



# Church of Santa Maria

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

## Freedom and Slavery

*Value judgements based on who, or what, we're free from and enslaved to*

*Pictured: An opened pair of handcuffs rests on the earth and footprints lead away from it*



14th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
July 4, 2021

It seems apt to talk about freedom this time of year, since we'll be celebrating the Fourth of July (aka Independence Day) this Sunday.

I was a little hesitant to dive into these proverbial waters, though, since the word "freedom" has recently been a rather fraught with conflict. There's conflict over freedom of movement, freedom of health choices, and freedom of speech. There are worries over freedom from debt, freedom from judgment, and freedom from prejudice. Not to mention, we have the curious fact that Independence Day itself doesn't even celebrate total American freedom - it won't be until 2111 that America will have been free for all for as long as we'd been enslaving other people on American soil.<sup>1</sup>

We generally think of freedom as good, and slavery as bad - and in most instances, that's true. It's even (sort of) in Scripture - "For freedom, Christ set us free... do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1). Modern hymns sing, "I'm no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God!" or "My chains are gone; I've been set free."

Those are all talking about the best kind of freedom! In Christ we have this true freedom - freedom from the power of sin, and from the bondage of our past; freedom to walk by the Holy Spirit; freedom to be content wherever we find ourselves; freedom to find healing and salvation in Jesus.<sup>2</sup> This is really what freedom in its fullest looks like - not freedom to do whatever we want, but freedom to be who we truly were made to be.

But slavery is also in Scripture and song, and in truth, slavery is good or bad only depending on who (or what) we're enslaved to. Hear me out, here: obviously slavery to another human and slavery to debt or anger are horrible, but good old St. Paul talks about being "slaves of righteousness" in his letter to the Romans. Every time I read this I have

to calm down that knee-jerk reaction of "SLAVERY=BAD" to hear what he's really saying. Living according to what righteousness asks will bring us that true freedom we were talking about. We'd be free from sin, free to be truly connected to God, free from all other kinds of negative junk.

Another example some theologian once said (can't remember who, sorry!) was that we are "slaves of the liturgy," which also gave me that knee-jerk reaction until I realized that this is what gives us the beauty of a universal Mass recognized the world over, even across the centuries, as hundreds of thousands gather to do exactly as Jesus asked, resulting in freedom from chaos and division, and the freedom of unity.

So as you're lighting fireworks this weekend (or maybe not; we're still in a drought!), take a moment to sit with the Lord and contemplate true freedom, and where or to whom you might be called to take this rather controversial Good News. At the very least, I hope I've given you something to ponder a little more deeply and with a little more nuance than before!

*Megan Arteaga  
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

1. [Isabel Wilkerson](#), *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* (New York: Penguin Random House, 2020). By my own math, it will either be 2107 (counting from a 1619 record that slaves were traded in Jamestown) or 2161 (counting from 1565 when enslaved Africans were brought to St. Augustine). Whatever way you count it, that's horrible. If you're interested in reading more about things you didn't learn in grammar school, [this is a pretty good article!](#)
2. I borrowed most of this wording from praisechart's section header of [Worship Songs about Freedom](#) - I couldn't have said it much better myself.

## **Weekend Worship Opportunities**

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Saturday, 4:00-4:30pm**

Church Plaza

### **14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday, June 20, 2021**

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

**10:30am** | Mass in the Parking Lot

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

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

Join us this Sunday in the Church at 8:30am or in the Parking Lot at 10:30am for Mass! We are blessed to be able to celebrate with you.

If you join us for the 8:30am Indoor Mass, please note: No more social distancing is required, so all pews will be available to the congregation. Masks are only required for those who have not yet been fully vaccinated - with the exception of the priest and Ministers of Communion, who will continue to wear a mask during the distribution of Communion as

required by the Diocese, regardless of their vaccination status.

**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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## COVID-19 Updates

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**Join us inside for the  
8:30am Mass this  
Sunday!**

**The 8:30am Sunday Mass will move back into the church starting the first Sunday of July (July 4).** No more social distancing is required, so all pews will be available to the congregation. Masks are only required for those who have not yet been fully vaccinated - with the exception of the priest and Ministers of Communion, who will continue to wear a mask during the distribution of Communion as required by the Diocese, regardless of their vaccination status.



The 10:30am Mass will remain outside at least through the month of July and into August. No masks need be worn by anyone except Eucharistic Ministers for the distribution of Holy Communion.

