



Church of Santa Maria

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Happy Mother's Day!

With blessings and gratitude to all mothers

Pictured: "Happy Mother's Day"



The Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 8, 2022

On Mother's Day, Catholics recognize two important figures: our mother, and Mary, Mother of God. In celebration of all that mothers do, here are a few quotes from saints and other Catholic figures on the beauty and significance of motherhood:

St. Thérèse of Lisieux: "The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother."

József Cardinal Mindszenty: "The Most Important Person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honour of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral—a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body....The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation....What on God's good earth is more glorious than this; to be a mother?"

St. Teresa of Calcutta: "That special power of loving that belongs to a woman is seen most clearly when she becomes a mother. Motherhood is the gift of God to women. How grateful we must be to God for this wonderful gift that brings such joy to the whole world, women and men alike!"

The Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen: "Motherhood then becomes

a kind of priesthood. She brings God to man by preparing the flesh in which the soul will be implanted; she brings man to God in offering the child back again to the Creator....she is nature's constant challenge to death, the bearer of cosmic plenitude, the herald of eternal realities, God's great cooperater."

Pope Francis: "A society without mothers would be a dehumanized society, for mothers are always, even in the worst moments, witnesses of tenderness, dedication and moral strength....Dearest mothers, thank you, thank you for what you are in your family and for what you give to the Church and the world."

Our Lady of Guadalupe, to St. Juan Diego:"Do not be troubled or weighed down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle? In the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need?"

[Excerpts from a Catholic News Agency Article](#)

Weekend Worship Opportunities

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

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 8, 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.**

Parish Life

**NEW: Welcome back,
Father Daniel!**

We welcome back to our parish
Father Daniel from Goa!

Father periodically stayed with us
for several years prior to the
outbreak of the pandemic. He has

a short break from his teaching responsibilities in the seminary in Goa and is visiting us once again. Welcome Father - it is a joy to have you with us again!



NEW: Pray for our teens receiving Confirmation next Saturday!

After two academic years of creative programming, outdoor and virtual classes, and finally the return to the Youth Room and the ability to hold retreats, our Confirmation candidates are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation!



Please pray for them as they will be receiving the Sacrament on Saturday, May 14 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland.

Pictured: Some of our C2 boys learn how palms into a cross from Sister M&M on Palm Sunday.

Food for Thought

NEW: More than 800 anti-Christian incidents reported in Francis in 2021

A Catholic News Agency Staff Article

More than 800 anti-Christian incidents were reported in France in 2021.



The provisional figures were announced on Feb. 10 as part of an ongoing study of anti-religious acts in the Western European country, which has a population of 67 million people.

Investigators have so far identified a total of 1,659 anti-religious acts last year, with 857 relating to Christianity, 589 to Judaism, and 213 to Islam.

The statistics were presented by the ... [read more](#)

NEW: Benedict XVI was 'a prophet' of Church's future, Pope Francis tells Malta's Jesuits

A Catholic News Agency article by Courtney Mares



Pope Francis has described Benedict XVI as “a prophet” for predicting that the Catholic Church would become a smaller but more faithful institution in the future.

Speaking during a private meeting with Jesuit priests and seminarians earlier this month, the pope said he believed that this... [read more](#)

Service and Outreach

Thank you, food drive participants!

Thank you to **Theresa Gonzales, Janet Riley, Tina Locke, and Ynez Hirst** for working the Food Drive this past weekend, as well as to the parishioners who donated food or money!



Our collection included 42 bags of groceries and \$220 that Ynez delivered to the Gal Pantry on the Saint Mary's College campus on Monday.

The organizers of the Pantry and the students very much appreciated our parish's efforts.

Our next Drive will be Sunday, May 22 - and this time it's a Diaper Drive for Birthright in Concord! Stay tuned for more information as the date draws closer.

Good Stewardship

How can I support Santa Maria?

Thank you so much for thinking about us and supporting our parish! 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, May 8

8:30am: James Ryan (D)
10:30am: Anthony Liu (D)
5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

Monday, May 9

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

Tuesday, May 10

8:30am: Francisco Tran (D)

Wednesday, May 11

8:30am: Anthony Liu (D)

Thursday, May 12

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino (D)

Friday, May 13

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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Pastoral Team

Reverend George Mockel
Pastor

Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

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Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Miguel Briseno,
Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, Lorna
Elliott, Anne Emery, Nora Enriquez,
Anthony Fisher, Emidio Fonseca, Liam
Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher,
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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

*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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