



# Church of Santa Maria

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## Let the children come to me

*Embracing the wiggles, the giggles, and the silence when children come to Adoration*

*Pictured: Photos of babies staring intently at the Blessed Sacrament, basking in the Real Presence of Christ, have gone viral in the last few months. But even if your child isn't so peaceful, it's important to come!*



The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 25, 2022

If, when you think of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, you picture a quietly still church, with perhaps a few spectral ribbons of incense smoke and the peaceful strains of chant in the background as the monstrance sparkles by candlelight, you might not immediately think, "Wow, this would be great for kids!"

However - the kids themselves beg to differ.

When asked what they thought the difference between Adoration and Mass was, the children of St. John in Peoria, IL responded "that we are closer to Jesus, who is present in front of us," and "that it is a time of silence." Their favorite parts included "the look of God," "the voice of Jesus," "to look at the Eucharist," and "the peace and the silence." **When children spend time with Jesus, they become friends with Him and in turn are living signs of faith in Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist!**

While Mass focuses on call and response, communal experience with God, and the movement of processions and other gestures, Adoration encompasses silent times, personal prayer, and the stillness of simple worship.

Why wouldn't you give children the opportunity to experience both?

If you're thinking of bringing your littles to Adoration, that's wonderful!!  
**Here are some ideas of how to get them started:**

- Talk about Adoration before you go. Explain how you're going to spend time with Jesus, and that you can talk to him, sing to him, or listen to him while you're there
- Bring some age-appropriate printables - [this blog has some great ones](#), whether you've got coloring-aged kids or ones who might want to write down prayer intentions, what they adore about God, and what they're thankful for.
- If you have a tiny human who's too young even for the coloring, that's okay too! Don't be afraid to sing Eucharistic songs for them, read Scripture stories to them, or tell them what you're doing while you're there. Bring a [chewy rosary](#) or a [Shining Light Doll](#) or even a [Nativity](#) or [Noah's Ark](#) play set to interest them.
- Don't be afraid of their questions, wiggles, or noise - after all, Jesus said "Let the children come to me," and knows what to expect!

If you're attending Adoration and you see some children in another pew, here are some ideas on how you can share the experience:

- Pray for the children you see, and for their parents and godparents as well - and thank the Lord for bringing them into His presence
- If you find yourself distracted by the littles, ask God what He wants you to learn or receive from them that day
- Introduce yourself to the parents/guardians who have come and welcome them to Adoration
- If you really do need some silent prayer, feel free to step outside to pray - nothing so small as the walls of a church will prevent the Real Presence of Christ from touching your heart!

**We're looking forward to seeing you and your littles in Adoration - starting Friday, October 3 in the church!**

*If this article inspires you to try out way of spending time with Our Lord, [sign up to join us on our First Fridays between 9am and noon!](#) And yes, you can sign your favorite tiny humans up as well - as long as a parent or guardian is present. :)*

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 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Sunday, September 25, 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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### 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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### **NEW: Confirmation Parent Orientation this Sun OR Tues**

The mandatory Parent Orientation for both C1 and C2 is here!

At least one parent from each family must attend **one** of two sessions:



**Sunday, September 25 at 11:30am in the Parish Hall**  
**Tuesday, September 27 at 7:30pm in the Conference Room**

Teens, no need to join - your own orientation will be at our first Confirmation session on Sunday, October 3!

Spread the word to your Confirmation friends - and if they haven't yet signed up, that link is right below this article!

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**DON'T FORGET: Register today for K-5 Faith Formation, Middle School Youth Group, and High School Confirmation**

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: Voting "NO" on Proposition 1**

*From the California Catholic Conference*

Proposition 1 is a worst-case scenario for abortion in California. It is an expensive and misleading ballot measure that allows unlimited late-term abortions - for any reason, at any time, even moments before both, paid for by tax dollars.

Sadly, California already has some of the most permissive abortion laws in the nation that would remain in effect without the amendment, including our current limit on late-term abortions that are permitted only for the life and health of the mother. Prop 1 destroys this common-sense limit.

California does not limit state spending on abortion, and with thousands more traveling from other states, the cost will be in the hundreds of

**California Bishops Oppose CA  
Constitutional Amendment to  
Expand Abortion**

#NoOnProp1

millions. Don't hand lawmakers a blank check to pay for abortions, and don't let them make California an "abortion sanctuary."

