



Church of Santa Maria

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

Perfection Paralysis

You don't need to postpone the fun until you've got it all figured out

Pictured: While there are some good things to have figured out before backpacking, APPARENTLY you don't need the perfect everything before going



3rd Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021

I recently took an online course on backpacking for beginners. I'm not really sure what inspired me to do it, but I thought a lot of the safety and navigation tips could probably also come in handy for my trail running, and then later if I wanted to go on a grand adventure I'd be more prepared.

One of the "rules" to becoming a "confident and independent backpacker" was to not let a lack of perfection hold you back from jumping in - for example, don't spend months researching the perfect pack or debating which kind of water purification system would be better for you at the expense of a trip. In that case, you're letting an invisible barrier block you from taking an adventure.

I see a similar invisible barrier in a lot of people with respect to their faith. They seem to want to "figure it all out" before approaching God. "Once I settle down, then I can go to church." "If I knew more about the Scriptures, I could join a Bible Study." "Whenever I stop doing _____, I'll finally be worthy to be a person of faith."

First of all, God already loves you, and you are already worthy. God doesn't want only the Instagram-worthy, perfectly healed and flawless versions of ourselves, he just wants us. He doesn't mind if we come to him a little messy, confused, or knowing nothing about our faith - in other words, he doesn't mind if we come to him gritty, grimy, stinky, smelly, or even slimy. Just like your dad on a family camping (or backpacking) trip, if you come running to him - even in that state - he'll scoop you up in a giant bear hug and tell you how you're his favorite kid, don't tell the others. You'll just bask in how much he loves you and forget all the gunk and grime.

But then he'll throw you in the lake and tell you wash up before dinner; you stink; here's the soap.

We're not supposed to get clean and figure it all out *before* reaching out to God. Once we've run up to God (confusion and grime included), only then will we really have the motivation, the help, the support, the love, and the understanding of what we need, and the means by which to do it. Don't let an invisible barrier stand between you and the adventure of a lifetime - God's just waiting for you to reach out, so he can show you your barrier was nothing at all in the first place.

So because I like mixing metaphors, make sure you don't over-plan the backpacking trip of life at the expense of having a relationship with God *now*. Just run up to Him without worrying about the mess of it all - and once you do that, he'll be there to walk with you through the healing process of cleaning up and clearing the path for better things ahead, lived together.

Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Weekend Worship Opportunities

3rd Sunday of Easter Sunday, April 18, 2021

8:30am | Mass in the Parking Lot; also [Livestreamed](#) (available all day)

10:30am | Mass in the Parking Lot

[Click here to open the printable Worship Aid](#)

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.

COVID-19 Updates

When do we get to go back inside on Sundays?

Some of you are wondering and are perhaps even anxious about when we can return to Sunday Masses in the Church - and others, not so much!

Many of you have commented on how

much you enjoy Sunday Mass in the parking lot, and have expressed appreciation for all that we have done to facilitate worship in a safe, prayerful, and respectful way. Others have commented on how much they miss our beautiful church, the sacred space, and the sense of the holy that is facilitated by being surrounded by sacred objects, the stained glass windows, the pipe organ, the choir, etc.



To state the obvious, everyone has an opinion and a preference as well as reasons for them.

Up until very recently, we had few to no options as state and county mandates greatly restricted what we could and could not do. Much ink has been spilled on the reasonableness and equity of these restrictions and mandates, particularly as they relate to the First Amendment and the right to the free exercise of religion. I won't add to the ink spill - at least not here and now!

Some members of the Pastoral Team have been meeting and discussing various options going forward. We have learned a lot. At least, for myself, some of my assumptions and presumptions have been proven to be either incorrect, or not as black and white as I had initially assumed. For example: increasing occupancy from 25% to 50% does not double the number of possible attendees; the social distancing requirements and the size of our church only marginally increase the number who can attend.

So, what are we to do? Well, we have come up with a plan! It will be fine-tuned this week after I have an opportunity to review the implications of the recent decisions of the State Attorney General in response to the Supreme Court decisions a few days ago, and see if any further recommendations come from the Chancery Office.

Stay tuned for next week's bulletin for THE plan.

And keep in mind the old adage: "We plan, and God laughs."

