



# Church of Santa Maria

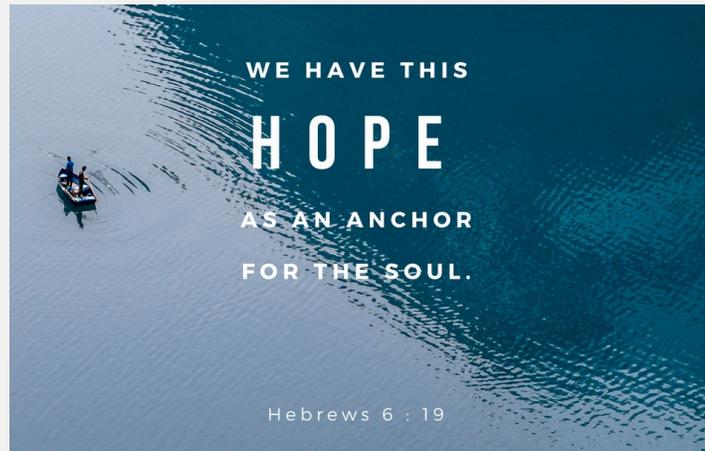
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## A sure and certain hope

*The hope and expectation of Advent begins this Sunday*

*Pictured: Hebrews 6:19 is pictured on a background of a small boat on the water: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul."*



First Sunday of Advent  
November 28, 2021

Thank God (literally) that Advent begins this Sunday.

This is a season to slow down, breathe, and relax into the darkness -**because out of the darkness comes light, and with the light, life.** "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

Each week of Advent has its own traditional theme to help us focus, so each week I'll be writing a bit about that theme to help you enter more fully into the season!

This week, our theme is hope! In its regular and everyday understanding, we usually understand the word hope to be bracketed by fear - there's something we want to happen, but it may or may not actually occur that way. For example: "I hope it rains more this year," or "I hope my family can travel for Christmas." Would be good if it did - but it might not.

In the Christian context, though, our hope isn't this sort of questionable anticipation, but rather a "sure and certain hope." **Our hope - for renewal, for new life, for joy, for peace, and for love - is founded in the author of the universe, who has written those very desires on our hearts and who alone can fill them.**

Paul's letter to the Hebrews talks about this hope as "a strong, unbreakable anchor for the soul" (6:19). An anchor is something to hold

onto; something to ground us; something to hold us fast in the rough waters of life. An anchor is trustworthy, strong enough to keep even a large ship steady in a storm. Our Christian hope, that is, our hope in Jesus Christ, is that kind of hope! **There is no fear of disappointed hopes here, because this hope is guaranteed to stand firm like an anchor.**

As we begin the season of Advent, we enter into four weeks of preparation to come again to the realization that that One who can fulfill all our hope is come into the world. Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, is the anchor for, the source of, and the answer to our truest hope.

Megan Arteaga  
Youth Ministry Coordinator

## Weekend Worship Opportunities

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Church Confessionals (indoors; please wear a mask)

*Reconciliation also available by appointment*

### The First Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, November 28, 2021**

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

**10:30am** | Mass in the Church

**5:00pm** | Mass in the Church

[Read this Sunday's Readings](#)

Join us this Sunday in the Church at 8:30am, 10:30am, or 5:00pm for Mass! We are blessed to be able to celebrate with you.

No more social distancing is required, so all pews will be available to the congregation. **Masks covering the nose and mouth are required for all while indoors, regardless of vaccination status.**

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## Service and Outreach

### Get ready for the annual Knights of Columbus Christmas Food Boxes!

Every year our KofC organize a food drive for the Christmas meal for families at St. Peter Martyr Parish.

Participation is easy - pick up a box after Mass the weekends of December 5th and



12th, fill them up, and bring them back filled to the brim before Sunday, December 19!

More details to come; email [Andy Giertz](mailto:andy.giertz@parish.org) for more details.

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## Food for Thought

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### Meet the Navy veteran who became a Sister of Life: 'My heart was made for something more'

*A Catholic News Agency article by Katie Yoder*



Sister Maris Stella once served her country. Now, she's dedicating her life to serving God.

