



# Church of Santa Maria

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

## "Why didn't anyone tell me?!"

*The difference between an actual experience and general reference*

*Pictured: Kellen and I hiked the Dipsea Trail a few weeks back, and had a great time enjoying the views and the experience - and our lunch taken in "verdant pastures which gave us repose" (we thought that was apt).*



5th Sunday of Easter  
May 2, 2021

People were always saying how beautiful Muir Woods was, how picturesque Stinson Beach, etc. That's cool; I like trees, I like the beach, I'll check it out. So when Kellen and I had a free Saturday to go on a more adventurous hike, we drove up to Mill Valley and had ourselves our first hike ever on [the Dipsea trail](#) (pictured above).

HOLY MACARONI, MUIR WOODS IS BEAUTIFUL AND STINSON BEACH IS SO PICTURESQUE. **"Why didn't anyone tell me?!" I thought.**

And then I remembered - they'd tried. I just didn't get it because I hadn't experienced it myself.

My Bible Study group (we meet Thursdays; hit me up if you're interested in checking us out!) is currently reading [Rediscover Catholicism by Matthew Kelly\\*](#), and in this week's chapter was a quote that struck me: **"In order to even begin to appreciate Catholicism in all its beauty we must experience it"** (that's on page 276 in the 2010 edition). We struck up a conversation around this line because we wondered if that were true, but my Muir Woods story seemed a prime example of this experience.

The following discussion question was this: **what are you, personally, doing to make sure that when someone experiences Catholicism, they experience something beautiful?** When they join you for Mass, when they interact with you online, when they ask you (their token Catholic friend) your thoughts on an issue or challenge, what are you

doing to share beauty and joy?

The second question was, do you ever tell people about beautiful religious or faith-filled experiences you have? It would have taken me way longer to stumble into Muir Woods without the recommendations of others who were sharing something they found to be beautiful. **How much longer do you think it would take someone to stumble onto the genius of Catholicism with so much negative press and so many quiet Catholics?**

Kelly's answer is that we, as normal parishioners, are not spectators in the great mission of the Church. We are participants. "We [read: you and I] need to start educating Catholics about their yearning for happiness and the role discipline plays in the fulfillment of that yearning. We need to show people in practical ways how we are happiest when we allow the timeless insights of the Gospel to direct our actions. We need to rediscover the abundant riches of Catholic spirituality. We need to provide answers to the pressing questions of our age and the common objections to Catholicism, answers that resonate deeply with the people of our times. We need to articulate the relevance of Catholicism in the modern world in ways that are bold, brilliant, coherent, and inspiring. We need to encourage lay Catholics to actively participate in the mission of the Church. And above all, we need to become a prayerful people, and thus a people of prayer. **But first and foremost, we need to inspire people"** (278).

Go out there and tell people about the Muir Woods of our faith! Be bold, be Catholic.

*Megan Arteaga  
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

\*Yes, I know that I said my "Bible Study" group is studying "Rediscover Catholicism," which is obviously not the Bible - we try to switch up our reading material every once in awhile to include other spiritual reading!

## **Weekend Worship Opportunities**

### **5th Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 2, 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.

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# Service & Outreach

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## Let's step up our game, Santa Maria!

We received a report from the Diocese on our progress with the annual Bishop's Appeal. We are only at 37% of goal! We encourage you to please make a donation to this worthwhile effort, if you have not already contributed, so that Santa Maria will maintain its stellar record of always achieving and exceeding our goal!



*Please make checks out to Bishop's Appeal; contributions may be dropped in the Sunday Collection or mailed to the Parish Office.*

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## Santa Maria Spring Clean-Up Day: Saturday, May 15

We can hardly believe that last year at about this time, we started cleaning the church grounds - and so many of you helped fill up hundreds of gardening bags that were finally taken away!

Well, here we are again asking for help to weed, trim, and mulch. We will feed you before you start and after you finish!

### Saturday, May 15

8:30-9am - Light Breakfast

9am-Noon - Work Party

Noon - Sandwiches and Beverages

**We need at least 10-15 volunteers for our cleanup efforts, and we need 2 volunteers to coordinate the breakfast and lunch items, as well as to bring the food!**

Plan to wear a mask and provide gardening equipment and gloves. We will definitely need shovels, brooms, a blower or two, clippers, etc.

This is a great way to meet new people and be a part of sprucing up our church property! Youth Ministry members also welcome!

*Email Gail Gabriel to sign up so we know how much food we need for the crew, and whether or not you can help with the food!*

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# Food for Thought

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## Two parishes in the Sacramento Diocese vandalized

Two parishes in the Diocese of Sacramento suffered similar acts of vandalism in the past two weeks.



On the weekend of April 17-18, three statues were vandalized outside Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Woodland, California. In photos sent by parishioner Duke Sancho to CNA, what appear to be statues of Mary, St. John, and St. Mary Magdalene at the crucifixion scene are each disfigured with... [click here to read more](#)

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## Parish Life

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### March Collection Report

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

Goal: \$42,000  
**Total: \$38,205.66**  
**Deficit: \$3,794.34**



### 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!

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## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, May 2

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

10:30am: Robert Singer (D)

### Monday, May 3

8:30am: Marisa Plut Govednik (D)

### Wednesday, May 5

8:30am: Gerhard Hinse (D)

### Friday, May 7

8:30am: Jozef Govednik (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 [by email](#) or at 925-254-2426*

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## Pastoral Team

### Reverend George Mockel

Pastor

[gmockel@santamariaorinda.com](mailto:gmockel@santamariaorinda.com)

### Deacon Rey Encarnacion

[rencarnacion@santamariaorinda.com](mailto:rencarnacion@santamariaorinda.com)  
x310

### Deacon Louie Hotop, SJ

x301

## Prayer Intentions

*For the Sick:*

Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib 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,

**Deacon James Pearce**

*jpearce@santamariaorinda.com x301*

**Mirna Wong**

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper  
*mwong@santamariaorinda.com x301*

**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  
*marteaga@santamariaorinda.com x308*

**Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC**

Pastoral Care of the Sick  
*mmnguyen@santamariaorinda.com x309*

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, Mary Sheehy, 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).*

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Maria**

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