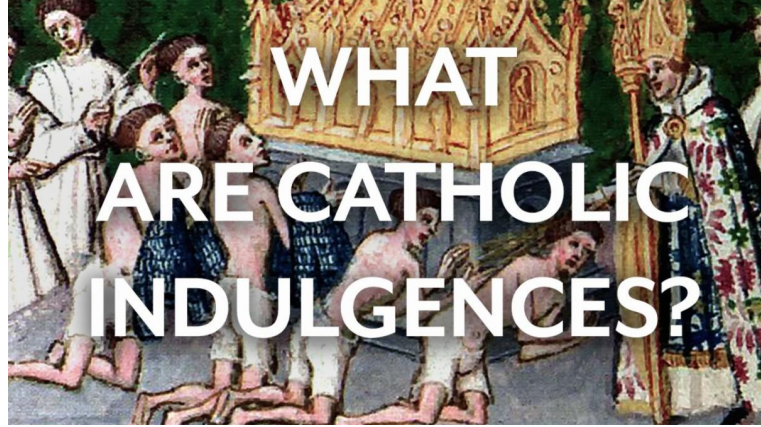
Father George

Food for Thought

**A cool expression
of "the power of
the keys"**

As the church continues to

celebrate the season of Easter, it seems appropriate that we share with you some information provided by one of our parishioners, **Tom Paige**, about indulgences.



A plenary indulgence is the temporal punishment for sin, granted in certain circumstances.

Indulgences are an expression of the "power of the keys" given to St. Peter and his successors. "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Tom explains that he wants to inform us of a gift of special indulgences that the Apostolic Penitentiary from Rome has granted to the faithful suffering from the COVID-19 disease as well as to health care workers, family members, and those who, in any capacity, including prayer, care for them.

The church grants a Plenary Indulgence under the same conditions on the occasion of the current world epidemic, also to those faithful who offer a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or Eucharistic Adoration, or reading the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour, or the recitation of the Holy Rosary, or exercise the Way of the Cross, or the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself.

You can also attend Mass (in person or, at this time, virtual with a spiritual communion) and then say the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be for the intentions of the Holy Father, along with an Act of Contrition - and you can be granted a Plenary Indulgence for yourself or for anyone who has died.

Saint Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affection, faithful in prayer" (Rom 12:12).

Congratulations, Mr. Holquin!

Santa Maria parishioner David Holquin was recently announced as the next President of De La Salle High School, effective July 21 of this year. He takes over leadership from Marc DeMarco '78, who is retiring after 14 years of service.



De La Salle has a President/Principal model of administration, in which the president is responsible for financial management, fundraising, marketing, alumni affairs, board relations, legal matters, human resources, public relations, and buildings and grounds.

David is a proud product of Lasallian education, graduating from Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento and Saint Mary's College of California (coincidentally, also the two almae matres of your favorite bulletin editor!). He comes to DLS from another Lasallian school, Justin-Siena High in Napa, where he currently serves as President.

Parish Life

Tell us - what did you think of our Lenten Virtual Retreat?

[Click here to submit your feedback!](#)

We know that offering an online retreat was a most unusual way of offering some Lenten formation and reflection this year, so we want to know - what did you think about it?

Let us know by answering [this quick survey!](#)



We're updating our Pastoral Team email addresses!

It's time to update your address book!

We're making the switch into the 21st century with emails that match our website. Our old "smparish" email addresses will become obsolete in June of this year. **Please make the appropriate changes to your address book now! Our new addresses can be found at [the Staff page of the Parish Website.](#)**



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, April 18

8:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased
10:30am: Vinh Thua (D)

Monday, April 19

8:30am: Julie Abdo (D)

Wednesday, April 21

8:30am: Father J.R. Lucey (D)

Friday, Apr 23

8:30am: Intention of the Presider

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 [by email](#) or at 925-254-2426

Pastoral Team

Reverend George Mockel

Pastor
gmockel@santamariaorinda.com

Deacon Rey Encarnacion

rencarnacion@santamariaorinda.com
x310

Deacon Louie Hotop, SJ

x301

Deacon James Pearce

jpearce@santamariaorinda.com x301

Mirna Wong

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper
mwong@santamariaorinda.com x301

Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoab Aryan, Maureen McGuire Balogh, 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 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

Tony Millette

Liturgy and Music

tmillette@santamariaorinda.com

Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)

mmphan@santamariaorinda.com x306

Megan Arteaga

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12),

Communications, and CYO

martega@santamariaorinda.com x308

Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC

Pastoral Care of the Sick

mmnguyen@santamariaorinda.com x309

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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Maria**

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