



Church of Santa Maria

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On humility and the witness of presence

How the Anointing of the Sick gifts more than physical healing

Pictured: The Mass with the Anointing of the Sick on Saturday, February 5 was well attended by parishioners and their families



The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 13, 2022

This past Saturday, I was called to sing at the Anointing of the Sick Mass here at our parish. It had been a couple years since I'd last been to one, and it was a very moving experience for me - and not just because of the number of people there to humbly receive the Lord's graces in the Sacrament.

That last time I'd been to the communal Anointing, I was presumably there as cantor - but the Lord calls us in mysterious ways. I'd recently been diagnosed with a rather invisible illness, and throughout almost the entire Anointing, I'd been in a pretty animated internal debate on whether or not I myself should go to receive the Sacrament.

Was I in danger of death? Well, not *really* (but then, we all sort of are just by virtue of living).

Did I have a physical ailment in need of healing? Not *exactly* (but wasn't this Sacrament about more than that?).

Was I suffering? Well, okay, yes (but not as bad as others, I rather poorly reasoned).

In the end, thanks be to God, the Holy Spirit's gentle prompting overcame my overactive rationalizations for why I shouldn't/wasn't worthy to/didn't need to get Anointed, and so I approached at the very

last minute, palms up in supplication, grateful for and stunned by the simple balm of both the holy oil and the holy words Father George spoke over me.

But then I went to the reception afterward and heard someone talking to a friend about how "this Sacrament isn't for just anyone," and "if you don't really need it, why would you come and get it?" and all my doubts and hesitations flew back in my face. Was I wrong to have asked for the Lord's healing mercy after all? Should I have 'saved' it for a time of greater need? Did my own Anointing 'use up' time, oil, energy, or love better given to someone else?

I was hurt and confused, and later asked Father George if perhaps it wasn't appropriate after all that I'd received the Anointing. His simple question freed me once again from the bonds of doubt: "Did you feel that it was appropriate?" Yes. When it came down to it, I did.

These memories came back at this past Saturday's Anointing and again on Sunday with Father Chris' homily about how over and over in Scripture, God calls us, we say we're not qualified, God says "you're exactly right, you're not, and I will provide what you need," and we move forward by His grace.

The Lord very often will provide what we need not in showy miracles (although that's not unheard of) or magic words, but instead through the small pedestrian graces of kind words, hope given by a friend, medicine prescribed by a physician, or something else that looks more quotidian than fantastic.

So this time, after those commonplace miracles given to me after the last Anointing, I chose to bask in gratefulness for its effectiveness those few years ago, and give thanks for the humble witness of those many in attendance who, with open hearts and by the ministry of their presence, teach us about the love and mercy of the Lord.

*Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Weekend Worship Opportunities

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

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, February 13, 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.**

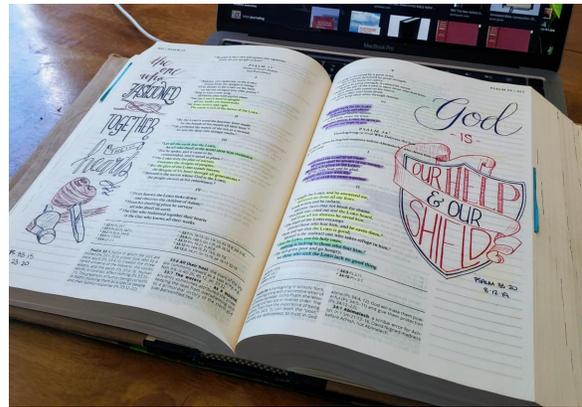
Prayer and Worship

NEW: Would you pass or fail a Scripture Scavenger Hunt?

Our Thursday Morning Bible Study group is growing strong - in knowledge and in members!

If you're interested in Biblical context, Scriptural fun facts, or even just want to get more comfortable looking up verses or passages, we'd love to have you join our group.

