



Church of Santa Maria

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The philosophy and theology of an onion

An onion's role in experiencing the Transfiguration of Jesus

Pictured: "Once you are seated, the first order of business is to address yourself to the onion at hand" (Capon 11).



The Second Sunday of Lent
March 13, 2022

I once read a unique sort of cookbook whose author dedicated over 7 pages to the slicing of a single onion for onion soup. It was, surprisingly, absolutely delightful.

After recommending that we set aside no less than one hour for this task, which will be spent addressing, meeting, balancing, peeling, opening, sectioning, arranging, observing, tapping, and even squishing our onion (please note we haven't even gotten to actually slicing it up yet), our author comments:

"Perhaps now you have seen at least dimly that the uniquenesses of creation are the result of continuous creative support, of effective regard by no mean lover. He likes onions, therefore they are, ...to His present delight - His intimate and immediate joy in all you have seen, and in the thousand other wonders you do not even suspect. With Peter, the onion says, Lord, it is good for us to be here. Yes, says God. Very good."¹

This man can take the wondrous and joyful experience of the Transfiguration of Jesus (which is where Peter's words above come from) and translate it to an onion.

The Transfiguration was so obviously unlike anything the disciples had ever seen before, I assure you, and was an astonishing real-life display of the fact that Jesus is truly the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

In fact, we may find ourselves a little jealous that they saw such an obvious revelation - where are the voices from the clouds nowadays? How often does the glory of the Lord appear to us in all its dazzling splendor?

But if Father Capon could find a relatable encounter with God through an onion, perhaps the first step in the right direction for us is putting a little more intentional focus on what we do.

Mindfulness is a huge buzz word nowadays, and for good reason. It's been shown to decrease depression, improve memory, boost our powers of emotional regulation, temper anxiety and stress, and even help build stronger relationships. I see no reason why meditating upon the Lord's creation would do anything otherwise.

So this week I challenge you to prayerful mindfulness - ask the Lord to open your eyes to His goodness and glory, and take a long, slow look at something God said was good, seeking to see it as He sees it. There's no way you'll be worse off than before you started - and you may even get onion soup out of it.

Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator

1. Robert Farrar Capon, *The Supper of the Lamb: A Culinary Reflection* (New York: Modern Library, 2002), 17.

Weekend Worship Opportunities

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

The Second Sunday of Lent
Sunday, March 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 those who are not fully vaccinated, and are optional for those who are fully vaccinated.**

COVID-19 Updates

**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.

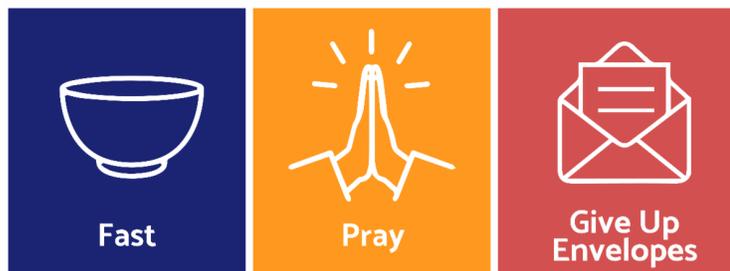
Parish Office and Indoor Meetings

- 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**.

Lenten Opportunities

NEW: Fast, pray, give up envelopes!

On the first day of Lent, we sent out an email invitation to consider switching your giving to eGiving using Faith Direct, and saw an uptick in our eGiving profiles that week. That's great!



Lent is a good time to think about stewardship. Our Lenten practices of "prayer, fasting, and almsgiving" invite each of us to not only grow in our relationship with Christ, but also with our parish community.

During this special time, we invite you to give special thought to starting a recurring gift through Faith Direct, our online giving platform. Using Faith Direct will save our parish time, money, and effort - helping us spend less on paper envelopes. Plus, compared to cash and checks, online gifts are simpler and more secure!

Signing up is easy, and Faith Direct will help you if you need assistance. [Just click here to get started!](#)

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!](#)



Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent

In addition to the regularly scheduled time of 4-4:30pm in the Church, we will be offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation the following dates and times:

- **Saturday, April 9:** 10-11am || 4-4:30pm
- **Monday, April 11:** 10-11am || 7:30-8pm
- **Tuesday, April 12:** 7:30-8pm

Please note there will be no Confessions on Saturday, March 12 or on Holy Saturday.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Confession, or Penance) is a beautiful way to "reconcile" yourself with the Lord - reconnect by removing the sin that stands between yourself and God. It not only clears your heart and soul, but also your vision to help you live better going forward!



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

THIS SUNDAY: Farewell gathering for Tony

Save the date: we'll be gathering **after the 5pm Sunday Mass on March 13** to say thank you and farewell to Tony!

