



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!

Look around you: we are it.

What it actually is, our responsibility for it, and how to do it without being a weirdo: a month-long series

Pictured: Most of us probably picture street evangelization when we hear this word. Although it's an ancient method, it's definitely not the only one!



Pentecost
June 5, 2022

This month, we're starting a new series for our bulletin articles! The theme? **Evangelization**. Kickstarted by Pentecost (arguably the most dramatic moment of mass evangelization in the Scriptures) we'll carry it through the month of June to help you in both theory and practice. Because, like Father George said in his homily last Sunday, "we are it." We're the ones who are responsible for spreading the Good News!

Now, before you tell me that you aren't one to hold up a sign on a street corner, or that you don't want to offend anyone with your own beliefs, or that you're uncomfortable teaching something you don't fully understand, let's back up and talk about what evangelization actually is.

At its heart, evangelizing means bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ into every human situation, so as to change hearts and lives in the love of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let's break that down even more!

First: evangelizing means **bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ into every human situation**. One basic tenet of that Good News is that God is near: the Jesus event is the only time in all the history of all the religions of the known world that God deigned to become human so as to bring us not just closer to Himself, but also to become sharers in the

divine nature. Another tenet is that God is forgiving - which is Good News because us imperfect humans can't count on our own merit to live up to God's standards, and so "our merit is God's mercy," as St. Bernard of Clairvaux stated. Yet another is that Jesus makes the ordinary sacred - whether it be bread and wine raised into His own Body and Blood, or it be us normal, messy-lived people raised to the eyes, hands, feet, and heart of the living Body of Christ, even to the point of being suffused with His own flesh and blood through Holy Communion. Then there's the fact that through Christ, meaning has been given to suffering, eternal human dignity is upheld, and life is given to our souls both in this world and the next... That means no matter what we as humans (collectively or individually) are struggling with, Jesus Christ is the eternally relevant and most effective balm and answer. That's Good News.

Second: **We share this good news to change hearts and lives in the love of God** - but surprisingly, not just the hearts and lives of others. It's true, we've been given the task to "go into all the world and make disciples of every nation" (Mt 28:19), but evangelizing also changes our own faith as we wrestle through the hard questions, find answers for ourselves, and journey with others through their own questions. And when the Good News is that you are beloved and redeemed through no merit of your own, that's life-changing news. That means that your worth no longer depends on the things of the world like your salary, your weight, your test scores, your friendships, the respect of your parents or boss or colleagues, your athletic abilities, your grades, your achievements, your accomplishments, your complexion, your looks, your brains, or anything else that you think is a core part of your identity. In Christ, your self is deeper than these things, and when you embrace that, you can live in true freedom. You see, it means that all those things could disappear, and the Lord would still look upon you with the eternal gaze of Love - and asks you to do the same.

Third, **we do all this through the power of the Holy Spirit.** This is my favorite part of this whole evangelization thing, because it means I am not dependent on my own skills, knowledge, or abilities - thank God. God uses the weak to confound the mighty (1 Cor 1:27) and it is there that he can really show off, as it were. His power is perfected in our weakness because the Holy Spirit provides what we are lacking - God fills in the cracks, as it were. Just look at the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit: with wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord, how could we fail to be effective evangelizers? All you need to do is "ask and you shall receive, and your joy will be complete" (Jn 16:24).

I know this was a longer article than usual, but I wanted to make sure we all started on the same page with the same vocabulary for the rest of the month!

Next week, we're making it personal - you'll be getting some homework, so get your notebooks ready and your brain cells primed! :)

*Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Weekend Worship Opportunities

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

Pentecost

Sunday, June 5, 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: We have a new Music Director!

I am pleased to welcome **Helena Dietrich** to our team of pastoral staff here at Santa Maria as our new Director of Music.

An experienced and accomplished musician around the Diocese of Oakland for many years, she is looking forward to her involvement at Santa Maria and we look forward to welcoming her.

Helena is a lovely vocalist, has experience directing choirs, and also plays piano. She will be officially joining us in a couple weeks after she finishes her engagements at her other parishes. When you see her around the parish, make sure to introduce yourself and say hi!

I also want to thank all the candidates who interviewed for this position. We had several accomplished candidates with a wealth of knowledge and diversity of experience.

Finally, a special thank-you to **Suzanne Parsons, Colette White, and Megan Arteaga** who assisted me on the interview and selection committee. Their knowledge of music and the needs of the parish were an invaluable contribution to the process. Be sure to thank them when you see them.

Father George



NEW: Welcome back, Father Michael!

Welcome back to Father Michael Amabisco, OP, who will be celebrating Mass once again with us this weekend at the 10:30am and 5pm Masses!

You may remember him from when he was with us previously before he was assigned to a parish in Menlo Park. Now he has returned to St. Albert Priory in Oakland, and has graciously made himself available to us once more.

Thank you, Father Michael! We're looking forward to having you back at Santa Maria!



NEW: Congratulations, First Communicants!

We are so proud of our young people who received their First Communions a few weeks ago - and this Sunday, they should be on to their "Third Communion" already!



As Father George said, while First Communion is a special day, no less special are all the subsequent days in which these young people receive Our Lord in Holy Communion.

Make sure to congratulate them when you see them at Mass!

Confirmation photos now available!

The Cathedral had a professional photographer to capture Confirmation Saturday.

[Please click here to access the album!](#)

Password: **cathedra** (all lower case, no "L" at the end!)

Please note the gallery will be available through September 1, 2022; families please download the photos you want before then!



Food for Thought

NEW: Pope Francis: Low birth rate is a 'social emergency'

A CNA Article by Hannah Brockhaus

Pope Francis decried the low birth rate in Western countries on Thursday, describing it as an urgent social emergency and a "new poverty."



"It is not immediately perceptible, like other problems that occupy the news, but it is very urgent: fewer and fewer children are being born, and this means impoverishing everyone's future; Italy, Europe, and the West are impoverishing their futures," Pope Francis said in a message to a May 12 event on the birth rate in Italy.

The pope's message was...[read more](#)

Service and Outreach

Summer Service projects with YM!

Last Sunday, a few of our High Schoolers met with Megan to brainstorm ideas for summer service outreach projects.

Are you interested in being in our summer service group, too? Help us plan longer service projects, organize days of service, brainstorm outreach ideas - and earn leadership experience while doing it!

Let Megan know if you're interested!



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 here. Again, we thank you for your planning and your generosity!

Mass Intentions

Sunday, June 5

8:30am: John Ryan (D)
10:30am: Brigitte Donner Daws and Baby Boy Daws (D)
5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

Monday, June 6

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

Tuesday, June 7

8:30am: James Ryan (D)

Wednesday, June 8

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

Thursday, June 9

8:30am: Anna Bach Thi Duom (D)

Friday, June 10

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.

Caring, Competent,
Ethical Real Estate
Representation.

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

COMPASS

Pastoral Team

Reverend George Mockel

Pastor
gmockel@santamariaorinda.com

Deacon Rey Encarnacion

Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoib Aryan, Kylie Bissell, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Miguel Briseno, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery, Nora Enriquez, Anthony Fisher,

*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)
mmphan@santamariaorinda.com x306

Megan Arteaga

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

Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC

Pastoral Care of the Sick
mmnguyen@santamariaorinda.com x309

Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Jennifer Gray, Gregory Ibabao, Brian Kelly, Mason 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

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.](#)

**Support Santa
Maria**

**Like us on
Facebook**