



Church of Santa Maria

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

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We are never satisfied

An invitation from Father George

Pictured: There are few ways to get closer to God than to sit in the presence of Christ in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 28, 2022

Back in June, I announced that in the Fall we would be re-instituting Eucharistic Adoration in the parish, which we had stopped around the time of COVID. We are doing so as part of the national Eucharistic revival called for by the bishops of the United States.

There are many reasons for doing this now. The Church has often recognized at different moments that **we need to remind ourselves of what an incredible gift the Eucharist is - sometimes we take gifts for granted!**

Additionally, a recent PEW Survey found that **a disturbing number of Catholics do not believe, or perhaps not understand, what the Church knows and believes about the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.** I believe our first and most effective response to this reality is prayer - and particularly, prayer in the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament itself.

Furthermore, our lives (and for many of us, our whole world) are moving at break-neck speed. The result is a lack of focus on important things, constant distractions, and always looking for more.

St. Augustine expressed tremendous insight into the human person: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee." **We are never satisfied. That is to be expected** - because as much as we seek and desire more and more things of this world, they cannot satisfy us, simply because we have been "hard-wired" to seek God - and will never be satisfied with anything or anyone less.

So, I invite you to spend some time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. We are starting small, in hopes that the numbers will increase, and the times as well. For now, Adoration will take place on the first Fridays of the month following the 8:30am Mass and ending at 12 noon.

While anyone is invited to drop in for prayer, we must have at least two committed people to be in the Church at all times during Adoration. You can sign up to commit to half-hour time slots by [clicking here](#), or by using the sign-up sheet in the church vestibule. Of course, you are welcome to commit to longer than a half-hour if you choose!

I hope, and pray, that you will respond to this call.

*Father George Mockel
Pastor*

Editor's Note: 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!

Weekend Worship Opportunities

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

The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, August 28, 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: September
Confessions heard at St.
Perpetua & St. Monica**

For the first three weeks of September, Father George will be away.

While we're blessed to have Sunday Masses so generously covered by Fr. Michael Amabisco, OP and Fr. Joe O'Keeffe, SJ, we're also blessed to have other parishes nearby who have offered to share their Sacramental services with our parishioners!



On September 3, 10, and 17, there will be no Confession at Santa Maria. Please visit St. Monica, Moraga or St. Perpetua, Lafayette to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

[St. Monica](#): Saturdays 3:30-4:30pm in the church or by appointment

[St. Perpetua](#): Saturdays 4-4:30pm in the church or by appointment

Thank you for your flexibility while Father George is away on some well-deserved time of renewal!

NEW: Sign up for First Friday Adoration, starting October 7!

We are so grateful to be bringing back Eucharistic Adoration on the First Fridays of the month following the 8:30am Morning Mass.



[Click here to sign up in half-hour time slots](#); sign-ups are currently available for Oct-Dec. **We need a minimum of two people present for each time slot**, although more than two can sign up per slot!

We're looking forward to sharing this beautiful time with Our Lord and you!

Administrative Assistant Position is STILL Open!

We're still on the lookout for "the face and voice of Santa Maria"!

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!](#)

Faith Formation

**NEW: We want YOU,
buckaroo!**

Have you ever thought, "Where are the young people in church?"

Have you ever lamented how there are so few young, local priests?

Well then it's time for you to saddle up that pony and hit the cattle drive! (FYI: the cattle are a metaphor for our young Catholics, and the drive is a metaphor for our formation programs - in case it wasn't obvious.)

Sister Mary Margaret and Megan need your support, but more than that, the students in Faith Formation, Youth Group, and Confirmation need the leadership of other Catholics - and the more the merrier.

Come as you are, learn from the kids, foster our parish's sense of community - and have yerself a rootin' tootin' time while doing it!

For K-5, [email Sr. Mary Margaret](#)

For MSYG and Confirmation, [email Megan](#)



**CLW has come back
alive - thanks Jack and
Sofia!**

CLW (which stands for Children's Liturgy of the Word) has made a comeback this past Sunday after the pandemic!

Jack Foy led an amazing first session for the littles at the 10:30am Mass on August 14, which included catchy tunes (He's Got the Whole World In His Hands), simple prayers, the children's translation of the Gospel, and of course, some fun worksheets with coloring and games!



Our next CLW session will be **Sunday, September 11 at 10:30am** led

by both **Jack Foy** and **Sofia Obnial** - mark your calendar because your kids won't want to miss out!

For those interested in helping lead CLW, please contact our teen coordinators, [Sofia Obnial](#) and [Jack Foy](#).

