



# Church of Santa Maria

40 Santa Maria Way | Orinda CA 94563 | 925-254-2426 | [www.SantaMariaOrinda.com](http://www.SantaMariaOrinda.com)

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## **A light shines in the darkness**

*Reflections during the Advent Season guided by visual artwork*

*Pictured: [The Nativity](#) by Gari Melchers (1860-1932)*



The Second Sunday of Advent  
December 4, 2022

*This Advent, we will take time to pause and reflect on the season with the assistance of a few pieces of artwork I've chosen. I encourage you to spend time each week with the images and ask what they offer to your*

*preparation for and understanding of the Incarnation.*

What do you notice about this painting?

Where do your eyes go?

What do you feel when you look at it?

Read through [John 1:1-18](#) and reflect: do you think this is an appropriate passage to read for this painting? Why or why not?

What does it teach you about the Incarnation of God?

*Megan Arteaga  
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

## **Weekend Worship Opportunities**

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Saturday, December 3**

**4-4:30pm** | Confessions in the Church

### **The Second Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday, December 4, 2022**

**8:30am** | Mass in the Church; also [Livestreamed](#) (available all day)

**10:30am** | Mass in the Church

**5:00pm** | Youth 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.*

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## **Parish Life**

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### **NEW: The Eucharist: Explained!**

Do you wish you knew more about the Eucharist?

Have you struggled to explain Holy Communion to your non-Catholic friends?

Are you longing for a deeper connection with our Eucharistic Lord?



Join us **Sunday, December 11 after the 5pm Mass** for **The Eucharist: Explained!** with **Fr. Chris Fadok, OP!** You've heard his informative

homilies, you may have attended one of his ministry talks, and now it's time to gather together around the Eucharist!

**The evening will include a chili and cornbread dinner, a talk on the Eucharist, and some time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.**

*RSVP by responding to this email or [emailing Megan](#); it's not required but will help us plan enough food!*

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**NEW: Online Stewardship sign-ups available here**

Last Sunday was our annual Stewardship Drive, where we invite you - our parishioners - to generously **share in the ways you can offer to make God's Church thrive here at Santa Maria!**



If you missed it, no worries - simply [click here to fill out the online Stewardship Ministry Sign-Up!](#) We'll email you regarding any ministries you mark that you're interested in.

Whether your gifts are curiosity (help with K-12 formation groups!), home decorating (Art and Environment!), organization (help in the Parish Office!), or something else, we'd love to have your gift of stewardship to the parish.

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**NEW: Please retrieve your altarcito photos and mementos!**

All photos and mementos placed on the altarcito during November have been removed and placed in a basket in the Narthex.

Please retrieve your photo this week - thank you!



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## Prayer and Worship

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**NEW: Is God calling you to be a deacon?**

The threefold ministry of Deacon is the Word (proclaiming the Gospel), Sacrament (baptizing, witnessing marriages), and Charity (outreach to the poor).



Candidates must be practicing Catholics for 10 years or more, older than 33 but not older than 60 at the time of application, be gainfully employed or otherwise financially secure, among a few other requirements.

If you are interested, come to a **Diaconate Formation Information Meeting** either in person or on Zoom on the following dates from **7-8pm**:

- Wednesday, January 4
- Friday, January 6
- Tuesday, January 10
- Thursday, January 12

Wives are encouraged to attend as well! [Click here for the Zoom link](#), or dial in by phone at 408-638-0968; Meeting ID: 874 579 8692#

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## **NEW:** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

We will be celebrating the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation, on **Thursday, December 8 with Masses at 8:30am and 7:30pm.**

We honor Mary because God favored her with a special grace - and her decision to cooperate with the Lord has blessed all humankind.



Are we aware of the graces showered on us in Christ? How are we saying "yes" to God's will for our lives?

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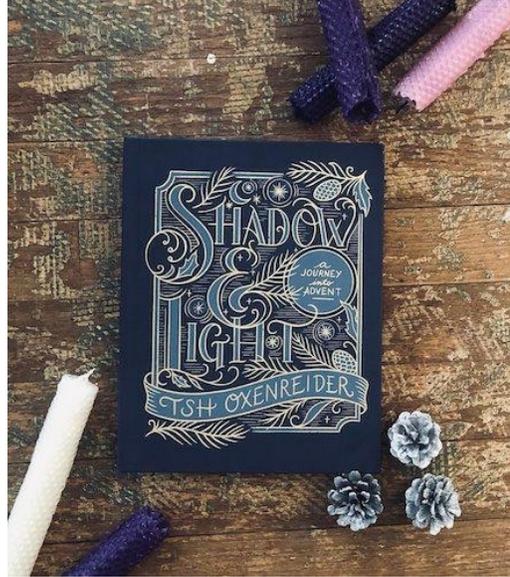
## **THIS SUNDAY:** 3-Week Advent Faith Sharing Group

Do you want a way to lean into the quiet and preparation of Advent?

