



Church of Santa Maria

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

Fishin' and hopin' and thinkin' and prayin'

Or, how to increase your chances of catching "The Big One"

Pictured: My dad's fishing buddy proudly holds up their first catch ever on the boat - and what a monster!!



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 11, 2021

You all probably know my dad by now, if not in person then at least by story - he's the one who built the deck and gazebo for Parking Lot Masses, who was biking the American River with me in a past bulletin article, and who debated the most efficient driving route in one of my Coffee Talks. Anyway, he retired awhile ago, and fairly recently bought a boat with one of his buddies. Ever since, he's been happily spending a couple Saturdays a month out on the San Pablo Reservoir and other local fishing spots.

Despite his many years of fishing experience (one infamously notable time being the day his wisdom teeth were removed), it took awhile for them to catch their first fish, pictured above. They spent some time getting to know the boat (launching, loading, trolling, etc.), researching what fish had been recently planted (trout and bass), and asking around about what bait/lures were most effective for those waters at that time of year (shiners and spinners, I guess). He'd taken a couple trips to various outdoor stores to stock up on new lures, a different rod, and some other gizmos, always reading the "Fish Reports" on the stores' whiteboards to see what's new and what's been working for the area they'll be fishing.

In short, there was a lot of preparation to get that little fish.

(They've since caught a couple more, but that particular photo had my family in hysterics so I wanted to share it with you all.)

Now, imagine this: instead of all of that prep work, Dad and his buddy launch the boat, go out on the water, put their feet up, eat a sandwich, and... hope for a fish to voluntarily jump into the boat.

That would be absolutely absurd, even for a couple of relaxed retired dudes. Nobody in their right mind would expect a miracle like that!

But that's literally what we're doing with our churches. **We open the doors, celebrate the Mass, sit on a pew, have Communion, and... wait for others to come fill the rest of the seats.** It's a striking parallel.

What are the things that should be done as fishers of men? As a church, we're pretty lousy at human-fishing - that's why you so rarely see new faces at Mass, or have packed RCIA classes, or need to cap registration for K-12 programs.

Instead of the fisher of fish prep list in the second paragraph, here is a proposed prep list for you newly re-commissioned fisher of people:

- Get to know the Church (Scripture, tradition, other teachings)
- Connect with your neighbors (people who might be a future pew buddy)
- Seek out what people are really longing for in life (because the right 'lure' can make or break this kind of thing)
- See what expert moves are used by others around you (we're not the only church in town, and many actively recruit! We could learn a few tips and tricks from them.)

Even if we do all those things, we MAY still just end up with "small fry" - but at least that's one more person on the path to the Lord! So get out there, cast into the deep, and celebrate the catch of a lifetime - new friends we get to share our faith with.

*Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Weekend Worship Opportunities

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 4:00-4:30pm

Church Plaza

Reconciliation also available by appointment

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, July 11, 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.

COVID-19 Updates

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

The 8:30am Sunday Mass has moved back into the church!

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](#).

Service and Outreach

Congratulations on the dedication of the San Junipero Serra Friary Chapel!

Father George and several members of the parish recently

attended the dedication of the chapel at the San Junipero Serra Friary in Oakland. Several members of our parish have been active in helping Father Daniel and the other fathers and brothers of the Friary in the renovation of the former convent and the yard areas. Father Daniel is an expert in working with wood, and did a lot of work in bringing the chapel to its newer renovated state.



Bishop Barber presided at the Mass, along with participants from the Friars in attendance. It was a beautiful ceremony that included placing a relic in the altar, rubbing the wood of the altar with Sacred Chrism, lighting of the altar candles, and placement of the new vessels to be used in subsequent liturgies.

A reception, hosted by a local Knights of Columbus group, took place in the patio and newly landscaped yard area of the facility.

Parish Life

**Program
registration is
opening soon!**

Attention, families with kids in grades K-12 - keep an eye out for our formation program registration, which will be opening soon!



We have **Monday Faith Formation** classes for students in grades K-5, which also includes preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist in 1st and 2nd grade!

There's the ever-popular **Youth Group** for 6th-8th grade Middle Schoolers on Wednesday nights, too!

High Schoolers have the **Confirmation Program** and **Faith In Action Team leadership**, and some of them have been asking for a High School Youth Group - is this the year? You all decide if you want to make it happen and how!

If you have questions on these programs before registration opens, please visit [the Faith Formation page of our website](#) for K-5th grade, or the

Another request to support the 2021 Bishop's Appeal

Santa Maria has a history of always meeting and exceeding our Bishop's Appeal goal - let's do the same this year!

We only need about \$8,000 more to get to 100% of this year's goal - let's do this, Santa Maria!



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, July 11

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

Monday, July 12

8:30am: Hugo Ramirez and Family (D)

Wednesday, July 14

8:30am: Frank Schnugg (D)

Friday, July 16

8:30am: Maurice Gracias (D)

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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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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, 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](#).

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