The 5pm Sunday Mass will start again on the first Sunday of October, when our Fall formation programs kick off. The 5pm Saturday Mass will be re-evaluated in the fall as well.

We are looking forward to starting this transition with you!

For more details on the Diocesan worship guidelines, [please click here](#).

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## Food for Thought

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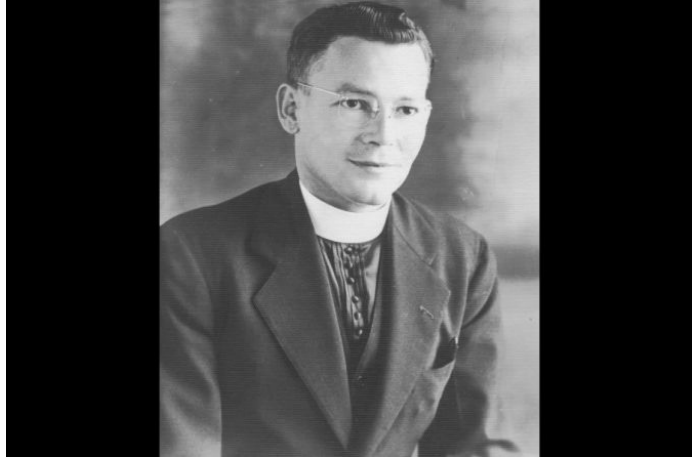
**Update: US bishops  
vote in favor of  
advancing two causes  
of canonization**

He was last seen Sept. 7,  
1944 helping men out of the  
hull of the sinking ship, for

which he posthumously earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, and a second Distinguished Service Cross for his acts as a POW.

Of the hundreds of prisoners on the ship, 82 survived, according to Fr. Lafleur's nephew. Each surviving man came back to the United States telling stories about Fr.

Lafleur's heroic actions of leadership, sacrifice, and courage amid the prisoners' conditions. [Click here to read more!](#)



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## Service and Outreach

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### Lunch volunteers needed for July!

Social Justice is looking for parishioners to sign up to make 3 lunches for women at Friendly Manor in Oakland.

July 9 - just 1 more volunteer needed!  
July 23 - FULL



Lunches consist of a sandwich, chips, fruit, and a healthy snack. You will get a reminder the week the lunches are needed!

Contact [Janet](#) or [Gail](#) if you can help out!

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### St. Cornelius families thankful for our food drop-off

"Thank you so much, Santa Maria Parish, for your generosity. We are so very, very appreciative."

That is a quote from Sherri Moradi, former principal of St. Cornelius Catholic School in Richmond, and current St. Cornelius parishioner. She and her family set up the groceries we brought by category on tables, so families who need the extra help can come and select their needed items.





The Social Justice Committee thanks the generosity of Santa Maria for the 70 bags of groceries that were delivered to Richmond last Sunday! It is so wonderful to be able to share with our sisters and brothers in the Richmond community. Thanks to **Bob Hamilton, Jean DeWitt, Genie Goodreault,** and **Dede Ramsey** for helping at the collection site!

Contact [Janet](#) or [Gail](#) if you can help out with future food drives!

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## Parish Life

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### Plan ahead for this Sunday: 4th of July

This year, the 4th of July falls on a Sunday and is observed as a holiday on Monday, July 5. However, our Sunday Masses will still be observed on Sunday at the usual times of 8:30am and 10:30am!



Please note that your usual driving route to church might be altered due to the Orinda July 4th celebrations, which begin at 9am on Sunday. We were notified that Orinda Way will be closed between 9am and 1pm, so please plan accordingly!

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### 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, July 4**  
8:30am: Tom O'Brien (D)  
10:30am: Parishioners of Santa

### Bulletin Sponsors

Thank you to the following bulletin sponsors:

Maria, Living and Deceased

**Monday, July 5**

8:30am: Erika Owens (D)

**Wednesday, July 7**

8:30am: Intentions of Oscar Jovel

**Friday, July 9**

8:30am: Father J.R. Lucey, SJ (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](mailto:mirna@santamariaorinda.com) or at 925-254-2426*



**Pastoral Team**

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**Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC**

Pastoral Care of the Sick

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**Prayer Intentions**

*For the Sick:*

Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoab Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Miguel Briseno, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, Grace Parent DeBoot, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery, Nora Enriquez, Alfred Ferreira, Anthony Fisher, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Jennifer Gray, Judy Gust, 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, Mary Sheehy, Patrick Sheehy, Ustrula Simmons, Scott Treter, Steve Turner, 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](mailto:mirna@santamariaorinda.com).*

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Maria**

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