



Church of Santa Maria

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

Reading this bulletin in print? Visit www.SantaMariaOrinda.com for a copy with functional links!

Blooming in Adversity

What Flame Poppies and our Blessed Mother have in common

Pictured: The rare flame poppy is currently blooming on the north-eastern slopes of Mount Diablo - if you don't want to miss it, go this weekend!



The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 15, 2022

Since May is the month of Mary, and she's popped up in every bulletin article so far this month, I've decided to keep up the theme and write about her again this week!

A few days ago, I saw a post on Nextdoor about a rare wildflower blooming up on Mount Diablo - the flame poppy, or *Papaver californicum*. This species is what's called an obligate fire follower - one that *only* grows after a fire. Their seeds can lie dormant for years, even decades, waiting for, in this case, the smoke to signal the start of germination. (Other fire followers need the heat to crack their seeds, or the ashy soil, for example.)

So, in search of a good bulletin article, off I hiked over the slopes of Mt. Diablo ([here's the exact trail I took](#)), seeking this rare bloom. I was rewarded for wildflower-spotting efforts first with [mariposa lilies](#), then my personal favorite the [globe lily](#), some ['red ribbon' clarkia](#), a [pitcher sage](#), the distinctively colored [wind poppies](#), and finally, [the elusive flame poppy](#). I'd met some other folks on trail who were searching for this particular bloom as well, and they said they haven't seen it since 1978. Yikes!

It brought to mind a quote from Mulan - one of my favorite childhood movies. The Emperor says, **"The flower that blooms in adversity is the most rare and beautiful of all."** I think if there were ever a flower

that bloomed in adversity, it's our Blessed Mother.

From the first moment she appears in the Scriptures, Mary is faced with trials. She's greeted by the angel Gabriel, receiving a message and invitation that will invite adversity into her life - the invitation to be the mother of the Lord by the Holy Spirit, not her betrothed. She agrees - and gives birth to Jesus far from the comforts and friendly faces of home, and in a stable to boot. When Jesus is a child and they go to Jerusalem, the prophet Simeon tells her that this child will be spoken against, and a sword will pierce Mary's own heart. Then while returning home, she is anxious with worry and grief when they can't find Jesus among the caravan (he was still in Jerusalem, and Mary told him off). She watched her son's terrible crucifixion and death - and then there is no Scriptural account of her even seeing Jesus after his Resurrection, despite recorded appearances to many other disciples and followers. (There's a tradition that Jesus appeared first to Mary, though, despite it not being accounted for in the Bible.)

And from all this adversity, Mary blooms - **Our Lady the Mystical Rose remains graceful, kind, loving, and faithful** through all of it. Pope St. John Paul II suggests that her "perfect union with the Son in his suffering on the Cross seem to postulate a particular sharing on her part in the mystery of the Resurrection," which is the very foundation of our Christian hope and joy. St. Vincent suggested that after the Resurrection, Christ would have told His Mother, "rejoice, because from now on, you will have nothing but joy and celebration."

Here, too, we can follow Mary's example. Unite yourself with Christ's suffering of the Cross when you face your own struggles and adversity, and then participate more fully in the Easter joy of the Resurrection. Remember the flame poppy - let the fires of your own life signal to you that, like the Blessed Mother, it is time to bloom!

*Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Weekend Worship Opportunities

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

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 15, 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: It's First Eucharist next weekend!

Keep our younger Catholics in your prayers as 13 children from 9 families receive their First Holy Communion on **Sunday, May 22** at the 10:30am Mass.

We are so grateful that they have answered the call of Our Lord to receive Him in this holy Sacrament!



Pray for our teens receiving Confirmation this 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

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](#)

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

NEW: Diaper and Baby Supply Drive: May 22

We recently celebrated Mother’s Day by seeing and/or thinking of those women in our lives who have contributed so much to us and helped form who we are. In honor of Mother’s Day, let’s give a hand to the caring mothers who seek help in raising their babies/toddlers from Birthright of Concord.