Join us on **Sundays from December 4-18** for a time of reflection and discussion aided by the wonderful resource Shadow & Light!

We'll gather in the small room in the back of the Parish Hall (bring some goodies to share if you'd like!) **after the 10:30am Mass**. No preparation is needed - just come!

You do NOT need to buy any resources to participate, but if you'd like to purchase the book to aid your own reflection or to do further Advent meditations throughout the week, [you can find it here](#).



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## Service and Outreach

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### **NEW:** Knights running Christmas Food Drive

Santa Maria's Knights of Columbus will once again be running their annual Christmas food drive benefiting the parishioners of **St. Peter Martyr Church in Pittsburgh!**

Empty moving boxes will be available after all Masses on the 4th and 11th of December. **Please return the boxes filled with nonperishable food items before Mass on December 11 and 18!**



The final backup and delivery of food boxes to St. Peter Martyr will take place after the 10:30am Mass on December 18, so please return your box before then!

Feel free to invite a friend or neighbor to participate, too - just pick up a box for them as well!

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### **Now 113 more warm coats were delivered!**

If you're reading this for the first time, the donated coats are given to the community that the Oakland Catholic Worker serves. Coats and jackets are luxury items, and families in need cannot afford them. The children need these

items NOW while they are in school!

**We are collecting for children and adults, especially sizes 2T to Adult Large!**

There is a large box on the LEFT side of the Narthex for this collection. New is best; but gently used and cleaned coats and jackets may be donated as well.



Questions? [Contact Gail by email!](#)

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**Searching for an Advent service day? Make lunch bags!**

We are looking for a few volunteers to make 8 bag lunches for the Oakland Catholic Worker for: **Wednesday, December 14 - need 1-2 more volunteers**



It's kind of fun to set up an assembly line in your kitchen and fill 8 lunch bags. The lunches include a sandwich (of your choice), fruit, something savory, something sweet and/or something else that is healthy. An example is: sandwich, pretzels, grapes, dried apricots and Oreos. You can also provide an extra sandwich if you like. It's helpful if you write the type of sandwich on the bag.

When you sign up, we'll provide more details about when and where to drop off your lunches. This is an ongoing Social Justice project for our parish. We provide 60 lunches to the Oakland Catholic Worker on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. For many, this lunch is the only meal they have all day. Sr. Anne from the Oakland Catholic Worker says that our lunch program makes a big difference.

Who's interested in helping? Please contact [Gail Gabriel](#) or [Janet Riley](#) to sign up.

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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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**Jewish actor converts to Catholicism: the Virgin Mary 'is my**

## most beautiful love'

A Catholic News Agency staff article

The famous Jewish actor and humorist Gad Elmaleh, beloved in France, announced his conversion to the Catholic faith, a process in which he says the Virgin Mary played a crucial role.



Elmaleh, 51, was the partner of Charlotte Casiraghi, the daughter of Princess Caroline of Monaco, with whom they have a son named Rafael. His conversion to Catholicism is depicted in his new film, "Reste un peu," ("Stay a while").

The Jewish actor, who according to the Spanish newspaper El Mundo will take the name of Jean-Marie when he is baptized, has studied theology in Paris, and in 2019 he participated in a... [read more](#)

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## Good Stewardship

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### **NEW:** Businesses can make donations to Santa Maria, too!

Did you know businesses can also make charitable contributions?

**Gifts of inventory, equipment, and services - as well as cash - can be donated for the benefit of the parish!**

Contact your financial advisor for advice.



The generosity of so many of you has been a blessing to Santa Maria parish. There are several ways to make contributions to our parish, particularly as we approach Christmas and the end of the tax year!

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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, December 4

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

### Monday, December 5

8:30am: Dieter Gonzales

### Tuesday, December 6

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino

### Wednesday, December 7

8:30am: Loan Hang

### Thursday, December 8

8:30am: *Intention of the Presider*  
7:30pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

### Friday, December 9

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.*

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### Would you like to become a sponsor for our parish bulletin?

We'll share your advertisement (like Ana's, above) 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

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### Deacon Rey Encarnacion

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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,

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*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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