



# Church of Santa Maria

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## **Nānā i ke kumu, nānā i ke Akua**

*The wisdom of the  
Hawaiians on finding the  
truth*

*Pictured: The roots of a small  
strawberry plant ground it, feed it, and  
provide all the nutrients it needs to  
grow*



The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 27, 2022

Last week we talked about the distractions of aural noise in our lives. This week we're going metaphorical with that discussion!

There's not only a lot of anthropophony around us - there's also a lot of metaphorical noise! There are so many voices, apps, shows, podcasts, and commentators who pull us this way and that with their passionate words and fiery conviction. Some of these are beautiful, and some just evil - but how do you know which is true? How can you sort out the unwanted noise from the sound of the good, buried as it is among everything else?

The Hawaiians have a '*ōlelo no'eau*, or a wise saying, addressing this issue. They say, "*nānā i ke kumu*," which in English means "look at the roots," or "look to the source." When our lives and convictions are buffeted by the winds of opinion, distraction, "my truth" and "your truth," rhetoric, and loud voices who are wrong at the top of their lungs, we can easily become ungrounded - uprooted, if you will - and fly about at the mercy of all those conflicting ideals.

And not even the Flying Nun had a positive experience being at the mercy of the wind!

In these situations, when you sense you're being buffeted, step back and *nānā i ke kumu*. There is only one source of Truth, of Life, and of Love that we can place our trust in completely. So *nānā i ke Akua*, look to the

Lord, who grounds us, gives us life, and is the very breath in our lungs.

When you read Scripture, you see so many times when people around Jesus were distracted by the details, or buffeted about by the opinions of the time. Over and over again, they find peace in Christ, the source, who responds so simply and purely that his words can only be true. His words were so radically different, and so obviously Truth, that their lives were changed because of them.

Will you make the space and time to *nānā i ke kumu, nānā i ke Akua*? If you know that your heart craves the lasting peace only the Lord can give, why look anywhere else?

*Megan Arteaga*  
Youth Ministry Coordinator

## Weekend Worship Opportunities

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

**The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Sunday, February 27, 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 those who are not fully vaccinated, and are optional for those who are fully vaccinated.**

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## COVID-19 Updates

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### Diocesan mask mandate update changes policy for Masses, office visits effective 2/16

The following applies to all who worship, work, volunteer, or attend parish events in our parish and around the Diocese of Oakland:



#### Masses and Worship Services

- Individuals who are vaccinated are **not** required to wear a mask indoors.
- Anyone who is unvaccinated must **continue** to wear a mask indoors.

- Some may wish to continue wearing a mask indoors, and it should not be assumed that they are not vaccinated.

### **Parish Office and Indoor Meetings**

- Vaccinated employees and volunteers will **not** be required to wear a mask indoors.
- Unvaccinated employees and volunteers who do not provide proof of vaccination will be **required** to always wear a mask while indoors.
- Visitors may remove their mask indoors if they show **proof of vaccination**.

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## **Lenten Opportunities**

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### **Get ready for Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 2, and as usual our Masses will be offered at **8:30am, 4:30pm, and 7:30pm in the Church.**



By receiving the ashes, we enter into the season appointed for spiritual purification. This custom, biblical in origin, expresses how the human condition is affected by sin. We outwardly profess our guilt before God and thereby, prompted by the hope and trust in the Lord's kindness and compassion, His patience and abounding mercy, express our desire for inward conversion.

Ash Wednesday is also an obligatory day of universal fast and abstinence for those who have completed their 18th year until the beginning of their 60th year. Fasting allows a person to eat one full meal in addition to two smaller meals, not to equal one full meal. Abstinence from meat is obligatory for all who have completed their 14th year of age.

Fridays in Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat as well. As always, anyone for whom fasting or abstinence would pose a health risk is excused.

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### **NEW: Why do we practice fasting and abstinence?**

Fasting is a powerful and beautiful way of living out penance and self-denial, both important realities in our Christian life. Still, we should always remember that at the heart of it all is charity.

[Click here to read more about these Lenten disciplines and why we do them!](#)



## WHY DO WE PRACTICE FASTING AND ABSTINENCE?

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE



### **NEW:** Stations of the Cross

We will be commemorating Jesus' last steps before his death at the Stations of the Cross each Friday during the season of Lent.



