



# Church of Santa Maria

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## "I will take care of you"

*Our fourth witnessing parishioner shares a "God sighting" about how the Lord revealed Himself through the kindness of a stranger*



*Pictured: Nobody likes to feed the meter - especially when you're running low on loose change!*

The 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
August 7, 2022

*This week we have our fourth parishioner to share their witness/testimony about their faith - please welcome parishioner **Carol Izo!** 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, Carol:*

Here's my testimony of a time when I felt Jesus was really listening to me. **My faith was weak at the time and it helped strengthen it dramatically.**

I was teaching ESL (English as a second language) in a bad part of Oakland at night. At the break, a student asked to borrow a dime for a phone call - this tells you how long ago it was! I looked in my purse and I had only one dime left. I was concerned that I might need the dime myself to make an emergency phone call to get myself home from this bad part of town, but then the Christian thought came over me saying, **"Give everything you have to the poor and I will take care of you."** I gave him my dime.

The next day, I had a doctor's appointment where I had to park at a parking meter, and I had forgotten all about the situation and that I didn't even have any money with me at all. Then I remembered that student's phone call made on my last dime - and here I was at the parking meter frantically searching through my purse, hoping against hope there was

still another coin in there.

**At the time I was getting angry at God saying, "Here I've done what you've asked, and now I'm going to be punished by getting a parking ticket!"** Just then, a young couple who looked like they were in love came walking out of the restaurant where I was parked in front of, and the man put money in the meter for me. He said, "I hate to see people searching for money for the parking meter."

My jaw dropped. I couldn't even tell him what it meant to me - that **God was truly listening to me and not just telling me but showing me that he would take care of me**, and that He had done so through this young man's own kindness and generosity.

On top of all that, because this couple was so obviously in love, I felt it was just more confirmation that this came from God - since after all, **God is love.**

*Carol Izo  
Parishioner*

## Weekend Worship Opportunities

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

**The 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Sunday, August 7, 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.**

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## Parish Life

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### **NEW:** Music filled the air at gathering for Diocesan music ministers

This past Monday, our Music Director **Helena Dietrich** had invited all the music ministers of the Diocese of Oakland, including all those involved with the National Association of



Pastoral Musicians, to gather for a social here at our parish, where music, food, best practices, and a lot of laughter were shared.

Our church rang with the beauty of music well done, shared by over 20 music directors, accompanists, and cantors, including an organist and cellist. In addition to the music, Father George led an opening prayer, and Helena and Megan guided discussions on changes in music ministry, best practices since COVID, recruiting new choir members, and how we spiritually feed ourselves for our ministry, all while participants shared in a casual brunch.

We're so impressed Helena organized, advertised, and made this all happen such a short time after joining us - way to go!

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## **NEW: THEY'RE BACK.**

Hospitality Sundays are back - once a month, starting next **Sunday, August 14**, where we'll once again be sharing coffee and donuts after the morning Masses!



Join us on the St. Francis Plaza (in front of the Parish Hall) after the 8:30am and 10:30am Masses Sunday, August 14 and celebrate the reinstatement of this Catholic classic.

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## **Administrative Assistant Position is 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!](#)

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## **Faith Formation**

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**EXTENDED DISCOUNT:**  
**Register for our K-12**

## formation programs TODAY to save \$25!

We're extending the early registration discount - register your family for K-12 formation programs and save \$25 per child through August 15!



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 August 15!**

## **NEW:** We're bringing back Children's Liturgy of the Word, and we need your help!

Before COVID-19 began, the parish held Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) during regularly scheduled Mass.

Through CLW, children are able to gather in the parish hall and participate in many engaging activities such as readings, songs, and skits.



Fortunately, we are able to resume the program this upcoming year! We hope to start on **Sunday August 14, during the 10:30 Mass**. For those interested in helping lead CLW, please contact our teen coordinators, [Sofia Obnial](#) and [Jack Foy](#), to arrange the date of your availability. We hope to see you there!

## Food for Thought

### **NEW:** Vin Scully, legendary baseball announcer and committed Catholic, dies at 94

*A CNA article by Jonah McKeown*

Vin Scully, who called Los Angeles Dodgers baseball games for more than two-thirds of a century, died Tuesday at his home at the age of 94.



A gifted orator and storyteller who was dubbed a “poet-philosopher of baseball,” Scully deftly narrated numerous momentous events in baseball during his 67 seasons as a broadcaster. But more importantly — at least to him — Scully was a devout Catholic who found in his faith a source of joy and comfort and sought to share it with others through... [read more](#)

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## **NEW: Cardinal John O'Connor, Pro-Life Leader**

*A First Things article by Richard M. Doerflinger*

Historians have called George Washington “the indispensable man” in the founding of our nation. When reflecting on the Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision, which reversed that Court’s decision to impose a national regime of abortion on demand for five decades, the question arises: Who was the indispensable person in bringing the nation, especially American Catholics, to this long-awaited result?



