



Church of Santa Maria

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

Volunteer Appreciation (but not that kind)

*On the importance of two
different kind of sprouts
and their place in the
garden*

*Pictured: One of my volunteer lettuce plants is
spending a happy spring outside the back door
to my garage - and surprisingly has yet to be
trampled by foot or wheelbarrow*



2nd Sunday of Easter
April 11, 2021

I don't know how it is at your place, but this is the time of year when things have popped up all over my yard. Berry brambles from vines cut down 3 homeowners past. Dandelions up the wazoo (which is actually fine, because [they're delicious](#)). And, my favorite, the volunteer veggies - surprising offspring of garden plants I (accidentally) let go to seed last year, who poke their little heads out of cracks in my patio, garden walkways, and "empty" pots.

I cherish these little volunteers maybe even more than my intentional plantings. I think it's because they're not just charming, but also pretty generous and hardy (who else has the chutzpah to grow in the middle of nowhere? That's right, only all those vigorous "weeds"!!). It's probably also because they're rare.

If my garden were the Church, then my intentional plantings would be all those people raised in the faith: nurtured by parents and grandparents, priests and catechists; fed by stories of saints and sacraments; and watered with an inclination toward prayer and connection with the Lord.

These would be the kids whose clear voices chimed out as we renewed our Baptismal promises last week - their enthusiastic "I do!"s ringing through the parking lot a lively echo to their elders' subdued responses. It's life-giving to see and hear them as part of our community because they're such an important part of the whole.

My volunteer plants, then, would be those who pop up, wide-eyed, for the first time at the invitation of a friend or family member, or who accidentally stumble upon some procession or outdoor liturgy, or who read or heard something by someone that inspired them to walk into church one day to "see what it's all about." They're surprising, charming, and should be cherished.

These would be people like John, who attended Stations of the Cross on Good Friday because his wife ("the Catholic one") wanted to go - but in the end, it was he who was most touched by our ritualized tale of the suffering of Christ and its implications and connections to our everyday life. This, too, is life-giving and to a community because it gives us a breath of fresh air and new perspective.

But these volunteers don't come out of thin air - seeds scattered, rain fell, and feet avoided them. What are you doing in your life not only to nurture those who are intentionally planted here, but also to scatter new seeds, share the life-giving water, and lift up the trampled, making space for a new sprout?

*Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Weekend Worship Opportunities

2nd Sunday of Easter Sunday, April 11, 2021

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

10:30am | Mass in the Parking Lot

12:00pm | Mass in the Parking Lot

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

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 with you.

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

Service and Outreach

The Joy of Giving at Easter

Santa Maria made the Generosity Jackpot happen!

At the Palm Sunday Food Drive, parishioners donated 100 bags of groceries, 30 pairs of socks, 27 bags of cleaning supplies, and \$195 in cash.

Staff at Hope Solutions (formerly Contra Costa Interfaith Housing) exclaimed, "**I didn't know it was going to be this much!**"

As we delivered your donations, we felt such Easter joy! Thank you to all of you for your generosity this Easter season.

If you'd like to get involved, contact [Janet Riley](#) or [Gail Gabriel](#).



Parish Life

Tell us - what did you think of our Lenten Virtual Retreat?

[Click here to submit your feedback!](#)

We know that offering an online retreat was a most unusual way of offering some Lenten formation and reflection this year, so we want to know - what did you think about it?

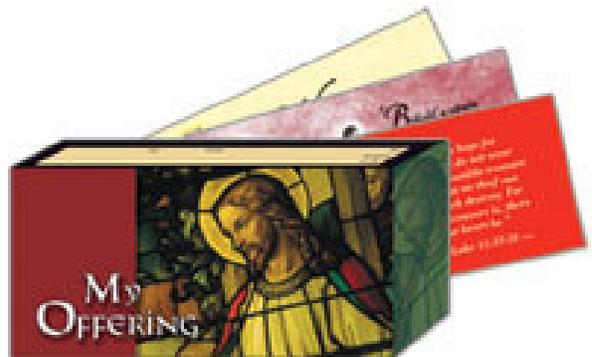


Let us know by answering [this quick survey!](#)

February Collection Report

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

Goal: \$42,000
Total: \$40,560.67
Deficit: \$1,439.33



We're updating our Pastoral Team email addresses!

If you have sent any emails to our Pastoral Team this past week, you may have received an automated response requesting that you update your address

book.

We're making the switch into the 21st century with emails that match our website. About half of the team has transitioned so far, and those changes are reflected on our website directory as well as that at the bottom of the bulletin; the other half will make the switch in the next week or two.



Our old "smparish" email addresses will become obsolete in June of this year. **Please make the appropriate changes to your address book now!**

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, April 11

8:30am: Richard Hills (D)

10:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

Monday, April 12

8:30am: Marilyn Berg (D)

Wednesday, April 14

8:30am: Gerhard Hinse(D)

Friday, Apr 16

8:30am: Holy Souls in Purgatory

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

Pastoral Team

Reverend George Mockel

Pastor

gmockel@santamariaorinda.com

Deacon Rey Encarnacion

dcn.rey@smparish.org x310

Deacon Louie Hotop, SJ

x301

Deacon James Pearce

dcnpearce@smparish.org x301

Mirna Wong

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper

mwong@santamariaorinda.com x301

Tony Millette

Liturgy and Music

tmillette@smparish.org

Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)

mmphan@santamariaorinda.com x306

Megan Arteaga

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12),

Communications, and CYO

marteaga@santamariaorinda.com x308

Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC

Pastoral Care of the Sick

mmnguyen@santamariaorinda.com x309

Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Maureen McGuire Balogh, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Miguel Briseno, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, Grace Parent DeBoot, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery, Nora Enriquez, Al Ferreira, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Jennifer Gray, 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, Patrick Sheehy, Scott Treter, 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.

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Maria**

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