



Church of Santa Maria

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

Never alone in our worship

How a temporary switch back to livestreamed Masses brought some lightning bolts of recognition

Pictured: While Mass streamed from the church may look focused and peaceful on your end, on ours it's a dance of moving the tripod, staying out of the frame, maintaining internet connection, and projecting our voices appropriately.



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 23, 2020

I was awakened, for once, before the sunrise. "I thought you'd want to hear the thunder," my husband explained as he left for work. He was right, of course - I opened the curtains and threw up the window to enjoy the lightning show, the smell of a warm summer rain, and the rumbles of thunder as I sipped my morning coffee, humming happily to myself. It was very peaceful - until the phones began ringing.

"Megan - are you awake??" chimed a text from Father George. Then came a call from Tony. What were we going to do about Masses in not just a rain storm, but a lightning storm?

The difficult decision was made not to try and make do in the rain, but instead to cancel outdoor Masses due to the safety risks of lightning that wasn't forecasted to let up any time soon. We'd be going back inside to stream private Mass, just like at the beginning of the quarantine.

I think we all thought we knew what to expect - a simple Mass, short and sweet. What was surprising was what we got.

A common lament for the team while we do Parking Lot Mass is that although we can see a lot of people in front of us, when compared to regular congregational services it sort of feels like we're doing Mass in a vacuum - Tony and I sing, but we don't hear you singing with us. Father George says "Peace be with you," and maybe 2-3 quiet responses can be heard floating up from the Sisters. We're called to offer each other the

instruction (socially-distant on the property or via Zoom) and online content.

Much of our current **K-5** curriculum is **already available online** from the publishers, so Sister will send information on how it will be utilized at home by families.

MSYG (6th-8th grade) will have "**Bring-Back Haversacks**" to pick up after an assigned Mass with materials for upcoming at-home meetings, which they'll "BRING BACK" to their once-monthly in-person meetings to be refilled for the next pickup.

Confirmation will also be a hybrid of once-monthly socially-distant or Zoom meetings focused on small group discussion, which will be augmented by online content on an **achievement-based online game platform** called Ascent, developed by Megan and her Youth Minister friend Jacob at St. Bonaventure.

We're hoping registration opens soon - thanks for your patience and understanding as we navigate these new waters!

We're finally celebrating First Eucharist!

Santa Maria will celebrate First Eucharist Liturgies for the children in our Faith Formation program!



After months of waiting, our children will be spread out to receive their First Eucharist at the 8:30am Mass on September 20, 2020, and at both the 8:30am and 10:30am Masses on September 27, 2020.

Kindly keep them and their parents in your prayers!

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!**

Santa Maria honored to host priestly ordinations

The priestly ordination of the Diocese of Oakland's 3 seminarians will take place on Saturday, September 5 on our church-level plaza.



Deacon Mac Lingo, Deacon Peter Lawongkerd, and Salesian Deacon Vien Nguyen will be ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Barber, witnessed by a limited number of priest, friends, and family who will take their socially-distant seats spread throughout the church-level plaza and parking lot.

Please keep these men in your prayers as they continue in these last few weeks of preparation!

Get your groceries ready for Thursday's Drive-Thru Food Collection!

Join us this Thursday, August 27 from 11am to 1pm 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.



If you aren't shopping, contact [Janet Riley](#) or [Gail Gabriel](#) to arrange someone to shop for you!

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

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.

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

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

sistermn@smparish.org x309

Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

Liduvina Acosta, Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, ShoaiB 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, 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.

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Maria**

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