



Church of Santa Maria

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

What we find in the stillness

Or, what small fry and God have in common

Pictured: A classic fish hideout lines a quiet part of the American River where my dad and I paused in our outdoor exercise.



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 16, 2020

Last Sunday was one of those happily coincidental moments where I had a particular Scripture passage I'd been pondering, and then it was actually one of the Sunday readings. This time, it was the [First Reading from Isaiah](#), where God isn't found in the powerful wind storms, the shaking of the earth, or the rage of wildfire, but instead in a "tiny whispering sound."

I'd started thinking of this passage after a combination run (on my part) and bike ride (on my dad's part) taken last week when I was in Sacramento visiting my folks. We headed down to the American River and instead of turning around immediately for home, slowed down and explored a few riverside trails, one of which dead-ended on a raised bit of land that created a sort of small freshwater lagoon.

My dad, being a fisherman, immediately noticed a patch of underwater weeds that would be the perfect hideout for fish, so we staked out our perch (pictured above) and kept our eyes open for that telltale glint in the water.

Fish-searching is like meditation. If you're in human being default "go go go" mode and quickly dart your eyes and your brain around, thinking about how much you want to see a fish, wondering what kind of fish you'll see, doubting whether or not there are any fish at all, then there's no way you'll ever see one. You have to slow your whole self down to the tempo of what's around you - the water, the weeds, the ripples - before you can see any fish. Only then will you see the flash of small fry or the shadows of bigger fish that could eat that flash for lunch.

If fish-searching is like meditation, then it's also like good prayer. Again: if you're in human being default "go go go" mode and rattle off all your problems, list everything that's annoying you, and tally each situation that brings you grief or stress, there's no way you'll ever feel the peaceful presence of God. You have to slow your whole self down to the tempo of the One you seek - the Lord, the creator of the universe, the Most High - before you can hear the "tiny whispering sound" of God. Only then will you feel the peace that comes from sitting in the palm of His hand, and rest easier seeing how God's might and majesty could eat your problems for lunch.

*Megan Arteaga
Youth Minister*

Weekend Worship Opportunities

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary August 15, 2020

10:00am | [Mass Livestreamed](#) (available all day)
[Download and print the Worship Aid here](#)

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 16, 2020

8:30am | Mass in the Parking Lot; also [Livestreamed](#) (available all day)
10:30am | Mass in the Parking Lot
[Download and print the Worship Aid here](#)

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 Masses publicly with you again. **If you are unable to physically join us, we will continue to livestream the 8:30am Mass** for you to participate from home.

The Assumption of Mary is tomorrow at 10am!

Join our Livestream at 10am on Saturday to watch Mass on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary! It is not a Holy Day of Obligation, but rather an opportunity to celebrate and thank our patroness.



A link to the Worship Aid is available in the section above.

[Click here to watch the Livestream!](#)

**Beware of
email phishing**

scams

Recently, staff and parishioners alike have been receiving emails like this one from email addresses pretending to be Father George, asking for help or a favor - and if the recipient responds, follows up asking for gift cards or something similar.

From: "Rev. George Mockel" <revgmockel40@gmail.com>
Date: July 19, 2020 at 1:24:11 PM PDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Blessings [REDACTED]

NOT Father George's email address!!

Yes thank you [REDACTED] i need you to purchase \$300 Target gift cards in \$100 denominations,that's 3 cards of \$100 each.Once you get them,this is how I want them delivered,I only need you to scratch the cards, then take a SNAP SHOT of the back each showing the PIN and have them sent to me here.I will pay you back later by tomorrow. Many blessings

Thank you.
Rev. George Mockel
Santa Maria Church
40 Santa Maria Way
Orinda, CA 94563

The Federal Trade Commission [provided information on this scam last year](#), and [the Diocese has also notified parishes](#) about it.

Make sure the actual email address, not just the name, is Father George's, and if you see suspicious things like **poor grammar, lack of punctuation, or anything else a little off, DO NOT REPLY!**

Get your groceries ready for the next Drive-Thru Food Collection!

Join us August 27 for the next Drive-Thru Food Collection! With unemployment at 13.4% in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, residents rely more than ever on our generosity.

[Click here for more details on how you can help!](#)



Backpack Drive: Success!

Thank you, Santa Maria parish, for your support of the St Vincent de Paul backpack drive!

Through your generous donations, I was able to deliver 19 backpacks and 32 sets of school supplies on Monday. The St Vincent de Paul group in Oakland was very grateful for the amount and quality of our donations. Our parishioners did a really wonderful job assembling the school supplies. Thank you! Thank you!

- Ethan and team

PS - St. Vincent de Paul delivered the materials to kids in need last week!!



Tuesday Gardening

Join us each Tuesday, 8am to 11am at the Rectory level parking lot with your gloves and mask and we will give you a task.

Thanks goes to **Franco Alejo, Colette White, Mari Kay Breazeale, and Judy Shallat** for helping us get ready for mulch, as well as continuing our clean-up efforts.



A special thanks goes out to our "Knights in Shining Armor" for their tremendous efforts in loading and spreading mulch! It couldn't have been done without **Jerry Gabriel** and Knights **Dean Akazawa, Andy Giertz, Greg Smith, and Paddy Kehoe.**

To get involved, contact [Janet Riley](#) or [Gail Gabriel](#).

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!

Pastoral Team

Reverend George Mockel

Pastor

gmockel@smparish.org

Deacon Rey Encarnacion

dcn.rey@smparish.org x310

Deacon James Pearce

dcnpearce@smparish.org x301

Mirna Wong

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper

mirnawong@smparish.org x301

Tony Millette

Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

Liduvina Acosta, Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoab Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Cara Bradbury, Miguel Briseno, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, Jan Coe, Grace Parent DeBoot, Rich Delany, Mary Dodge, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery, Nora Enriquez, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Jennifer Gray, Doris Hale, Florentino Ibabao, Brian Kelly, Mason Kelly, Aileen Kelly, Michael Kelly, Jim Kennedy, Jerry Kirk, Lawrence Knapp, Carol Koupus, Judy Lazarus, Herman Lee, Rose Mary McPhee, Robert Nick,

Liturgy and Music
tmillette@smparish.org

Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)
srmmphan@smparish.org x306

Megan Arteaga

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12),
Communications, and CYO
megan@smparish.org x308

Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC

Pastoral Care of the Sick
sisternm@smparish.org x309

Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce,
Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci,
Ben Richey, Brian Riley, Patrick
Sheehy, 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.*

Mass Intentions

**Most Mass Intentions during Shelter
in Place orders are either postponed
or celebrated privately. Mirna is
contacting all those who requested
the currently scheduled intentions.**

*To request a Mass Intention, please
contact Mirna in the Parish Office.*

**Support Santa
Maria**

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Facebook**