Join us at 9am (following the 8:30am Mass) on Fridays in the church beginning March 4 and continuing through Lent, with the exception of Good Friday. On Good Friday, we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm.

## Parish Life

### **NEW:** Let's go to the beach!

Youth Ministry is so stoked for our annual LinC Retreat at Camp St. Francis! Hosted by St. Charles Borromeo in Livermore, this has been one of our favorite retreats for years - and not just for the beach and the traditional Saturday tri-tip dinner.



Retreats are the best way to learn about yourself, learn about the Lord, and learn about life. You'll hear real stories from real people, dive into the ultimate story of Christ's love, and connect more deeply with the story of your life.

- Arrival is 9am on Saturday at Camp St. Francis (2320 Sumner Ave, Aptos)
- Pick-up is 12:30pm on Sunday
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To RSVP, send in the [completed Permission Slip](#) and \$160 check made out to Church of Santa Maria!

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## Thank you and farewell

**Tony Millette**, our Director of Liturgy and Music, has decided to leave his position here at Santa Maria after 30 years of service to our parish.



Tony plans to spend some time seeking a position in which he can use the varied skills and talents honed in his years in parish ministry, and I have no doubt that his abilities and gifts will be put to good use in his next endeavor.

I know all of you will join me in thanking Tony for his dedicated service, and wish him all the best in the future. Tony will remain with us for the next several weeks as we transition into Lent.

*Father George*

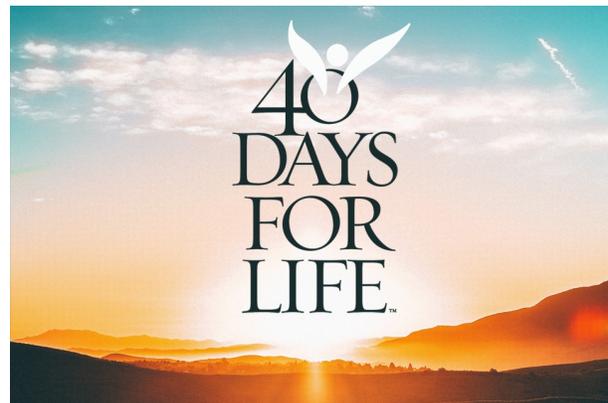
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## Service and Outreach

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### One hour may save a human life

Santa Maria parishioners are invited to join the peaceful and prayerful Lenten **40 Days for Life** vigil near abortion facilities in Walnut Creek and Concord to prayerfully affirm the dignity and sanctity of life, and help women realize that there are life-affirming choices other than abortion.



Small groups of vigil participants stand and pray in one-hour shifts in the public right-of-way outside of the two facilities between 7am and 7pm. Join for an hour a day, an hour a week, or even a single hour total! This is a life-affirming way to make a sacrifice of time and prayer during this Lenten season - our powerful presence may potentially save a human life and give support to a mother in need.

To sign up or to receive more information, contact [Friends for Life Trivalley](#) for Walnut Creek or Friends for Life Concord for Concord.

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## This Sunday: New month, new food drive!

**Sunday, February 27**

**8:00am - 10:30am**

*Supporting Catholic Worker of the East Bay*

OCW provides transitional housing, social services, legal case management, and job support for homeless, recently-arrived immigrants, and their children fleeing the extreme violence, oppression, and poverty in Mexico and Central America

### **Donation items include:**

- Canned tomatoes/sauces/soups
- Canned tuna/chicken/protens
- Canned fruit and veg
- Plastic bottle of cooking oil
- Bag of flour/beans/rice/pasta
- Plastic jar of peanut butter/jam/jelly
- Box of cereal



Checks can also be made out to Oakland Catholic Worker if you are unable to shop!

Contact your friends and neighbors and ask them to bring bags of these non-perishable groceries as well!

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## Food for Thought

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### **NEW: St. Anthony and the Lost Wedding Ring**

*A First Things article by John Soriano*

When I got the call in July 1993 that Dad had been diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma (MM), I was on vacation with my family in Florida. I had no idea what MM was, but I soon found out. And I was devastated.



