teacher!

Father George finally shares the answer to the apple-in-the-manger question!

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



The Baptism of the Lord
January 10, 2021

So what WAS the message I was conveying with the apple in the pre-Christmas manger?

First - **thanks to those of you who shared your thoughts.** You all had observations that revealed some important truth of our faith, even Shirley! ;)

The apple is a kind of universal symbol of the sin of Adam and Eve (even though Scripture never said it was an apple). We call their sin "Original Sin," and we all inherit a fallen nature as a result: **though created fundamentally good by God, we nevertheless have a tendency or an inclination to sin.**

The connection between the apple and the manger is this: after Adam and Eve's sin, **God hints of a coming Messiah or Redeemer.** This hint is known as the "protoevangelium," or "first Gospel" (Google it!). God speaks of the "offspring" (Jesus Christ) of the "woman" (Mary) who will come to crush the reign of the evil one and ultimately defeat him forever!

The apple in the manger was a way of reminding us why Christ came: not principally to do good things, not primarily to heal people, not primarily to found the Church - but instead **He came fundamentally and essentially to redeem us.** This truth comes full circle at the Easter Vigil when we hear the deacon proclaim in the Exsultet, "O happy fault (felix culpa) of Adam, that gained for us so great, so glorious a redeemer!"

I know this is kind of heavy theology - but it's also fundamental to understanding Christmas. So... how d'ya like them apples?

Father George Mockel

Weekend Worship Opportunities

The Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 10, 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.

Thank you to everyone who helped us at Christmas!

We are so grateful to the Parking Attendants, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Choir members, Altar Servers, Setup and Takedown crews, luminaria makers and lighters, families, friends, and everyone else who made our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebrations so beautiful! Some of you even came to multiple Masses to help make our worship look effortless.



What a blessing to be able to celebrate outside with you all as the first Christmas was celebrated.

Virtual Novena to the Santo Niño begins tonight!

Our Fil-Am community is once again bringing us a beautiful opportunity for devotion to the Santo Niño, or Child Jesus, with 9 days of prayer - they're hosting a Virtual Novena!

Every day between today (January 8) and January 16, there will be a chance to gather on Zoom to pray the Novena. Come to one or come to all!

January 8 and 11-15: 7:30pm
January 9, 10, and 16: 5:00pm

[Click here to join the Zoom Meeting at the](#)



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 10

8:30am: Jeff Berndt (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.

Pastoral Team

Reverend George Mockel

Pastor

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Deacon Rey Encarnacion

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Deacon Louie Hotop, SJ

x301

Deacon James Pearce

dcnpearce@smparish.org x301

Mirna Wong

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper

mirnawong@smparish.org x301

Tony Millette

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, 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

Liturgy and Music
tmillette@smparish.org

Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC
Faith Formation (Grades K-5)
srmmphan@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
sisternm@smparish.org x309

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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