NEW: K-12 program registration ends 8/31

You don't want to miss out on a great year of faith-filled fun with friends - **now is the time to sign up** for K-5 Faith Formation (including preparation for First Eucharist and First Reconciliation!), Middle School Youth Group, and High School Confirmation!



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!

Register before August 31!

Food for Thought

Food for Thought is a selection of articles hand-picked to give you bite-sized information on important goings-on in the world of the Catholic Church.

Ortega regime continues attacks on the Church in Nicaragua

A CNA Staff article

Since Aug. 4, the regime has not allowed the bishop of Matagalpa, Rolando Álvarez, to leave the chancery, with police officers stationed at the door and around the premises. The prelate remains inside with 10 other people, including priests, seminarians, and laity.



In a press release published Aug. 5, the Nicaraguan national police accused high-ranking authorities of the Catholic Church in Matagalpa —

and in particular Álvarez — of “using the communications media and social media” to try to “organize violent groups, inciting them to carry out acts of hatred against the population, creating an atmosphere of anxiety and disorder, disturbing the peace and harmony of the community.”

Such actions have the “purpose of destabilizing the State of Nicaragua and attacking the constitutional authorities,” the press release continued... [read more](#)

Service and Outreach

Garden Park Taco Dinner was delicious and fun!

There was a fantastic turnout last Thursday night with a great abundance of tasty tacos for the residents of Garden Park Apartments in Pleasant Hill. Everyone enjoyed the very delicious meal provided by so many of our parishioners - thank you all so much. There was enough food for the 30+ attendees at the monthly meeting, which meant that parents and their children were able to enjoy a relaxing dinner together after a very exciting first day back to school.



Thank you to our cooks **Janet Riley, Maggie Reaves, Siobhan and Jack Foy, Jane Foster, Rebecca Kallgren, Elizabeth Lewis, Diana and Emmitt Mullen, Gail Gabriel, Jane Holden, Wendy Bond, Betty Hopkins, Ynez Wilson Hirst, Marina Gracias, Genie Goodreault, and Catherine Pines**; thanks also goes to the team that delivered and served dinner to the residents: **Angie Lundgren, Brooke Preston, and Nicola, Joe and Theresa Gonzales.**

THIS SUNDAY: Drive for Oakland Catholic Worker

**Sunday, August 28
9:00am - 11:00am**

In the spirit of kindness and generosity to those in need in Oakland, we're asking for a variety of needed donations for the Oakland Catholic Worker:



- Shampoo, hand soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste
- Feminine napkins
- School backpacks
- Sweatshirts, t-shirts, and socks for children and adults
- Laundry detergent
- Paper napkins
- Sugar, cooking oil (esp. olive oil), salt
- Children's table games, arts and crafts supplies
- Soccer balls
- \$10 gift cards ONLY for the Dollar Tree or 99 Cent Store

Checks may also be made out to Oakland Catholic Worker, and the money from them will go towards Clipper Cards, bus, and/or BART passes.

Questions? [Email Janet Riley.](#)

Good Stewardship

July Collection Report

Our Finance Council has determined our monthly goal for the Sunday Plate. Here is our total for the month of July:

Goal: \$42,000
July Total: \$41,201
Deficit: \$799



It's not over - support Mission Co-Op!

Two weeks ago, **Fr. Bajiu Antony, V.C.** was scheduled to come to Santa Maria to speak about the Vincentian Missions in India and East Africa, but unfortunately fell ill and asked Father George to preach on his behalf instead.



The Vincentians thank you for your prayers and offerings of last weekend, which totaled **\$2,903** - but we would like to remind you that Mission Co-Op is not over!

If you haven't yet given, please consider dropping your envelope in the basket this weekend, or make an immediate one-time donation using Faith Direct to support this mission! Your offering

will help the Vincentians carry out their many missionary, educational, and charitable activities and educate young men studying for the priesthood.

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, August 28

8:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased
10:30am: In Thanksgiving of the Pagaduan-Aquino Family
5:00pm: Pat McGuire

Monday, August 29

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

Tuesday, August 30

8:30am: James Ryan

Wednesday, August 31

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino

Thursday, September 1

8:30am: Minnie Christensen

Friday, September 2

8:30am: Dick Cummings

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.](#)

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Pastoral Team

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gmockel@santamariaorinda.com

Deacon Rey Encarnacion

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Megan Arteaga

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12),
Communications, and CYO
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Helena Dietrich

Music Ministry
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Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC

Pastoral Care of the Sick
mmnguyen@santamariaorinda.com x309

Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

Mary Beth Alban, Avery Ann, 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, Judy Marquis, 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.

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Maria**

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