



Church of Santa Maria

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

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Two worlds collide

Reflections during the Advent Season guided by visual artwork

Pictured: Angels Announcing the Birth of Christ to the Shepherds by Gilbert Flinck (1615-1660)



The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 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 [Luke 2:8-20](#) and reflect: what line do you think inspired this painting?

What does it teach you about the Incarnation of God?

*Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Weekend Worship Opportunities

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, December 17

4-4:30pm | Confessions in the Church

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 18, 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.

Parish Life

NEW: Parish Office Holiday Schedule

The Parish Office will be closed on the following days in observance of the end-of-year holidays:

Friday, December 23 (Christmas Eve observed)

Monday, December 26 (Christmas Day observed)

Friday, December 30 (New Year's Eve observed)

Monday, January 2 (New Year's Day observed)



Please plan your visits to our office during our normal office hours (9am-4pm) around these holidays!

Let's fill the church with poinsettias!

It's that time of year again! The Art and Environment committee asks you to bring a **red, white, or pink poinsettia** for our Christmas celebrations.

Please drop them off in the narthex before this Tuesday, and place them in the room to the right as you enter.

Merry Christmas, and thanks to the many who make our church festive for the holidays!



UPDATE: We still have your photos and mementos - please pick them up this week.

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, as now it's almost Christmas - thank you!



Prayer and Worship

NEW: No 5pm Mass on Christmas or New Year's Day

This year is special - both the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) and the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1) both fall on a Sunday!

Because these two Sundays are holidays, we will ONLY be celebrating the 8:30am and 10:30am Masses on these two days. **There will be NO 5pm Sunday Mass on December 25 or January 1.**

Please plan your Sunday worship accordingly - we'll see you then!



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#

Advent message from Bishop Barber

[Click here](#) or on the image to the right to watch the video from Bishop Barber with his Advent and Christmas message about Jesus Christ, the love of the Father, poured out to earth.



"It's time to come home. If you've been away, come back to Christ."

LAST CHANCE: 3-Week Advent Faith Sharing Group

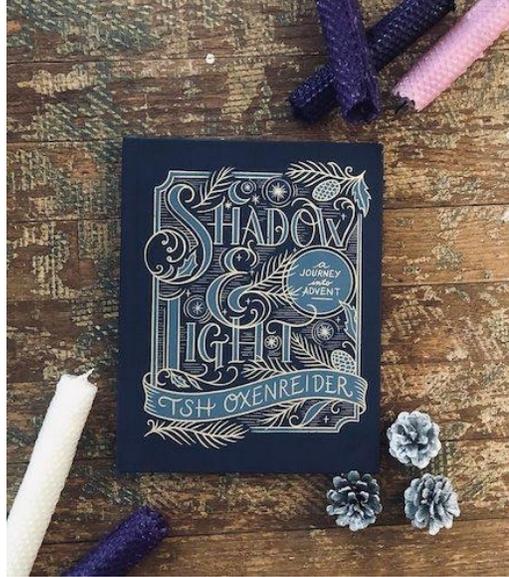
Do you want a way to lean into the quiet and preparation of Advent?

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](#).



Service and Outreach

NEW: Sunday is last day to return your KofC Food Boxes

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

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!



NEW: We've hit the 167 mark for coat donations!

Let's see if we can make it to 200 by the end of the calendar year!

With these freezing cold days, this project has been a Godsend for so many Oakland families.



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!](#)

NEW: Social Justice in action

A big thank you goes out to our Advent lunch-makers, **Mary, Jane and Bill, Dede, Colette, Gail, Anne,** and **Judy.**

Our faithful driver Bill delivered 67 lunches, 5 coats, two bags of food items, one bag of water and candy, and one bag of fresh persimmons. His car was full front and back!

Everyone at the Oakland Catholic Worker was thrilled by Santa Maria's generosity.

An interesting thing - as Bill was taking photos, a man ran up to his car, took a bag of lunch, and ran. Sister Anne's response was, "Well, I am sure he needed the food."

Thank you again to all our parishioners for the many contributions made throughout this year!

Food for Thought

NEW: Former Celtic who risked NBA career to speak out against China receives human rights award

A CNA article by Kelsey Wicks

The players association, NBPA, called me and said, 'You can never wear those shoes again.' They pressured me so much and I was like, 'I promise you, I'm not gonna wear 'Free Tibet' shoes ever again.'"

"After the first game, one of the players came to me and said, 'You know this is your last year in the NBA, right? Because you talk about China, you talk about Nike. You're never going to get another contract, so just have fun with it. I hope you win a championship, but this is your last



NEW: CNA visited Ukraine before Christmas. This is what we found.

A CNA article by Andrea Gagliarducci

The train ride from Poland to the Ukrainian capital tells a double story. The first is that the people of Ukraine want to live again, even though the war is not over, and even though Russia underlines that the so-called special military operation will be over.



Second, there is also a world that has arrived beyond the border of Poland because it didn't know what else to do, not because it wanted to... [read more](#)

Ukraine Catholics warn that priests arrested by Russia could be tortured

A Crux article by Elise Ann Allen

After two of its clergy were detained by Russian forces last week, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Exarchate of Donetsk has warned they could be victims of torture and has called for their immediate release.



In a Nov. 30 statement labeled as "urgent," the exarchate voiced their solidarity with the clerics, who serve in the city of Berdyansk, in Ukraine's...[read more](#)

Good Stewardship

NEW: CHALLENGE TIME - Restore and Renew gifts matched up to \$30,000!

In early 2023, we will be launching the final stage of our Restore and Renew project in the church. So far, we have constructed a new Baptismal Font, built new Confessionals, added an ambry for



the holy oils and a wood carving of the Baptism of Jesus, built a new tabernacle, removed asbestos from the church flooring, painted, and put in new carpet and LVT in the nave and sanctuary.

This new phase involves the much-needed renovation of the two sacristies behind the church - and nobody who has seen them would doubt their need of refurbishment! The ceiling is stained and falling apart from water damage due to a leaky roof (which has been fixed), the paint is peeling off the walls, the flooring is scuffed and cracked, and as the building has settled, cabinets have shifted - not to mention there's asbestos that needs to be removed here as well.

Thanks be to God, we have a generous donor who will match any contributions for this final phase of Restore and Renew up to \$30,000!

If you would like to donate to Restore and Renew, please speak to Father George, or simply send a check to "Church of Santa Maria" with "Restore and Renew" on the memo line, so your gift is credited appropriately! Speak with Father George as well if you'd like to see the sacristies and the work that needs to be done.

NEW: Are you over 70.5 years old and have an IRA?

In addition to securities, real estate, collectibles, and business donations, and gifts left in a Will or Trust, a **"Qualified Charitable Distribution" is given to taxpayers over 70.5 years old by donating all or a portion of an IRA distribution to the parish!** A tax

deduction is given whether you itemize or not. The administrator must write the check to the parish. Contact your financial advisor for advice on how to proceed with this option!



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!

November Collection Report

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

Goal: \$42,000
Last Month's Total: \$36,168
Deficit: \$5,832



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, December 18

8:30am: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

10:30am: Robert Singer

5:00pm: *Intention of the Presider*

Monday, December 19

8:30am: Intentions of Bridgid Roe

Tuesday, December 20

8:30am: Hoa Phan

Wednesday, December 21

8:30am: George Golez

Thursday, December 22

8:30am: Ernestine Ottino

Friday, December 23

8:30am: Loc Phan

Friday, December 24

3:00pm: Anne Blanc

5:00pm: Brigitte Donner

10:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

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.](#)

Pastoral Team

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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 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, 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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