



Church of Santa Maria

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Loving Christ Crucified

The inspirational 350+ year story of the Holy Cross Sisters

Pictured: After the Mass celebrating the 350th anniversary of the founding of their Order (which included a skit, beautiful music, and bilingual liturgy), the Sisters and their supporters shared music, song, and dance with us at the reception. This is a small group of the Sisters singing a hymn.



The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 16, 2022

Last month, I (Megan) was blessed to be able to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the founding of the QuiNhon Missionary Sisters of the Holy Cross in San Jose, where I learned about their amazing history. Sister Mary Margaret and Sr. Magdalene kindly wrote down some of that history to be shared here!

Today, we know the QuiNhon Missionary Sisters of the Holy Cross as active ministers in the Dioceses of Oakland, San Jose, and San Francisco, with the formation house right here at Santa Maria. The current 29 professed sisters and one postulant work in education, faith formation, childcare, ministry to the sick, and social work - but the history is far greater than this.

Tradition holds that the order's origins came from a group of Christian women in Kiên Lao (in the north of Vietnam) who came together to dedicate their lives to Christ. They lived in community together, serving the poor and caring for the sick and orphaned. These women had likely suffered being called a "disgrace" in their time, because for Confucian belief, women without husbands and children would have brought shame to their families. Nonetheless, they continued to carry out Christ's work together with loving hearts.

This was the group Bishop Pierre Maria Lambert de la Motte came across when he arrived in Vietnam in 1660 after travel by boat and on foot, far from his native France. It seemed that these women were an answer to his prayer, for he had long dreamed of gathering all who adored Jesus Christ Crucified into a family of community; upon meeting them his heart was filled with joy. When Bishop Lambert gave these women a constitution and official name, the Lovers of the Holy Cross were officially founded - this is the anniversary we celebrate today. The order was so life-giving that ten years later, Bishop Lambert went on to establish a second congregation with the same charism, constitution, and name in An Chi, Quảng Ngãi (in the south of Vietnam).

Our presence in the United States began in 1972, when the Mother House in QuiNhơn sent Sister Rosaline and Sister Josefa to study abroad at the Dominican University in San Rafael - but after the fall of Vietnam in 1975, the two were sadly unable to return home as planned. Catholics were persecuted for their faith under the new communist regime, and the Sisters in Vietnam continued their ministry secretly: baptizing infants and children, teaching the catechism to families, educating both Christian and non-Christian girls, and caring for widows, the sick, homeless, and the destitute, deeds all passed by word of mouth from family to family. Often, the sisters were the only Catholic presence in the area, ministering to the religious needs of the local Catholic community when priests were imprisoned and foreign missionaries were either expelled or executed on orders of the Vietnamese emperor.

This tragedy, however, seemed to be the gateway to the beautiful missionary work of the Sisters around the world. Despite multiple persecution periods, hardships, and trials, the congregation's spirituality and apostolate work are still alive and growing strong today not only here in the United States but also in Thailand, Laos, France, Australia, Norway, and, of course, Vietnam.

Today, celebrating the 350th Anniversary of our Founding, we give thanks to God for our vocations, families, friends, pastors, priests, religious sisters and brothers, benefactors, and you, the parishioners. Our Sisters continue to thrive in the charism of our Founder by loving Christ Crucified and making known his salvific love to all we encounter and serve.

*Sr. Mary Margaret Phan, LHC, Faith Formation
Sr. Magdalene Nguyen, LHC, Pastoral Care
Megan Arteaga, Editor*

Weekend Worship Opportunities

The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 4:00-4:30pm | Church Confessional

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, January 16, 2022

8:30am | Mass in the Church; also Livestreamed (available all day)
10:30am | Mass in the Church
5:00pm | Mass in the Church

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.**

Service and Outreach

NEW: The need for food continues

In the spirit of giving, we encourage you to bring bags of groceries to our food drive **next Sunday, January 23 between 8am and 10:30am!**

You'll see your fellow parishioners on the lower level parking lot collecting your food donations. We'll be supporting **St. Cornelius families in Richmond** this month.



