



Church of Santa Maria

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

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Voting while Catholic

Things I wish someone had told me when I started voting

Pictured: Responsible voters use all available experiences and information to make the best decision they can with the information they have



The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 23, 2022

When I first voted, I was away at college and had a vote-by-mail ballot, along with most of my friends. We were absolutely flummoxed at the voting guide - names we'd never heard or seen (despite the many road signs and endless commercials), propositions and measures that made little to no sense (and spitfire arguments for and against each one that we didn't really trust), and the niggling feeling that if we could only crack the case, we'd know "the right way" to fill in each of those bubbles (and I don't mean pen vs. #2 pencil).

Here are some things that I wish someone had told me when I started voting. Feel free to pass them on to a young voter in your life, or perhaps they'll be of use to you as well!

You have a moral obligation as a Catholic to vote. Don't excuse yourself on the basis of not knowing enough about a measure, not seeing a perfect proposition, or not being familiar with the candidates. Catholics have a moral obligation to promote the common good through the exercise of their voting privileges (cf. CCC 2240), and that means we're obligated to do the legwork to inform our brains and consciences of the best options out of those we're given (more on that turn of phrase later).

It's okay for your faith to influence your vote. Too often I hear people using the phrase "separation of Church and State" to suggest that Christian voters shouldn't allow their religious beliefs to influence their stances on ballot measures. On the contrary, to omit those beliefs would be irresponsible. Each voter comes to the polls with all kinds of experiences and influences, and it's up to you to decide which of those

influences is trustworthy and valuable (i.e., what Jesus said) and which can be dismissed (i.e. what Uncle Larry posted on Facebook). It's also your responsibility as a Catholic to inform yourself on what the Church teaches. Teachers come to the polls with their education backgrounds, hospital admins with their understanding of health needs. You're coming to the polls as a Catholic, and that's okay!

There's usually not a perfect choice. Remember when I mentioned choosing "the best option out of those we're given"? There's hardly ever a clear "right" or "wrong" choice (although every once in awhile, they do pop up - I'm looking at you, Prop 1!) - just one where we decide which path avoids doing evil to the greatest extent possible and promotes doing good to the greatest extent possible. Two things to consider as a Catholic voter are to keep in mind the respect for the dignity of the human person, as well as the focus on the common good.

Nobody can tell you how to vote. Nobody - no politician, no family member, no priest, no bishop, no Church - can tell you how to vote. It's not that easy. It is your responsibility to inform your conscience to the greatest extent possible, learning about the issues, the relevant Church teachings, the stories from the ground, and the potential effects of your choices, and then to vote according to that informed conscience. Your freedom and free will is a powerful thing, and as Spider-Man said, "with great power comes great responsibility."

For more information on the political responsibility of Catholics, please visit the USCCB's website [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org) at www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Weekend Worship Opportunities

The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, October 23, 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](#)

Masks covering the nose and mouth are required for those who are not fully vaccinated, and are optional for those who are fully vaccinated.

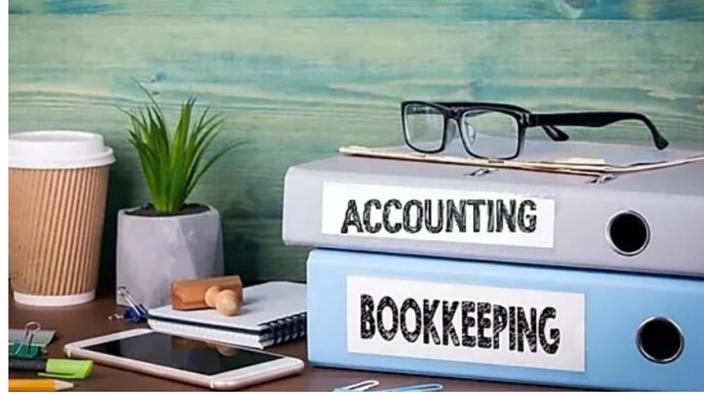
Parish Life

**We need a
bookkeeper!**

Question: **Why was Sherlock Holmes audited by the IRS?**

Answer: He had too many deductions. 😄😄

If you find this joke funny, we need you!!