MM is a rare blood cancer that mostly targets men in their 60s. An MM diagnosis in 1993 was tantamount to a death sentence for all, rich and

poor alike. Sam Walton, the founder of Wal-Mart, had succumbed to MM the previous year. The doctors gave Dad two to three years, tops. They were on target: Dad died a little over two years later, at age... [read more](#)

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## From Calcutta to California - how the Missionaries of Charity came to the US

*A Pillar Catholic article by Matthew Wilson*

Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity she founded are well-known for their work with the sick, impoverished, and abandoned in the poorest areas of India. Perhaps less well-known is the presence of the Missionaries of Charity in the United States.

How did the congregation - known for its work among the poorest of the poor - come to be in such a wealthy nation? And what does...[read more](#)



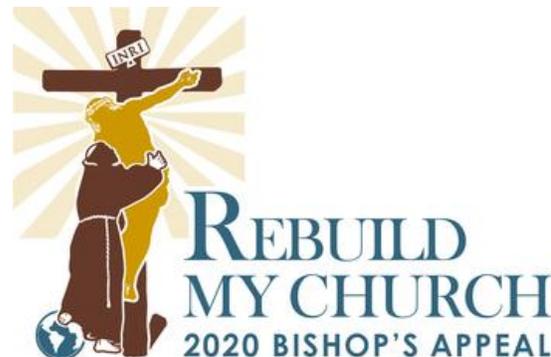
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## Good Stewardship

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### We reached our Bishop's Appeal Goal! Good job, Santa Maria!

Thank you to the 68 parishioners who made both outright gifts and pledges in our parish's name to the 2021 Bishop's Appeal, "Rebuild My Church."



We have reached **100.39% of our goal of \$34,700** from our parish to help offset the costs of Diocesan programs like FACE, ethnic pastoral centers, clergy formation, and priest retirement, to name a few.

It is because of parishioners like you that we are able to support the work that furthers Christ's mission in the Diocese of Oakland!

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### 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 27

8:30am: Mary Jane Betts (D)  
10:30am: Kathie Brady (D)  
5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

### Monday, February 28

8:30am: James Ryan (D)

### Tuesday, March 1

8:30am: Williama Andrade (D)

### Wednesday, March 2

8:30am: Loc Phan (D)

### Thursday, March 3

8:30am: Holy Souls in Purgatory

### Friday, February 4

8:30am: Leanne Rodgers (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 visit the office during Office Hours*

## Bulletin Sponsors

Thank you to the following bulletin sponsors:

An advertisement for KBM Hawaii vacation rentals. The background is a scenic view of a resort with palm trees, a swimming pool, and modern buildings overlooking the ocean. The text reads: "Your Kaanapali &amp; Kapalua Maui Vacation Rental Experts 1, 2, and 3 Bedroom Condos, Villas &amp; Homes". In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for KBM HAWAII with the phone number 808.568.3270 and the website kbmhawaii.com. In the bottom right corner, there is a promotional message: "Parishioner Discount! Promo Code: SAINT for a 5% Booking Discount".

An advertisement for Monique McCool, Real Estate Representation. The background is dark with white text. On the left is a circular logo with the letters "MMcC" and a stylized house icon. The text reads: "Caring, Competent, Ethical Real Estate Representation." On the right, the word "COMPASS" is written vertically. At the bottom, it says: "Monique McCool monique.mccool@compass.com 925.388.3140 | DRE 01345886".

## Pastoral Team

### Reverend George Mockel

Pastor

[gmockel@santamariaorinda.com](mailto:gmockel@santamariaorinda.com)

### Deacon Rey Encarnacion

[rencarnacion@santamariaorinda.com](mailto:rencarnacion@santamariaorinda.com)  
x310

## 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

**Deacon James Pearce**

*jpearce@santamariaorinda.com x301*

**Mirna Wong**

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper  
*mwong@santamariaorinda.com x301*

**Tony Millette**

Liturgy and Music  
*tmillette@santamariaorinda.com x303*

**Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC**

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)  
*mmphan@santamariaorinda.com x306*

**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*

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, 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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Maria**

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