



# Church of Santa Maria

40 Santa Maria Way | Orinda CA 94563 | 925-254-2426 | [www.SantaMariaOrinda.com](http://www.SantaMariaOrinda.com)

*Reading this bulletin in print? Visit [www.SantaMariaOrinda.com](http://www.SantaMariaOrinda.com) for a copy with functional links!*

## **A light shines in the darkness**

*Our second witnessing parishioner shares about her shift from habitual Catholic to practicing Catholic*



*Pictured: Answering the Holy Spirit's call to sit in an empty church one day, Sheri felt the presence of the Lord and it changed her life. Read her story below.*

The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
July 24, 2022

*This week we have our second parishioner to share their witness/testimony about their faith - please welcome **Sheri Smith** this week! **I'm still asking for more of you to write your witness down and share it here** - a short story or two about where you've seen God in your life, what the Lord has done for you, or how your faith affects your daily life even in the simplest ways. Please use the questions [in this bulletin](#) and even those [on this website](#) for help and inspiration! And now, Sheri:*

I was raised by parents who were Catholic and I received all of my Sacraments at St. John's Church in San Francisco. My mother was "very" Catholic, but my father was less so. He went to church on the holidays with us, though. I did not attend Catholic school but attended Catechism on Saturday mornings. However, for some reason, I was always very skeptical of what I was being taught so unfortunately, I did not learn much during those years. **When I married and had a family of my own, we all went to church on Sundays, but I felt that I was attending only to set a good example for my boys.**

I completely stopped going to church for several years after my boys were grown and gone and after the sudden loss of my father and grandmother to cancer. A year later my Mom announced she was called to become a Carmelite nun. And soon after that, my marriage of 20+ years also ended in divorce. I became a different person. Maybe too much change all at the same time contributed, but religion became the farthest thing from my mind.

After about 10 years, I was going through a particularly hard time with my middle son suffering from drug addiction. Also, I felt something missing in my life. **One day in desperation I felt the need to go sit in a Catholic church.** So I went to Saint Catherine's in Burlingame near where I lived. The church was empty in the middle of the day and I just sat there. The tears started and I could not stop them from flowing. At some point though, I felt such a warm and loving feeling come over me. I felt like God was wrapping his arms around me and comforting me.

I walked out feeling amazed at the experience. **I went to confession a few days later and asked for forgiveness for turning away from God for so long and living a life he would not be proud of.** After confession, I felt an incredible sense of lightness and strength come over me.

Since that time 10 years ago, I have looked forward to mass every Sunday. I go because I want to, not just because it is the right thing to do. And over the past two to three years, I have added many practices to my day which have increased my knowledge and devotion to Jesus: I read a Daily Prayer Book when I first arise in the morning and a passage from [The Surrender Novena](#), which my Mom (now Sister Mary Rose) gave me. Then on my morning walks, I listen to the "Bible in a Year" podcast on [the Hallow App](#). I really love hearing Father Mike read the passages from the Bible and then explain them and how they relate to our daily lives today. **I wish it hadn't taken me this long to learn about the Bible and the many messages that God wanted me to hear.**

But I am so grateful to have finally found Jesus in my daily prayer life. I feel his presence in all that I do now and I feel like I am a kinder, more forgiving person because of him. I know that he forgives me for my past mistakes and is happy that I am trying every moment to be the best Sheri I can be!

*Sheri Smith  
Parishioner*

## **Weekend Worship Opportunities**

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

**The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Sunday, July 24, 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: Administrative Assistant Position Open!**

Do you know anyone with great organizational and inter-personal skills who's looking for a job working with a fantastic staff in a really fun office? (Not that the editor is biased or anything.)

Send them our way! We're on the lookout for a full time (32.5 hour) Administrative Assistant to work in the Parish Office.



[Click here for more info](#), or [email Mirna for the full job description!](#)

---

## **NEW: We're at 80% of our Bishop's Appeal goal - let's push PAST that 100!**

Thanks to everyone who helped us get this far - 80% of our parish goal!

We'd also ask everyone who hasn't yet donated to please consider doing so. We'd not only like to reach our 100%, but also exceed it - in which case, **any funds over and above our goal are returned back to the parish** without being taxed by the Diocese, which we can use for some of our much-needed special projects!

Thank you again for your wonderful generosity.

---



*"Feed my lambs,  
feed my sheep"*

**2022 BISHOP'S  
MINISTRIES  
APPEAL**

## **Tell your friends, tell your family, blow the trumpet in Zion - formation program registration is OPEN!!**

We are happy to announce that K-5, Middle School, and High



School formation programs are now open for registration for 2022-2023!

Please [click here to register your family](#) for our amazing programs. Our catechists, peer leaders, and catechetical staff have been praying and preparing for you to join us, and we're looking forward to a great year!

**Save \$25 by registering before the end of the month!**

---

## Remembering Marlene Faustino

Many of you will remember a former parish secretary, Marlene, from her days at Santa Maria. We were blessed to be part of her 30 years of service to the Diocese of Oakland.

I've only heard good things about how joyful Marlene was around Santa Maria - if you have a story to share, please let us know! We'd love to hear.

