



# Church of Santa Maria

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## 'The Guest House' and the Walk

*The imagination of  
experience speaks for the  
pro-life movement*

*Pictured: Who else wonders what  
babies dream of while in the womb?*



The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
January 23, 2022

This weekend, humanity young and old will take a stroll down Market Street - the guitars, strollers, and occasional rolling cooler mingling comfortably with robed friars praying the Rosary and tiny humans running around looking for people in the windows above to wave at. The joyful strains of belted-out hymns should clash with the occasional tear-stained face, but somehow they don't and it all works together in a testimony to the beauty of living. This is the Walk for Life West Coast.

While the pro-life movement as a whole includes such initiatives as support for pregnant women, programs for fostering and adoption, support of vaccines and health services, education and action against physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia, and more, the Walk for Life is specifically focused on the lives of the unborn. This is for good reason - in 2019 legal abortions could be considered the number two cause of death in the United States after heart disease.<sup>1</sup>

The thing is, though, statistics don't move people - experiences do. I encourage you to attend the Walk for Life either in person (it begins at 12:30 Saturday from the Civic Center Plaza) or from home on EWTN (broadcasting live footage starting at 11:30am PT).

In the meantime, I leave you with this poem by Rumi, which I read in college and seems to me to be pertinent on many levels to this weekend's events:

### **The Guest House**

This being human is a guest house.

Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,  
some momentary awareness comes  
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!  
Even if they are a crowd of sorrows,  
who violently sweep your house  
empty of its furniture,  
still, treat each guest honorably.  
He may be clearing you out  
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,  
meet them at the door laughing and invite them in.

Be grateful for whatever comes.  
because each has been sent  
as a guide from beyond.<sup>2</sup>

Megan Arteaga  
Youth Ministry Coordinator

1. Cf. Kortsmit, Katherine. 2021. "Abortion Surveillance — United States, 2019." *MMWR Surveillance Summaries* 70. <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss7009a1> and Jiaquan Xu, M.D. et. al. 2021. *Review of Deaths: Final Data for 2019. National Vital Statistics Reports* 70, no. 8.
2. "The Guest House by Rumi." n.d. The Poetry Exchange. Accessed January 19, 2022. <https://www.thepoetryexchange.co.uk/the-guest-house-by-rumi>.

Errata: There are two things that need correction from last week's article "Loving Christ Crucified." The first is that Bishop Lambert arrived at Vietnam in 1660 but was unable to enter due to Christian persecution until 1670, which is when he established the first Congregation of the Sisters. The second is that the second Congregation in An Chi was founded only one year later, and this is the anniversary celebrated.

## Weekend Worship Opportunities

### ~~The Sacrament of Reconciliation~~

~~Saturday 4:00-4:30pm | Church Confessional~~

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation has been cancelled this Saturday, January 22. Please visit another parish for Confessions this week.*

### **The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday, January 23, 2022**

**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](#)

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

## Service and Outreach

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### **UPDATE: The need for food continues this Sunday!**

In the spirit of giving, we encourage you to bring bags of groceries to our food drive **this 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!](#)

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

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### **NEW: There are big shoes to fill at Orinda Senior Village**

After many years of faithful, joyous, and generous service, our dear friend parishioner **Isabel Golez** has decided to retire from her volunteer ministry as parish liaison for Orinda Senior Village.



For many years, Isabel helped coordinate not just Masses and the Rosary at Orinda Senior Village, but also annual events like Christmas Caroling and the Stations of the Cross. We are so grateful to her service!

As she steps down, though, we ask you all - **do you know anyone who might be able to work with us as parish liaison moving forward?** [Email Sister Magdalene if you're interested!](#)

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## 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.

The Knights of Columbus **plan to meet at Orinda BART at 11am** and head to the City together.

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## Prayer and Worship

**NEW: Have you read the  
whole Bible? Yeah, neither  
have we.**

But if you're interested in taking on the challenge - or even if you'd just like learning about it without the hassle of \*gasp\* *actually reading it* - join our Thursday morning Bible Study group!

Learn about how the Old and New Testaments relate, hear fun facts you never knew (like how last

Sunday, Jesus made approximately 600-900 bottles worth of wine at that wedding!), and get your pressing questions answered!



We meet at 11am at the Parish Office [and on Zoom](#), and we'd love to have you! Whether you want to just drop in or dive in, you'll be glad you came.

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## 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.*

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## Parish Life

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### NEW: Office Hours extend starting February 1

Beginning Tuesday, February 1, the Parish Office will be open from 9am to 2pm to better facilitate your needs!

Visit us to request a Mass Intention, pick



up a 2022 calendar, have a Sacramental certificate made, or just chat - we're looking forward to seeing you.

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## Ambry and carving of the Baptism of Jesus blessed January 9

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.*

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## Food for Thought

### **NEW: Vatican astronomer: 'Trust the science' does not convince those who most need to be convinced**

A CNA Staff Article

"In addition to reconsidering how we argue in favor of science, as in the case of promoting vaccines, it is worth taking a closer look at how we try to use science or faith as bulwarks against our fundamental human fear of uncertainty." ...[read more](#)



## Good Stewardship

### 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 23

8:30am: Annette & George Mein  
10:30am: Dr. Florentino Ibabao (D)  
5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

### Monday, January 24

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

### Tuesday, January 25

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

### Wednesday, January 26

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino (D)

### Thursday, January 27

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

### Friday, January 28

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*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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## Pastoral Team

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### **Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC**

Pastoral Care of the Sick

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## 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

*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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