"I served in the Navy and I tasted many of the good things that this world had to offer," Sister Maris Stella of the Sisters of Life told CNA. "But I knew my heart was made for something more."

Her military career began at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., which has an acceptance rate of just 8%. After studying for four years, she served for five more. Her service journey began on a destroyer as a gunnery... [read more](#)

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## Prayer and Worship

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### **NEW:** Our Advent Prayer Group starts this coming Thursday at 11am!

All are welcome to join our group (led by Youth Ministry Coordinator **Megan Arteaga**) in person or on Zoom **Thursdays at 11am starting this week** for an Advent Prayer Group.



We'll be using [Tsh Oxenreider's "Shadow & Light"](#) as a base resource, which gives us not only Scripture and prayers, but also music, art, written reflections, and even journaling prompts!

**You don't need to buy the book** - just drop into the Parish Office Conference Room or [join us on Zoom](#) for some prayer, fellowship, and real life Catholic community!

[Email Megan](#) with questions or for more details!

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## **NEW:** Confessions during the month of December

The Advent/Christmas Confession schedule will be as follows:

**Saturday, December 18**  
4-4:30pm

**Monday, December 20**  
10-11am; 7-8pm

**Tuesday, December 21**  
10-11am; 7-8pm

Please note that there will be no Confessions on Christmas Day (Saturday, December 25), or New Year's Day (Saturday, January 1).

All Confessions take place in the church in our confessionals. Priest and penitent must both wear a mask covering the nose and mouth.

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## Parish Life

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### **FREE piano concert featuring prize-winning concert pianist Bobby Mitchell**

Parishioner **Vicki Nakamura** of **Rossmoor Realty** is sponsoring this free concert hosted at the Church of Santa Maria:

**Saturday, December 4**  
**7:00pm in the Church**

Pianist Bobby Mitchell is recognized by and has performed on nearly all continents - and dazzled Bay Area audiences in 2019 with his contemporary and classical repertoire.



He returns to play on our beautiful and recently refurbished Bösendorfer piano in the church this December.

[Click here for the official flyer.](#) [Donations to the performer can be sent here.](#) Call 925-254-5287 for more information!

## Good Stewardship

### **NEW:** October Collection Report

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

Goal: \$42,000  
**Total: \$45,388**  
**Surplus: 3,388**



### **NEW:** Did you know real estate and personal property count as charitable donations?

Both real estate and personal property qualify as a charitable donation to the parish!



Consider real estate, antiques, artwork, coin collections, or other collectibles as donations. Contact your financial advisor for advice!

The generosity of so many of you has been a blessing to Santa Maria parish. There are several ways to make contributions to our parish, particularly as we approach Christmas and the end of the tax year!

### **How can I support 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 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 if you aren't yet coming to the church to drop it in the basket as usual. Again, we thank you for your planning and your generosity!

## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, November 28

8:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased  
10:30am: Brian Cornwell (D)  
5:00pm: Yau Lin Liu (D)

### Monday, November 29

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino (D)

### Tuesday, November 30

8:30am: Holy Souls in Purgatory

### Wednesday, December 1

8:30am: Ana Govednik Rogina (D)

### Thursday, December 2

10:00am: Intention of the Presider

### Friday, December 3

8:30am: Aquiles T. Tejada (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*

## Bulletin Sponsors

Thank you to the following bulletin sponsors:



## Pastoral Team

### Reverend George Mockel

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## Prayer Intentions

*For the Sick:*

Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Claire Bevis, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Miguel Briseno, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, Grace Parent DeBoot, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery, Nora Enriquez, Anthony Fisher, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Jennifer Gray, Judy Gust, Brian Kelly, Mason Kelly, Aileen Kelly, Jim Kennedy, Jerry Kirk, Lawrence Knapp, Carol Kopus, Patricia McGuire, Rose Mary McPhee, Jim M., Maria Elsa Moya, Robert Nick, Chase O'Keefe, Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Melissa Pearce,

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**Megan Arteaga**

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**Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC**

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Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci,  
Ben Richey, Brian Riley, 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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Maria**

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