A very good candidate for that honor is Cardinal John O’Connor.

My recommendation follows in the footsteps of Rep. Henry Hyde, himself the... [read more](#)

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## **1 cardinal and 57 priests killed in the last 30 years in Mexico**

*A CNA article by David Ramos*

A report by the Mexican Catholic Multimedia Center (CCM) shows that from 1990 to 2022, the violence in Mexico has claimed the lives of one cardinal and 57 priests.



The document also notes that in the first three and a half years of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s six-year term, seven priests have been murdered in the country.

## Service and Outreach

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**UPDATE: We're now at 80.33% - let's get some more momentum!**

Have you given to the annual Bishop's Appeal yet? Each year our parish has a goal amount to reach, and Santa Maria has a track record of exceeding it every year.

But right now we're only at 80%, thanks to those who have generously donated!

We 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.

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*"Feed my lambs,  
feed my sheep"*

**2022 BISHOP'S  
MINISTRIES  
APPEAL**

### **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.*

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**Thank you for**

## participating in the food and hygiene supplies drive!

The Gospel message really hit home last Sunday: "everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

In an urgent plea, the families of St. Cornelius Parish "asked," and boy did they "receive"!



Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, 100 bags/boxes of groceries and \$40 in cash were delivered to Richmond last Sunday. Families were already in lien when our filled truck and SUV arrived to deliver the food, and there was plenty for all!

For our initial request for hygiene products for the Dorothy Day Horizon Shelter, 33 bags and \$170 worth of money cards were collected! These items will be made into "moving baskets" for those transitioning into permanent housing. Angelina, who manages the shelter, was thrilled and couldn't thank our parish enough.

A huge thank you to Santa Maria parishioners, especially to **Jennifer Lyons, Dede Ramsey, Bill Caldwell, Gail Gabriel, and Genie Goodreault** for working the drive and delivering the goods!

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## Good Stewardship

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### **NEW: Mission Co-op Priest will be here next Sunday!**

**Fr. Bajiu Antony V.C.**, a Vincentian Missionary Priest from India, will be in our parish the weekend of August 14 to participate in our annual Missionary Cooperation Plan. He'll share his experience at all the Masses that Sunday, and will make an appeal on behalf of the Vincentian Missions.



The Vincentian Congregation (V.C.) was founded in Kerala, India in 1904, modeled after the Congregation of the Mission founded by St Vincent de Paul. Members of this flourishing congregation are engaged in mission

work in all parts of India, plus East Africa and Peru. [Click here to learn more about the Vincentians.](#)

The Vincentian Missionaries need our help to help carry out their many missionary, educational, and charitable activities - especially our financial support for the training of young men studying for the priesthood. There will be a special mission collection next weekend (August 14) to help - we urge you to be generous in your mission offering!

Please see Fr. Bajiou and all the Vincentian Missionaries in your prayers. Thank you.

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## Summer is almost over - are you ready to streamline your stewardship as life picks back up?

Have you made the switch to eGiving? It's a great way to support our parish and grow our ministries!



Recurring gifts can streamline your stewardship and help sustain our parish - both in the dog days of summer and throughout the year as life gets busier and it's harder to remember to write a check and bring your envelope to Mass! Plus, your consistent support will help us always be at the ready with programs, services, and ministries for our parish families and those in need throughout our community.

You can [sign up for recurring giving through Faith Direct](#) right now! Thank you so much for your planning and your generosity!

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## 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!

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**Sunday, August 7**

8:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

10:30am: Alfred Ferreira

5:00pm: Claire Bevis

**Monday, August 8**

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

**Tuesday, August 9**

8:30am: James Ryan

**Wednesday, August 10**

8:30am: Holy Souls in Purgatory

**Thursday, August 11**

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino

**Friday, August 12**

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.*

**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**

[rencarnacion@santamariaorinda.com](mailto:rencarnacion@santamariaorinda.com)  
x301

**Deacon James Pearce**

[jpearce@santamariaorinda.com](mailto:jpearce@santamariaorinda.com) x301

**Mirna Wong**

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper  
[mwong@santamariaorinda.com](mailto:mwong@santamariaorinda.com) x301

**Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC**

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)  
[mmphan@santamariaorinda.com](mailto:mmphan@santamariaorinda.com) x306

**Megan Arteaga**

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

**Prayer Intentions**

*For the Sick:*

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

**Helena Dietrich**

Music Ministry

*hdietrich@santamariaorinda.com x307*

*would like to be removed from the prayer list with gratitude for answered prayer, please let Megan know that as well.*

**Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC**

Pastoral Care of the Sick

*mmnguyen@santamariaorinda.com x309*

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