[Click here to learn more](#)

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**NEW: The shortest papacies of all time? Pope John Paul I barely makes the list**

*A CNA article by Kevin J. Jones*



Blessed John Paul I did not serve as Roman Pontiff for long, but 10 other popes had shorter pontificates than he did. Their stories are a microcosm of the history of the papacy. Some were friends of saints and worked for the good of the Church, while the qualifications of others might be a bit questionable. Through all these more or less flawed men who sat in the Chair of Peter, the Catholic Church teaches that the connection to St. Peter and his... [read more](#)

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**NEW: Abortion, the Workplace, and Life**

*A The Catholic Thing article by John M. Grondelski*



As Catholics in the United States mark Labor Day, two key elements of Catholic social thought deserve our attention: the intersection between the right to life and work.

Until now, the abortion debate has largely been a political one, played out in terms of legality in the legislatures and – for almost fifty years – the courts. In the wake of *Dobbs*, however, expect at least part of the debate to shift from politics to economics, as certain pro-abortion actors leverage financial incentives to tilt the debate in a capitalist society that, occasionally, likes to appeal to “social justice.”

Since *Dobbs*, leading companies have tripped all over each other to announce that they would happily fund their... [read more](#)

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**Pastoral Care Ministry**

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## **NEW: Ministers to the homebound needed!**

Several of our parishioners bring Holy Communion to those who are homebound or recovering from surgery. What a beautiful way to live our parish community!



If you would like to become a Pastoral Care Minister to the homebound, you can make arrangements to visit a few of our parishioners on a weekly or monthly basis.

For more information, [email Sr. Magdalene](#), our Pastoral Care Ministry Coordinator, or call her at 925-254-2426 x309.

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## **NEW: Anointing of the Sick on Saturday, October 8**

Our annual Liturgy of the Word with Anointing of the Sick will take place on Saturday, October 8 at 11am in the church.



All are welcome to join us in praying for those of our community who are ill, in danger of death, or otherwise in need of this Sacrament.

A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

For more information, [email Sr. Magdalene](#), our Pastoral Care Ministry Coordinator, or call her at 925-254-2426 x309.

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# Service and Outreach

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## **NEW: Dedication of new chapel at Diocesan Youth Retreat Center**

On a very hot September 5, the new chapel at the Diocesan Youth Retreat Center (behind Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette) was dedicated by Bishop Barber.



The chapel was remodeled from a

garage and storage area on the site next to the main building. Volunteers, including several Santa Maria parishioners, worked with Fr. Daniel of the Oakland Friary of the Renewal for around 6 months to double the size of the intended chapel. This will serve the retreat house for the youth groups and parish priests of the Oakland Diocese.

Hundreds of people attended the dedication, including priests, friends, volunteers, and other guests. A contingent from our parish attended the Mass and dedication (not pictured: Walter Peyton), as well as the lunch that followed.

Monsignor John McLaughlin of Boston has been managing the remodeling of the entire retreat center for more than a year, with Fr. Daniel and his team responsible for the renovation and expansion of the chapel, including all the wood areas of the chapel and an elevated concrete flooring with outdoor trellis. A fun fact, the wood for the leg of the lectern is a gift from one of our parishioners; the mahogany is from the late 1800s/early 1900s.

Bishop Barber was so happy with the result - a beautiful chapel which will be put to good use for years to come!

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## **NEW: Parish clean-up a success, thanks to Knights!**

Thanks to our "Knights in shining armor," we got a lot of our cleanup done on the Park and Ride Lot to the left on the way up to the church - at least the weather was cooler on Saturday!



It was a challenge with most of the green bins already full of garden debris from work earlier in the week, but **John Mantranga** managed to organize and rework some of the bins, in addition to raking and filling them up again. Meanwhile, **Pat Lashinsky, Steven Berg, Dean Akazawa, and Gail Gabriel** cut dead bushes.

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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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## **THIS SUNDAY: New month, new food drive**

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!](#)

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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 25**

8:30am: Sr. Claire Latham, CSJ  
10:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased  
5:00pm: Mario Drago

### **Monday, September 26**

8:30am: Special Intentions

### **Tuesday, September 27**

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino

### **Wednesday, September 28**

8:30am: James Ryan

## 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.

**Thursday, September 29**

8:30am: Alfred Ferreira

**Friday, September 30**

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.*



## Pastoral Team

**Reverend George Mockel**

Pastor

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**Helena Dietrich**

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**Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC**

Pastoral Care of the Sick  
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## Prayer Intentions

*For the Sick:*

Mary Beth Alban, Avery Ann, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Patricia Bartholomeu, 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, Usrula 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**

