



Church of Santa Maria

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

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The sanctity of a Sacrament

On the reverence due to the Lord's greatest gift to His Church

Pictured: The Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ is present in the unassuming form of a small host



The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 30, 2022

I must bring to your attention a matter of grave concern.

Within the last month or so, three incidents have been brought to my attention where a Host (presumably consecrated) has been found on the floor of the church. Thankfully, in each of these incidents each of the persons who initially discovered it (a parishioner, one of the Sisters, the church custodian) handled the matter appropriately by bringing it to the attention of myself or a staff member.

This is one of every priests' (and presumably every Catholic's) worst nightmare: reverence and the highest regard for the Blessed Sacrament is central to our faith. The Eucharist is Our Lord's greatest gift to the church. It is so central to our faith that the Church reserves its most serious penalty (excommunication - which can be removed only by the Holy See) to anyone who purposely and with malice desecrates the Blessed Sacrament. I have no reason to think this is the case in these particular incidents, but they do demonstrate that we have a problem.

Next week, I will outline some things you and I can do to enhance our respect and love for the Eucharist. **In the meantime, please be reminded that when you receive Holy Communion in the hand, step to the side and consume it immediately - before turning to return to your place.** Do not consume the Eucharist while walking to your pew, and do not bring it in your hand to your pew.

Perhaps these unfortunate incidents will be an occasion for us to enhance and deepen our understanding and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

*Father George Mockel
Pastor*

Weekend Worship Opportunities

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

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, January 30, 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 all while indoors, regardless of vaccination status.**

Service and Outreach

NEW: Big success for St. Cornelius Families

Parishioners **Bill Caldwell** and **Tina Locke** had their cars chock full of 87 bags of groceries to deliver to St. Cornelius after last Sunday's food drive.

Sherri Moradi, former principal at St. Cornelius, and three volunteers warmly greeted Bill and Tina in Richmond. Says Bill, "They could not have been more delighted and grateful for the generosity of Santa Maria." Sherrie exclaimed, "The delivery was absolutely wonderful! The amount of food took our breath away. How good our God is!"



Thank you from the Social Justice Committee to **Theresa Gonzales, Maggie Reeves, Dede Ramsey, Bill, and Tina** for staffing the food drive, and to Santa Maria's generous parishioners for kicking off 2022 with this tremendous donation!

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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If you would like to donate a
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Development Associate
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Prayer and Worship

NEW: Anointing of the Sick
Mass is next Saturday

The Anointing of the Sick is a beautiful Sacrament offering strength, fortitude, and healing to the sick, ill, and those in danger of death.

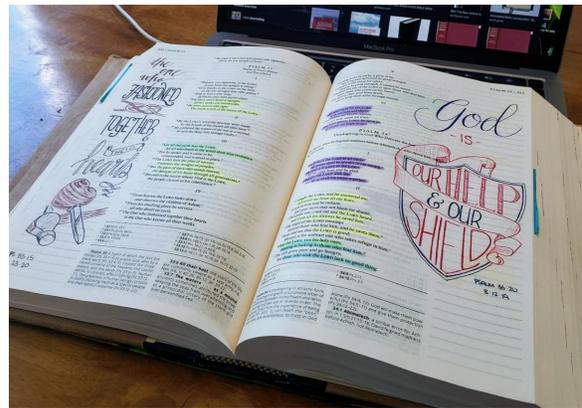


Join us on Saturday, February 5 at 11am in the Church as we celebrate this Sacrament and give thanks to the Lord for His healing and mercy, and unite our suffering to His own at the Holy Mass.

All are welcome; please note that due to the pandemic, there will be no reception following Mass.

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!



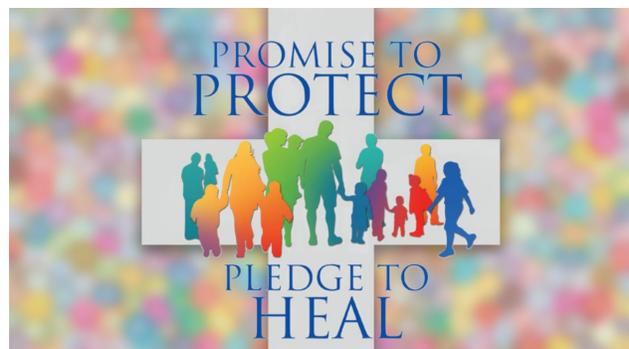
Learn about how the Old and New Testaments relate, hear fun facts you never knew (like how last Sunday, Jesus made approximately 600-900 bottles worth of wine at that wedding!), and get your pressing questions answered!

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.

Parish Life

NEW: Did you get an email from Virtus?

All volunteers and ministers at our parish must be up-to-date on their Safe Environment training as we continue to provide safe and healthy places for the young and vulnerable among us.



If you receive an email from Virtus requesting that you re-train, this means your training has expired, and need to take another online course

in order to continue your ministry here! Courses are linked in that email; follow the instructions to do so. Once you re-train, you're good for another three years.

If you have any questions about Safe Environment program or the training process, please [contact Megan Arteaga, the Safe Environment Coordinator.](#)

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.

Food for Thought

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

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 30

8:30am: Millie & Greg Lighthouse (D)

10:30am: Anthony Liu (D)

5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

Monday, January 31

8:30am: James Anderson (D)

Tuesday, February 1

8:30am: Kathie Brady (D)

Wednesday, February 2

8:30am: Marilyn Berg (D)

Thursday, February 3

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

Friday, February 4

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

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 visit the office during Office Hours

Bulletin Sponsors

Thank you to the following bulletin sponsors:



Pastoral Team

Reverend George Mockel

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x310

Deacon James Pearce

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Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Kylie Bissell, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, 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,

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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, Ustrula Simmons, Scott Treter, Steve Turner, Jean Wells, Faye Young

For the Deceased:

Patricia Cookson

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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