Sunday, May 22 from 9-11:30am (NEW HOURS), we will be collecting **items for Birthright.**

ITEMS they need:

- Diapers (**sizes NB-New Born to size 4**)
- Johnson & Johnson Baby Wash, Lotion, Shampoo, Desitin
- Baby Wipes

- Diaper Bags
- Baby clothes (**sizes 9 months, 12 months, and 18 months ONLY**) - can be gently used
- New Maternity Clothes (all sizes)
- **and/or checks can be made out to Birthright of Concord.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (NOTE NEW TIME)

It's a great experience to be part of the volunteer collection team. **Please email us if you can work a shift on Sunday, May 22** at the Park and Ride lower church lot:

9:00-10:30a (**need 2 volunteers**)
 10:30-11:30a Volunteer slots are FILLED

Contact Gail Gabriel at gail.gabriel@gmail.com if you can help.

REMINDER: You can always drop off your items in the barrel in the Narthex prior to May 22 if this is more convenient for you.

The Social Justice Team continues to support the hungry and clothe the naked. We can't do enough to help them. We are asking you to help with our monthly Drive.

What are your friends doing to help? Please ask them to join us. It's an awesome feeling to help others. Is it a joyful feeling? You bet it is.

NEW: Cristo Rey De La Salle a success; can you help as a Corporate Work Study Program partner?

Over the years, Santa Maria parishioners have been supporting Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School with donations and as volunteers. The school is dedicated to preparing students of limited economic means to succeed in college and life as men and women of faith, purpose and service.

Cristo Rey is celebrating its first graduating class this year. Students have had the benefit of a transformative learning experience: a college prep curriculum as well as four years of employment as part of the school's Corporate Work Study Program. Paid for their work, students' earnings go to Cristo Rey to help pay tuition. 100% are employed and 100% of them are heading off to a four-year college.

Out of the total of 50 seniors, admissions to date include:

- 6 University of California campuses
- 16 California State University campuses
- 33 private or non-CA colleges or universities



The school is seeking additional help. Are you or your company interested in becoming a Corporate Work Study Program partner? Cristo Rey engages corporate sponsors—as well as nonprofit, government and small business partners—to employ students throughout the East Bay and in San Francisco. Students work in a four-person job-sharing team to fill one full-time equivalent position during standard business hours Monday through Friday. Job responsibilities include customer service, data entry, filing, reception, research, social media management and more! Local employers gain cost-effective, productive and in many cases multilingual entry-level employees for their businesses. Students acquire valuable job skills.

Please contact **Ceil Baron** (ceil.baron@comcast.net) or **Janet Riley** (bjriley@pacbell.net) or **Gayle Klein** (gklein@cristoreydelasalle.org) at 510-519-9216 to learn more.

Good Stewardship

NEW: March and April Collection Report

Our Finance Council has determined our monthly goal for the Sunday Plate. Here is our total for the months of March and April:

Goal: \$42,000
March Total: \$44,498.40
Surplus: \$2,498.40

Goal: \$42,000
April Total: \$46,274.00
Surplus: \$4,274.00



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 15

8:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased
10:30am: *Intention of the Presider*
5:00pm: *Intention of the Presider*

Monday, May 16

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

Tuesday, May 17

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino (D)

Wednesday, May 18

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

Thursday, May 19

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

Friday, May 20

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:



Your Kaanapali & Kapalua Maui Vacation Rental Experts
1, 2, and 3 Bedroom Condos, Villas & Homes

KBM HAWAII
808.568.3270
kbmhawaii.com

Parishioner Discount!
Promo Code: SAINT for a
5% Booking Discount



MMcC Caring, Competent,
Ethical Real Estate
Representation. COMPASS

Monique McCool
monique.mccool@compass.com
925.388.3140 | DRE 01345886

Pastoral Team

Reverend George Mockel

Pastor
gmockel@santamariaorinda.com

Deacon Rey Encarnacion

rencarnacion@santamariaorinda.com
x310

Deacon James Pearce

jpearce@santamariaorinda.com x301

Mirna Wong

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper
mwong@santamariaorinda.com x301

Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)

Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoab Aryan, Kylie Bissell, 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, 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, Ustrula Simmons, Scott Treter, Steve Turner,

mmphan@santamariaorinda.com x306

Jean Wells, Faye Young

Megan Arteaga

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12),
Communications, and CYO
martega@santamariaorinda.com x308

*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.](#)*

Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC

Pastoral Care of the Sick
mmnguyen@santamariaorinda.com x309

**Support Santa
Maria**

**Like us on
Facebook**