



# Church of Santa Maria

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## "You guys wanna see more fish?"

*On seeing more than first meets the eye*

*Pictured: Don't ever leave your polarized lenses at home on a fishing trip. You'll miss out on a lot.*



The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 11, 2022

The other day, I was scrolling through TikTok (don't judge) when I saw [this crazy video](#). A guy is filming a nice peaceful stream with some lush green shrubbery along the edge, and asks, "You guys wanna see more fish?" before holding up his sunglasses up to the camera lens - which, thanks to the polarization, allow you to see that **THE STREAM IS ABSOLUTELY FULL OF FISH**. Where were they before? Nowhere we could see! Where did they come from? They were already there!

Wouldn't it be great if there were something like that to help us see God, instead of fish? **If only there were a pair of sunglasses, or a magic lens where we could see Christ more clearly and easily than before...**

Okay, so there's no such thing as a magic lens, BUT I think there is something that can help us!

**Most of us are likely desensitized to the power and beauty of the Eucharist.** In it, Christ comes to us in such a humble and quotidian way so as to be easily overlooked - and it's worth noting here that God loves us so much that He risks being overlooked as the price to make Himself approachable to us. It's easy for us to look and only see the appearance of bread and wine, and not see through that to the truth that this is the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It doesn't help that a lot of the language we use also tends to skim over the reality of transubstantiation - we tend to refer to "bread and wine" rather than "holy Eucharist," or "plate and cup" instead of "Precious Body and Precious Blood."

I've noticed, though, that once the Blessed Sacrament is put in the monstrance, the beautiful and special liturgical "display case" used for Adoration, it is seen through the Catholic equivalent to fishing's polarized sunglasses.

When you sit before the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance, it's just you and Jesus. Gone are the movements and responses of ritual, lifted up is the simple truth of the miracle before us, God in flesh among us. Hushed lies the church, waiting for us to be present to the Lord. Silent is the call for any specific kind of participation, freeing our hearts to see what is truly there before us. **It's like the Host is put into the monstrance and the Church asks, "You guys wanna see more Jesus?" and the veil is lifted.**

Encountering Our Lord in Adoration is a whole different experience than encountering Him while receiving the Holy Eucharist at Mass, and it takes both means of worship to better appreciate the whole truth of the matter. We can't wait for you to join us when we resume Adoration in October.

*If you're ready to put on your Catholic sunglasses and try out Adoration to see Jesus more clearly and in a new light, [sign up to join us on our First Fridays between 9am and noon!](#) Next week we'll explore ideas of what to "do" during Adoration, offering ideas both for the newbies and for seasoned veterans of the practice, whether you're an expert in contemplation or identify as a restless soul.*

Megan Arteaga  
Youth Ministry Coordinator

*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 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, September 11, 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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## 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!

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## 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!

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## Faith Formation

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**CLW is back at the 10:30am  
Mass this Sunday, September  
11!**

**Jack Foy** will be joined with our other teen leader **Sofia Obnial** this Sunday, September 11 for another great round of Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10:30am Mass!

Bring your littles to the 10:30am Mass, where they'll be dismissed for songs, games, a children's rendition of the Sunday Gospel, and more! Mark your calendar!



## 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!

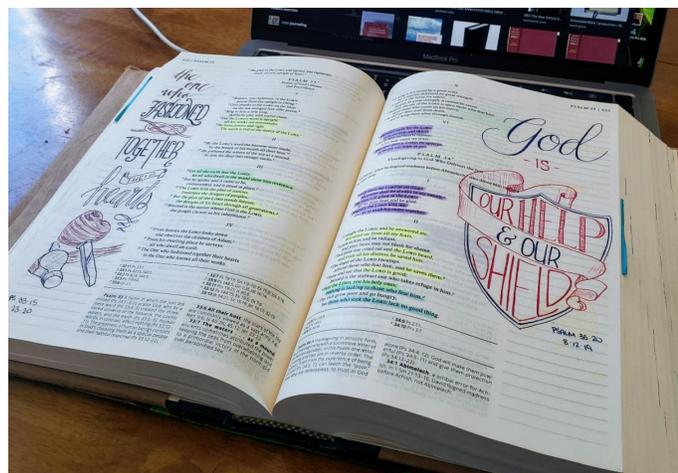
For K-5, [email Sr. Mary Margaret](#)