[Click here for a list of suggested groceries!](#)

Can you work a shift as part of the volunteer collection team?

7:45-9:30am

9:30-10:30am

10:30am driver to St. Cornelius in Richmond

Contact [Janet Riley](#) or [Gail Gabriel](#) with any questions.

UPDATED: Walk with Santa Maria at the Walk for Life West Coast

Join us for the January 22nd Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco - America's second largest pro-life event!



The Walk begins at the Civic Center Plaza at 12:30pm and will proceed down Market Street to Justin Herman Plaza.

[Email Megan if you're interested in joining us!](#) We have **tentative plans**

to meet at Orinda BART at 11am and head to the City together, but if you're interested **you should be on the email list for updates** in case any plans change.

Social Justice Updates

We recently found out that Friendly Manor in Oakland is temporarily closed while some major plumbing issues are fixed. Hence, we will not be providing lunches for the months of January and February. (Please note the women residents have been moved to temporary housing while these repairs take place.)



We appreciate all of the volunteers who have provided healthy lunches over the past couple of years, as well as those delivering them! Your kindness is very much appreciated by the women at Friendly Manor.

Prayer and Worship

NEW: What's the best way to pray for someone?

For Catholics, the Holy Mass is the perfect prayer - perfected in Christ's sacrifice.



You can request to have a Mass

offered for the repose of the soul of someone who has died - and with 8 Masses available here each week, you can almost always get the date you request!

You can also have a Mass said for someone's intentions - maybe you're worried about their health, their life situation, or they've just been sitting in your heart for awhile. This could be a call from the Holy Spirit that they need prayers! Have a Mass offered for them!

Drop by the Parish Office to schedule Masses. Cards are available to be sent to the families of those for whom the Mass is offered. The suggested donation is \$10.

Did you know we still have the High Noon Rosary on Thursdays?

Each Thursday at noon, a small group gathers on Zoom to pray the Rosary

together for your intentions.

Would you like to be added to the email list to receive a weekly reminder about praying the Rosary? [Click here to email Megan and request to be added!](#)



Parish Life

NEW: Ambry and carving of the Baptism of Jesus blessed last Sunday

If you haven't yet had a chance to see them, please visit the cabinets near the main doors of the church and spend some time in prayer before the Holy Oils and the hand carving of the Baptism of Jesus.



It's good to meditate on the moments in faith they both mark, whether our own baptism and anointing or those of the Lord.

For more details on the carving of the Baptism of the Lord, please see last Sunday's bulletin (1/9/2022) for a full article.

NEW: Parish Office closed for the holiday

Not THOSE holidays - but at least we "made you look"!

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, January 17 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.



Please visit us Tuesday-Friday between 9am-noon if you'd like to stop by.

Parish life also happens OFF parish property!

Did you know that every week, Holy Communion is shared with the faithful who are convalescing at the Orinda Care Center?

Did you know that every month, both a Rosary and either a Mass or Communion Service are celebrated at Orinda Senior Village, to which all residents are invited?



And did you know that there are yet others who are homebound or ill who receive calls, cards, and/or visits from parishioners just like you who keep them connected to parish life and offer a hand in friendship?

This is all part of our beautiful Pastoral Care Ministry program, under the loving guidance of Sr. Magdalene. If you feel the Holy Spirit calling you to be a part of this program, [please contact Sister today!](#)

Good Stewardship

NEW: December Collection Report

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

**Goal: \$42,000
Total: \$54,643.90
Surplus: \$12,643.90**



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, January 16

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

Monday, January 17

8:30am: Michael Francis (D)

Tuesday, January 18

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

Wednesday, January 19

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

Thursday, January 20

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

Friday, January 21

8:30am: Al Ferreira (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

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Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC

Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Kylie Bissell, 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 Koupus, Patricia McGuire, Rose Mary McPhee, Jim M., Maria Elsa Moya, Robert Nick, Chase O'Keefe, Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Melissa Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Ben Richey, Brian Riley, Carl Robinson, Ursula Simmons, Scott Treter, Steve Turner, Jean Wells, Faye Young

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*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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