Marlene passed away on July 4. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.



---

## Food for Thought

### **NEW: Missionaries of Charity Expelled from Nicaragua by Order of Ortega Government**

*A CNA article by Walter Sanchez Silva*

According to the newspaper El Confidencial, 18 nuns were taken by the General Directorate of Migration and Immigration and the police from the cities of Managua and Granada, where they had been serving the poor, to the border country of Costa Rica.

Of the 18 sisters, there are seven Indians, two Mexicans, two Filipinos, two Guatemalans, two Nicaraguans, one Spaniard, one Ecuadorian, and one Vietnamese.

The dissolution of the Missionaries of Charity and another 100 NGOs in Nicaragua was approved June 29 by the National Assembly on an "urgent" basis and without any... [read more](#)



## Musings on possibly the greatest road not taken in papal history

A Crux article by John L. Allen, Jr.

It was on July 3, 1849, that French troops breached Rome to end the brief-lived Roman Republic under Italian patriot Giuseppe Mazzini, thereby restoring Pope Pius IX's temporal rule of the Papal States.



The republic, which amounted to a revolution against the pope's temporal power – what angry Romans called “government by the priests” – had lasted a scant... [read more](#)

---

## A day of vindication for parents and religious freedom

A Catholic World Report article by Peter M.J. Stravinskis

June 21, 2022, will go down in American educational history as a banner-day for parental rights in education and for the full flowering of the free exercise of religion. On that date, the Supreme Court of the United States delivered its decision in *Carson v. Makin*, a case originating in the State of Maine, concerned with its denial of tuition benefits for children attending faith-based private schools.



The case was decided by a 6-3 vote, with the majority opinion being ... [read more](#)

---

## Service and Outreach

---

### **NEW:** Does "feeding the hungry" with tacos get you bonus points?

Santa Maria will be serving the families of Garden Park Apartments (a Hope Solutions community) at their resident dinner on **Thursday, August 11**.



**Are you able to shop and/or cook for their taco dinner?**

All items must be delivered ready-to-serve to Santa Maria's Parish Hall by 4:30pm that afternoon. We also need volunteers to deliver and serve the

dinner at Garden Park in Pleasant Hill; any high schoolers must be sophomores or older.

[Visit the Volunteer Sign Up here](#) to claim your spot!

Questions? Reach out to Theresa Gonzales at 925-984-7009.

---

## **UPDATE: Food AND Hygiene supplies drive this Sunday!**

**Sunday, July 24**  
**9:00am - 11:00am**

This Sunday there are TWO drives going on - due to an URGENT NEED REQUEST from St. Cornelius Parish, we are adding food items to our request for this Sunday's Drive, along with the hygiene products originally requested!



### **For St. Cornelius, we ask for:**

- Instant Ramen/Mac and Cheese/Rice and Beans
- Cereals/Instant Oatmeal
- Canned protein (tuna, chicken, beef, Spam, etc.)/chili/soup/vegetables/fruit
- Applesauce (plastic containers only)
- 5 lb bags of flour/sugar plus 48 oz Cooking Oil
- Snacks (breakfast bars/protein bars/nuts)

### **For the Dorothy Day House, we ask for:**

- Sets of 2 washcloths, 2 towels
- Body wash or soap
- Hand/body lotion
- Deodorant
- Socks for all genders
- \$10 gift cards **only** for the Dollar Tree or the 99 Cent Store
- Hand sanitizer or wipes

Please also consider contacting your friends and neighbors and have them also bring the above so we can meet the needs of the Dorothy Day House!

Questions? Email Gail Gabriel at [gail.gabriel@gmail.com](mailto:gail.gabriel@gmail.com).

---

# **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, July 24

8:30am: John Ryan  
10:30am: Dirk Zimmank  
5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

### Monday, July 25

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

### Tuesday, July 26

8:30am: Mayra Galindo

### Wednesday, July 27

8:30am: James Ryan

### Thursday, July 28

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino

### Friday, July 29

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

### Would you like to become a sponsor for our parish bulletin?

We'll share your advertisement (example below) each week for a year, and feature your business three times a year in a larger column as well!

**All advertising proceeds go directly to Santa Maria.**

[Contact Megan Arteaga for details on how you can sponsor us.](#)



## Pastoral Team

### Reverend George Mockel

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

### Deacon Rey Encarnacion

## Prayer Intentions

*For the Sick:*

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

*rencarnacion@santamariaorinda.com  
x301*

**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  
*martega@santamariaorinda.com x308*

**Helena Dietrich**

Music Ministry  
*hdietrich@santamariaorinda.com x307*

**Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC**

Pastoral Care of the Sick  
*mmnguyen@santamariaorinda.com x309*

Fisher, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley,  
Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Gregory  
Ibabao, Brian Kelly, Mason Kelly, Jim  
Kennedy, Jerry Kirk, Lawrence Knapp,  
Carol Koupus, 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.](#)*

*Likewise, thanks be to God for those for  
whom prayer has been answered! If you  
would like to be removed from the  
prayer list with gratitude for answered  
prayer, please let Megan know that as  
well.*

**Support Santa  
Maria**

**Like us on  
Facebook**