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

## Thursday Bible Study takes a 2-week break

Our group is over 2/3 of the way through reading the Bible in a Year (over two years) - but that doesn't mean it's too late for you to join in the fun!

If you've never encountered the medicinal fish that attacked Tobias, Balaam's talking donkey, or any of the other entertaining characters of the Bible, you need to join us!



**We'll start back up on September 22 at 9:30am on Thursday**

**mornings at the Parish Office.** Hope to see you there!

For those interested in getting the weekly readings and invitation directly to your inbox, [email Megan to sign up!](#)

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## **K-12 program registration was due 8/31 - but we took pity on you.**

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  
now!**

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## **Food for Thought**

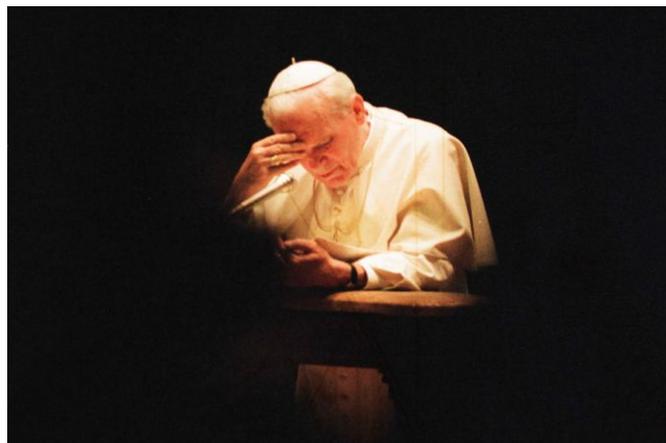
*Food for Thought is a selection of articles hand-picked to give you bite-sized information on important goings-on in the world of the Catholic Church.*

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### **NEW: 9/11: When John Paul II grieved with America**

*A CNA article by Mary Farrow*

As three airliners smashed into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, and Flight 93 crashed into a Pennsylvania field on September 11, 2001, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, at the time the director of the Vatican press office, delivered the news to Pope John Paul II.



"I remember that terrible afternoon as if it were yesterday. I called the Pope, who was at Castel Gandolfo, I gave him the news. He was shocked not only by the tragedy itself, but also because he could not explain how man could achieve this abyss of evil..." he recalled in... [read more](#)

## Pregnant and scared? Sisters of Life share 8 messages of hope after Roe

A CNA article by Katie Yoder

"It may seem like this pregnancy could not have come at a worse time," she said.

"Perhaps, you know your family will be disappointed and you expect that they will not support you. You are terrified that your dreams and plans for the future will never be realized. The struggles of your current situation are real, but hope holds the promise of a new beginning."

Before making a decision, she encouraged women to... [read more](#)



## Service and Outreach

### **NEW:** New month, new food drive on September 25

In the spirit of kindness and generosity to those in need at St. Cornelius parish in Richmond, we're asking for food donations as follows (please, no glass containers):

- Canned protein (tuna, chicken, beef, spam, chili, beans)
- Canned tomato sauce/pasta sauce
- Canned fruit/veggies/soup
- Rice or beans
- Pasta/Mac-n-cheese/instant ramen
- 48 oz cooking oil
- Cereal/instant oatmeal
- Applesauce/peanut butter/jelly
- Flour/sugar
- Snacks (protein bars, breakfast bars, microwave popcorn, nuts)



We also need volunteers in one-hour shifts that Sunday, plus some drivers to take the food to St. Cornelius!