Santa Maria is in need of a part-time bookkeeper, around fifteen hours per week. The parish bookkeeper is responsible for maintaining the financial records of the parish by accurately recording the day-to-day financial transactions. They also provide timely and accurate financial information to the pastor and finance council, and ensure fiscal responsibility to parish operations.

[Email Mirna](#) or call 925-254-2426 for a detailed job description or more information!

TOMORROW: Ein Prosit!
Parish Oktoberfest is
October 22!

All Parish families and friends are invited to our annual Oktoberfest, organized by the Santa Maria Knights of Columbus!



Saturday, October 22
5:30-9:30pm
Santa Maria Parish Hall

We'll be serving brats, sauerkraut, chicken, salad, pretzels, strudel - and, of course, German beer in a festive atmosphere with music and Oktoberfest decorations!

Hot dogs and pasta is available for kids, too - it's a family affair!

[RSVP with your headcount to Greg Smith](#); tickets are \$25/Adult, kids come free! Please make checks payable to "Knights of Columbus."

Ein prosit!

Thank you for joining us in
celebrating San Lorenzo
Ruiz!

A huge thank you goes out to all who helped make our celebration of San

Lorenzo Ruiz the wonderful event that it was!

I am extremely grateful to our choir, comprised of members from our church as well as choir members from St. John's in San Lorenzo.

What a difference a few additional voices make!



With this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to **please consider joining our choir** for our upcoming special liturgies, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is not too early to let me know you are interested in joining us. **No experience is necessary!** I am looking for all ages: children, teens, and adults.

For more information and to let me know you would like to join our choir, [please email me](#) or call 925-254-2426 x307!

*Helena Dietrich
Music Ministry*

Prayer and Spirituality

NEW: We adore you, O Jesus Christ

Our inaugural First Friday Adoration was a beautiful morning of prayer and peace.

[Will you join us for our November First Friday Adoration?](#)



If you are longing for peace, hope, joy, grace, mercy, and the presence of the living God in your life, you need to be here at Adoration!

Sign up by [clicking this link](#), checking the time(s) you'll be coming, and click the link at the very bottom of your screen that says "Submit and Sign Up"! You can also sign up on the paper in the vestibule of the church.

Bring your photos for the Altarcito this week!

November is the month we pray for the dead - and each year, we set up

the altarcito in the side niche of the church so that we can remember our family and friends who have passed away.

Bring your photos and mementos to the church this week - there will be a basket in the narthex. Sister Magdalene will take and arrange on the altarcito.



Make sure your photos and mementos are labeled with your name and phone or email - we need to return them to you at the end of November!

Mass of Remembrance: 11am November 5

Each year, we gather to remember and pray for those members of our parish community who have died in the past year. It is so important that we celebrate this Mass to commend the souls of the faithful departed to the loving arms of Our Father.



All are welcome to join our parish community on **Saturday, November 5 at 11am** in the church to celebrate our annual Mass of Remembrance.

Prayer this Respect Life Month

October is Respect Life Month!

As we continue through October, the bishops of California are inviting all Catholics to engage in prayer and fasting to end abortion and for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to form the minds and hearts of California citizens to defeat Prop 1.



Faith Formation

Do you know anyone interested in becoming Catholic?

Do you have a friend who has questions about the faith?

Are you a spouse captivated by your significant other's faith?

Are you perhaps yourself ready to become Catholic?

A new round of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is starting this fall! Join your fellow questioners through inquiry, catechesis (lessons in the faith), and spiritual development culminating in the three Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

If this message is tugging at your heart, it's the Holy Spirit calling! Call or email Father George in the Parish Office to see if this is for you!



RCIA

A Journey In Faith

Service and Outreach

THIS SUNDAY: Food Drive on October 23

Time to get ready for the October 23 food drive for St. Peter Martyr!

We can use your help from 9-11am - can you sign up for one of those hours to collect the donated groceries?