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.



NEW: Congratulations, Master Catechist Sr. Magdalene!

We are proud to share that our Pastoral Care Ministry coordinator **Sr. Magdalene Nguyen, LHC** has graduated as a **Master Catechist** from our diocese's St. Francis de Sales School for Pastoral Ministry!



This certificate took over three years of intensive study with lectures, discussions, lots of reading, and theological reflection. Courses included Scripture, Church history, moral theology, the Sacraments, the Creed, and more.

Please join us in congratulating Sister, and thanking her for her dedication to her studies so she can offer even more of her gifts in service to Our Lord through the Church!

Mark your calendar - Easter Mass Times

In order to best fulfill the needs of our parish community and in an attempt to offer Mass times that help distribute the crowds, we have decided on the



following schedule for Easter Masses:

The Great Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 16 || 8:00pm

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 17 || 8am || 9:30am || 11:00am

Please note the shift in times for the Easter Sunday Masses, and that there is NO 5pm Sunday Mass on Easter Sunday.

You are welcome to join us for any of the above Masses for Easter, but we recommend in particular joining us for the Great Easter Vigil (which, incidentally, "counts" for Easter Sunday). It's a unique Mass full of history, tradition, story, and beauty unlike any other liturgy - and you get to hold a candle! If you prefer to avoid the crowds in particular, this will be the best option for you.

NEW: Pray for our teens and leaders!

On Saturday morning, our teens will be off on retreat at Camp St. Francis for a beautiful weekend of prayer, games, friendship, reflection, and growth on the beach in Aptos!



Keep all 30+ teens, our 12 generous retreat leaders, and the 4 members of our Cook Team in your prayers this weekend as they grow in a "Life in Christ" on the LinC Retreat!

Service and Outreach

Youth Ministry hosts a virtual baby supplies drive

Youth Ministry teen leader **Claire Woods** is on a mission.

In Claire's words, "I fell in love with Baby2Baby's clear, important message of helping impoverished children in the United States. I believe all children need and deserve adequate resources and experiences, and Baby2Baby works to provide those things to those who need them most. I've seen how quickly the Santa Maria parish mobilizes to gather resources for those who need them and wanted to encourage the Youth Ministry families to participate in social justice once again."



Baby2Baby provides children in poverty with diapers, hygiene products, and all the essentials they need to lead healthy, happy lives. If you would like, you and your families can help further our Catholic mission of helping those in need by [donating](#). All goods purchased on the registry are shipped to the Baby2Baby warehouse so they can be distributed.

You are also welcome to [share the registry](#) with anyone else you'd like to donate!

Did you participate? Share some feedback with us - [click here for a quick 3-question survey!](#)

Food for Thought

Russia's invasion 'will probably call for martyrdom,' leader of US Ukrainian Catholics warns

A Catholic News Agency article by Joe Bukuras

The head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States says the Russian invasion of Ukraine "will probably call for martyrdom."

Reacting to the rapid pace of developments on the first day of Russia's attack, Archbishop Borys Gudziak, the archeparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, told CNA on Feb. 24 that the "unthinkable is possible" for the Church in Ukraine, calling Russian President Vladimir Putin a "sociopath" who is "leading his own country and neighbors into an abyss."

Born in New York to Ukrainian immigrants, Gudziak led several... [read more](#)

Things to know about the Catholic Church in Ukraine

A Catholic News Agency article

Though most of Ukraine's population is Eastern Orthodox, Catholics are among those suffering amid Russia's invasion of the country. Russian military entered Ukraine at several points



on Thursday, and missile strikes on military targets and cities were also reported.

Here is what to know about Ukraine's Catholic population: [read more](#)

Good Stewardship

NEW: Thank you for the Ash Wednesday collection for the Ukraine

Thank you on behalf of the Church in Ukraine. **You generously contributed \$8,222.00 on Ash Wednesday** to our collection for humanitarian and refugee efforts there. We will be forwarding the funds this week.



Please continue to offer your Lenten prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for that war-torn nation, that this terrible invasion will come to an end and peace be restored.

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, March 13
8:30am: Tom O'Brien (D)
10:30am: Al Ferreira (D)
5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

Bulletin Sponsors

Thank you to the following bulletin sponsors:

Monday, March 14

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

Tuesday, March 15

8:30am: Maria Ngọc Nguyễn (D)

Wednesday, March 16

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino (D)

Thursday, March 17

8:30am: Intentions of Oscar and Imelda Jovel

Friday, March 18

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



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Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC

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, Gregory Ibabao, 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, Usrula Simmons, Scott Treter, Steve Turner, Jean Wells, Faye Young

For the Deceased:

Judy Gust

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.](#)

Pastoral Care of the Sick
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