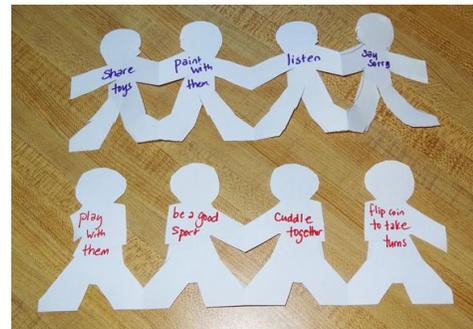
We meet at 11am at the Parish Office [and on Zoom](#), and we'd love to have you! Whether you want to just drop in or dive in, you'll be glad you came.



Parish Life

NEW: Youth and teens learn the value of human dignity in their annual Safe Environment training

Each year, the Diocese requires us to offer Safe Environment training to everyone enrolled in our K-12 programs. Youth Ministry completed their training this week in thoughtful sessions for Confirmation and Middle School Youth Group.



Training focused on the inalienable dignity of the human person as beloved people created in God's image and likeness, and how nothing that happens to us or to anyone else can change that. Youth and teens were taught to tell a trusted adult if anyone ever confided in them that their boundaries were crossed, and how to recognize good and healthy relationships with friends, teachers, coaches, and other community members - even their favorite Youth Ministers!

We're grateful to the resources provided by LifeTeen and Edge that give this training a distinctly Catholic focus and approach.

Food for Thought

NEW: Four Chaplains Day honors self-sacrificial World War II chaplains, including Catholic Priest



Four Chaplains Day, Feb. 3, recognizes the heroism of four World War II military chaplains who sacrificed their lives to save those trapped on a sinking U.S. Army transport ship.

"Their voices were the only thing that kept me going," one survivor remembered of the fateful day in 1943. [read more](#)

Good Stewardship

NEW: January 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: \$48,287.00
Surplus: \$6,287.00



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, February 13

8:30am: Dorothy Mein (D)
10:30am: Parishioners of Santa
Maria, Living and Deceased
5:00pm: Paul Guess (D)

Monday, February 14

8:30am: William Coysh (D)

Tuesday, February 15

8:30am: Monique Fun (D)

Wednesday, February 16

8:30am: Caesar Basa (D)

Thursday, February 17

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino (D)

Friday, February 18

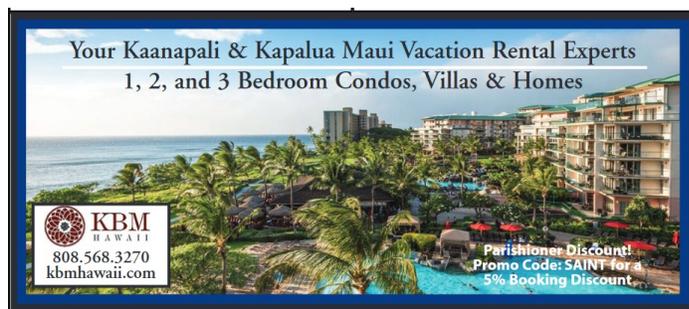
8:30am: Marion Athanasopolis (D)

Editor's Note: Last week, Bonnie Stehr's name was spelled incorrectly in the bulletin for the 5pm Mass on 2/6. However, it was correct in the Mass Report for the priests, and Mass was indeed said for the repose of her soul.

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

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Deacon James Pearce

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Mirna Wong

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper

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, Lawrence Knapp, Carol Koupus, Patricia McGuire, Rose Mary McPhee, Jim M., Maria Elsa Moya, Robert Nick, Chase

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Faith Formation (Grades K-5)

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Megan Arteaga

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12),

Communications, and CYO

martega@santamariaorinda.com x308

Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC

Pastoral Care of the Sick

mmnguyen@santamariaorinda.com x309

O'Keefe, Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Melissa Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Ben Richey, Carl Robinson, Usrula 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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