Can you help? Got questions? [Email Janet!](#)

## **TOMORROW:** **Landscape Clean-Up Day at Santa Maria**

Volunteers are needed!

**Saturday  
September 10, 2022  
9:00am - Noon**



Meet at the lower parking lot (Park and Ride) and park your car on the left side of the lot.

Please label each of the garden tools you bring with your name. We recommend bringing any of the following:

- Gloves
- Large and small clippers
- Broom and dustpan
- Shovel
- Leaf blower
- Rake

We will be removing all the plantings in the area where the chain link fence is located. Come for all of it, come for some of it!

*[Email Gail Gabriel](#) if you have any questions or to RSVP - but feel free to just show up, too!*

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## **This Wednesday: Volunteers needed for monthly lunch project**



On June 8, the Social Justice Team started a new bagged lunch program for the Oakland Catholic Worker. (Friendly Manor is still closed for repairs.)

They need a lot of lunches - and would even like two sandwiches in a bag! This lunch may be the only meal a person has that day.

We furnish lunches every 2nd Wednesday of the month (September 14, October 12, November 9). We're looking for **5 volunteers each month who will make 8 bag lunches each** and deliver them to the church level parking lot by 11am on those Wednesdays.

Please let us know if you can bring lunches on September 14 - and, if you know your schedule for October 12 and November 9, feel free to sign up now.

[Email Janet](#) if you can help with any of the above dates.

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## 2022 Santa Maria Knights of Columbus Charity Golf Tournament

Please join us for an afternoon of fun on **Monday October 3rd** at the Knights of Columbus 2022 Charity Golf Tournament! The format is four-person scramble so each player gets a chance to take their best shot for the team. Everyone is welcome, no matter one's golf expertise level as the goal is to raise money for charity while enjoying a day with friends out in nature on a sun-shiny day.



The \$175 price per player includes warm-up range balls, 18 holes of golf, golf cart, box lunch and prizes. Your charitable donation will benefit multiple local charities serving women, the poor, youth and the elderly and will help provide necessities like healthcare, shelter and food to those who need it most.

This year's tournament will be held at Rossmoor Golf Course, 1010 Stanley Dollar Drive in Rossmoor area of Walnut Creek. You can sign up a 4-person team or as an individual player and be assigned to a team. Non-playing sponsorships are also welcome.

[Click here for the official flyer!](#)

To register or sponsor a player or team, please [email Brent Austin](#).

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## Good Stewardship

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### Fall into a new way of giving!

Each generous gift made to Santa Maria is greatly appreciated - thank you as always for your faithful support!

As we head into fall and the exciting ministry opportunities ahead (not to mention the great distraction of Pumpkin Spice Lattes and trips to the mountains), we want to propose a safer, simpler solution to giving that allows you to remain consistent in your offerings - which helps us have a more consistent plate as well!



[Please prayerfully consider joining our eGiving program, Faith Direct, and](#)

[enroll securely today!](#)

*If you're already enrolled, what would you like to share with your fellow parishioners about your experience? Let us know!*

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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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## Mass Intentions

### **Sunday, September 11**

8:30am: Lilia Ibabao's Intentions on her Birthday

10:30am: Ernie Cecaci

5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

### **Monday, September 12**

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

### **Tuesday, September 13**

8:30am: Holy Souls in Purgatory

### **Wednesday, September 14**

8:30am: Doris Hale

### **Thursday, September 15**

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino

### **Friday, September 16**

8:30am: Doris Hale

*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

### **Reverend George Mockel**

Pastor

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

### **Deacon Rey Encarnacion**

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x301

### **Deacon James Pearce**

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### **Mirna Wong**

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper  
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### **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  
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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](mailto:mmnguyen@santamariaorinda.com) x309

## Prayer Intentions

### *For the Sick:*

Mary Beth Alban, Avery Ann, Joan Artmann, Shoab 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 Kopus, 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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