It's also time to go grocery shopping! Please support this month's food drive for St. Peter Martyr and fill your grocery bags with these nonperishable food items:

- Canned protein (tuna, chicken, beef, spam, chili, beans)
- Canned tomato sauce/vegetables/fruit
- Cans of soup
- Rice/pasta/beans/flour
- 48oz plastic bottle of cooking oil
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Snacks (protein bars, breakfast bars, nuts)

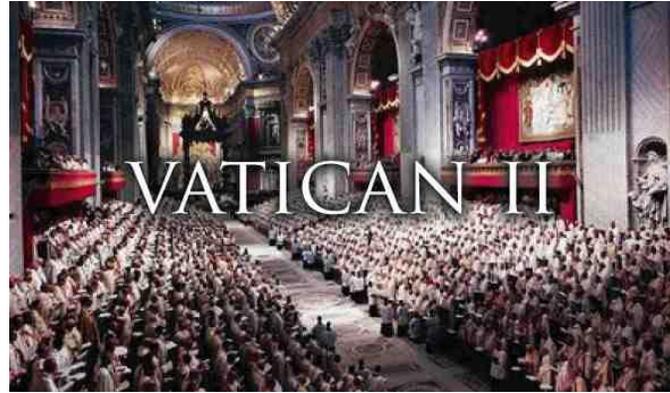
Thank you for your generosity!



Food for Thought

NEW: Why Vatican II was necessary

A First Things article by George Wiegel



Then there was the Swiss polymath-theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar. In 1952, he published a small book in German, *Razing the Bastions: On the Church in This Age*, in which he worried that the great Catholic tradition had become fossilized and had “slipped out of the [Church’s] living center of holiness.” The “great salvage operation” of the Counter-Reformation had been necessary, Balthasar argued, but it was over, and the Church had to get out of its defensive crouch and get on with offering humanity the truth of God in Christ.

In the years immediately after the Council, Joseph Ratzinger (the future Pope Benedict XVI), who was one of the three most influential theologians at Vatican II, knew that the Council’s reception was imperfect and its implementation even more imperfect. Nonetheless, he identified... [read more](#)

NEW: What two future popes saw at the Second Vatican Council

A CNA article by Kevin J. Jones



“It was a unique experience for me, after all the fervor and enthusiasm of preparation, I could see a living Church,” he said in an October 2012 general audience. Benedict recounted how almost 3,000 council fathers joined Pope John XXIII to bring the Church “to learn at the school of the Holy Spirit, the true driving force of the council.”

“Only rarely in history has it been possible, as it was then, almost ‘to touch,’ to feel tangibly the universality of the Church at a moment of the great fulfillment of her mission to take the Gospel in every epoch to the ends of the earth,” Benedict said.

John Paul II said the council has been... [read more](#)

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 birth, paid for by tax dollars.

California Bishops Oppose CA
Constitutional Amendment to
Expand Abortion

#NoOnProp1

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 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](#)

Around the Diocese

NEW: Hymn Sing -
calling all music
lovers!

Do you love church music?

Do you enjoy listening to
choirs?

Are you free on November 8?

All are invited to the FREE Hymn Sing at the Cathedral of Christ the Light on Tuesday, November 8 at 7pm! It's open to all, and honors St. Cecilia, patron saint of music. The theme is "United in Thanksgiving."

[Click here for more information!](#) Hope to see you there!



Good Stewardship

NEW: September Collection Report

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

Goal: \$42,000
Last Month's Total: \$37,570
Deficit: \$4,430



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, October 23

8:30am: Intentions of Sarah Lissek
10:30am: Dick Cummings
5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

Monday, October 24

8:30am: James Ryan

Tuesday, October 25

8:30am: Patricia Connors

Wednesday, October 26

8:30am: Sonny Acosta

Thursday, October 27

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino

Friday, October 28

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*

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.](#)

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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Deacon Rey Encarnacion

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x301

Deacon James Pearce

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Mirna Wong

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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
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Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

Mary Beth Alban, Avery Ann, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Patricia Bartholomeu, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Miguel Briseno, Jeff Calder, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, Judy Eben, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery, Matthew Ennis, 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, 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**