



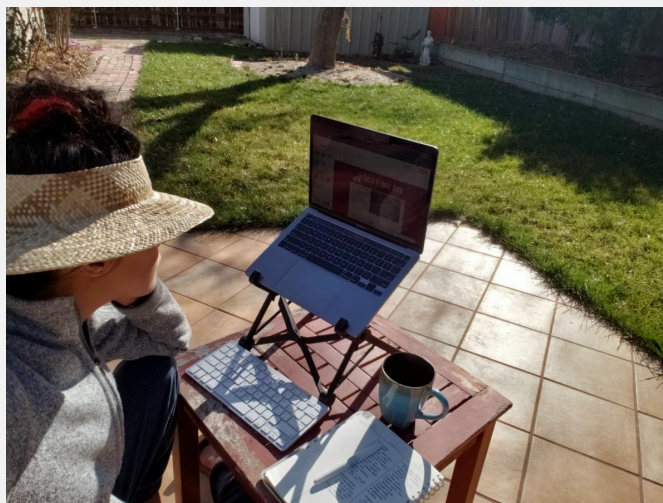
# Church of Santa Maria

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

## A Sunday Oasis

*What unseasonably warm weather and the Holy Mass have in common*

*Pictured: One of my MacGyver-ed outdoor offices - I have multiple set up so I can follow the sun across my yard as I work*



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
January 24, 2021

I've cherished these last few extraordinarily warm January days as a sort of oasis from winter. I moved outside (for my waking hours, at least). I puttered in the yard, discovered new running trails, did both my parish work and my hobby work on the patio, took naps in my hammock, and, of course, went shoeless about 90% of the time.

Being partially solar-powered myself, this has been a chance for me to recharge and re-energize in the midst of the cold-weather blues of being indoors. (Do they make grow lights for humans? Let me know!) I have been so grateful for the sunshine, the warmth, and even the gentle suburban sounds of my neighborhood coming out from hibernation - kids laughing, dogs playing, basketballs bouncing, you know. The things you don't realize you missed until they're back.

Kind of like... Sunday Mass! In its purest form, Mass should be an oasis from the earthly world. It's when we take an hour out of our week to be in the Lord's presence and sit at the heavenly banquet table with the angels and saints, listening to stories of who we are and giving thanks to God for the sacrifice of His Son Jesus, which made it possible to become God's kin and opened the doors to the eternally awesome heavenly banquet.

I know that's a lot to remember in a cold parking lot at 8:30am when you realize that you forgot to change out of your house slippers and now everyone will see them when you get out for the Communion procession (news flash: nobody will notice!).

I know it's hard to fathom when you're trying to figure out how to sing that new hymn, or remember the words to the Psalm response.

I know it's not foremost in your mind when, once again, we've gotten to the Gospel and you can't remember what the First or Second reading were even about, and when trying to remember, you realize you've missed half the homily, too.

But Mass is when we come together to worship a God who loves us and is holding us close - house slippers, distraction, and all. Mass is when we set aside all of those things and focus on something greater than all of it, better than all of it, and certainly more beautiful than all of it - an oasis from earthly life. So - do you cherish your Sunday oases? Go bask in the sunshine of God's love and mercy, and maybe even [be like Moses](#) (or me): "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground!"

*Megan Arteaga  
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

## Weekend Worship Opportunities

### 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 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](#)

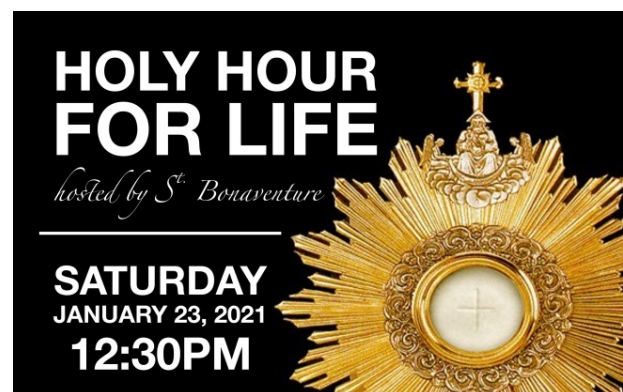
*Turn on your car's Accessory Mode and tune in at 87.9 KGOD!*

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.

**Looking for an  
alternative to Saturday's  
Walk for Life?  
We've got one!**

Usually on a Saturday towards the end of January, a group of our parishioners, including the Knights of Columbus, trek out to the City on BART to participate in the Rally and Walk for Life West Coast down Market Street.



This year, due to health and safety concerns, we've opted not to go (although if you are still interested, [the Walk for Life website](#) says that although there is no Rally this year, they are still walking from Civic Center to the Embarcadero, subject to change last-minute).

However! **St. Bonaventure (and me, your favorite bulletin editor) will be hosting a Holy Hour for Life this Saturday!** Join via livestream, in the parking lot, or bring a lawn chair and sit outside! Bring a friend, bring your family - and join us as we pray in for a renewed appreciation for the sanctity of life in all forms from conception to natural death!

[Click here for more details](#) on the Holy Hour for Life!

---

## **Drive-Thru Food Drive PLUS Warm Clothing Collection: THIS SUNDAY, Jan 24**

Social Justice invites you to kick off 2021 with our monthly food drive! The **food collection** this month will go to [Oakland Catholic Worker](#). (You may also donate checks made payable to "Oakland Catholic Worker" or food gift cards.)



The **warm clothing** (i.e., new/gently-used, clean coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, gloves, and socks) is for the [Dorothy Day House](#) in Berkeley. Blankets are also appreciated!

### **Can you volunteer to help staff the collections in the Park and Ride Lot?**

We need people from 8-8:30, 8:30-9:30, 10:30-11:30, and 11:30-noon.

*For more details, visit the [Social Justice Announcements webpage!](#)*

*If you can help out or if you have more questions, contact [Janet Riley](#) or [Gail Gabriel!](#)*

---

## **Thank you for supporting the 2020 Bishop's Appeal!**

Each year, parishes participate in the annual Bishop's Appeal to support parishes and schools in need, clergy formation and support, religious education and faith formation, pastoral ministries and services, and priest retirement and care.



Thank you to those of you who helped us exceed our parish goal even in the midst of these difficult times! This year, **our parishioners pledged a total of \$36,571.70** - bringing us to 115.91% of our goal! Well done, Santa Maria!

---

# December Collection Report

Our Finance Council has determined our monthly goal for the Sunday Plate. Here is our total for the month of December:

Goal: \$42,000.00  
**Total: \$54,598.90**  
**Surplus for December: \$12,598.90**



**Christmas: \$60,478.00**

## 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 24

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

10:30am: Adam Glen (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:*

Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoib Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Miguel Briseno, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, Grace Parent DeBoot, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery, Nora Enriquez, Al Ferreira, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia

**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

Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Jennifer Gray, 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).*

**Support Santa  
Maria**

**Like us on  
Facebook**