



Church of Santa Maria

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Being bold for Jesus

The Book of Acts gives us a template for proclaiming God

Pictured: Young people gather at the front of the Walk for Life last Saturday. (Photo credit: Kellen Troxell)



The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 29, 2023

If you were to have stood near the front of the 2023 Walk for Life West Coast last Saturday, you'd see something like today's bulletin photo. One of my friends took it just before the Walk started, when everyone's showing off their homemade posters, trying to find their friends and meet up with people they know always come, or following their nose to that ubiquitous hot dog vendor to get in one last snack before starting.

I'd mentioned in [last week's article](#) how I always notice so many young people at the Walk, and apparently this year was no exception.

I have to say, when I was younger, I was definitely not as proud of the pro-life/life-affirming movement as the youth, teens, and young adults at the Walk for Life. If someone had pressed me to share my views on abortion, I'd finally relent and say that while I'd never *personally* have one, I didn't want to make it political. In other words, I'd try to straddle the fence of opinions so as to not make waves either way.

But standing on a fence is the least stable place to be, and making waves is a hallmark of our predecessors in the faith.

It struck me as I was preparing for Bible Study this week how "boldness" was a key marker of the early disciples of the Church. They "spoke the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31), "spoke out boldly in the name of Jesus" (Acts 9:27), and actually rejoiced when they were singled out to

be arrested and even flogged for their bold proclamation of their controversial beliefs (Acts 5:41).

Our predecessors had zeal for the Truth, would not be stopped from proclaiming Jesus Christ crucified, and were so committed to their mission to spread the Good News that not even the process of being stoned to death could stop them from praising Jesus (Acts 7:59-60).

Meanwhile, I was so bland in my stance that I wouldn't even speak one good sentence for one side or the other. I'm impressed by these young people who know where they stand, what they think, and Who they believe. They're bold, proud, joyful, and react with grace and love in the face of a culture hostile to their position, just like our early Church did in the Book of Acts.

I like to think I've matured a bit since my High School years, and that I've become bolder about proclaiming the Good News myself. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be able to do so here each week in the bulletin, and for you readers who allow and support my doing so - thank you! I hope I inspire you, too, to be bold and stand up with zeal in proclaiming the Lord in your own lives.

*Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Weekend Worship Opportunities

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, January 28, 2023

4-4:30pm | Confessions in the Church

The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, January 29, 2023

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

10:30am | Mass in the Church

5:00pm | Youth Mass in the Church

[Click here for the Sunday 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: Pancake Breakfast February 5

Faith Formation will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast for the parish on Sunday, February 5 after the

10:30am Mass!

Join us for fellowship, fun, faith, and delicious faple fyrup on fresh fancakes - we're looking forward to seeing you there!



Food for Thought

Two comparatively quiet deaths key to a deafening Catholic story

A Crux article by John Allen, Jr.



...In that sense, perhaps the comparatively quiet deaths of Conte and Guidolin are actually the key to a deafening Catholic story, which is the informal, and wildly diverse, "mission of hope and charity" which untold legions of believers carry forward every day, far away from the public narrative about Catholicism, but arguably forming... [read more](#)

'To Offer a Vision of Hope': Previewing Walk for Life West Coast 2023

A National Catholic Register article by Joseph Pronechen



A coast away from the Jan. 20 March for Life in Washington, D.C., and a day later, the annual Walk for Life West Coast, a major companion rally, will be held in San Francisco. Organizers look forward to drawing tens of thousands of marchers, as was typical before the pandemic, for this year's 19th-annual walk on Jan. 21.

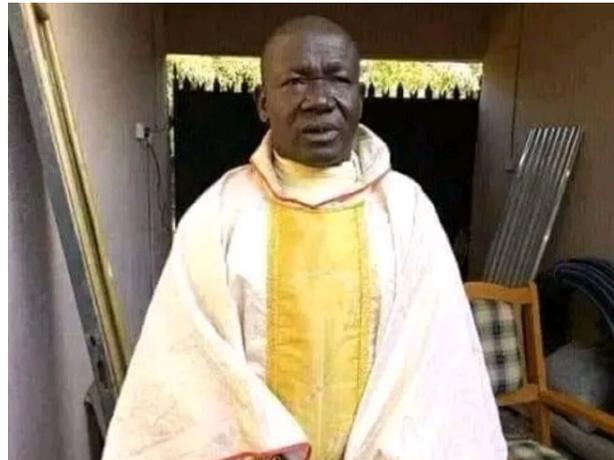
"Last year we were still coming out of the pandemic, and we only had

about 15,000 people," Eva Muntean, co-chair of Walk for Life West Coast, told the Register. "We expect to see our regular cohort of young people from all over, people from every race, creed and age, all united by the... [read more](#)

Nigerian priest Fr. Isaac Achi killed in Sunday attack

A The Pillar article by Fr. Justine John Dyikuk

A Nigerian parish priest was shot dead early Sunday morning, before suspected terrorists set fire to the priest's rectory, with his body burning inside. A second priest assigned to the parish was shot in the shoulder as he fled the violence – his account of the violence has been shared with The Pillar.



The slain priest, Fr. Isaac Achi, was killed shortly after 3 a.m. Jan. 15, when "armed bandits invaded the... [read more](#)

Around the Community

NEW: St. Perpetua School and CYO Track and Field Open House this Sunday

Sunday, January 29
St. Perpetua School
3445 Hamlin Road
10:30am to Noon



School-aged families are welcome to come check out St. Perpetua school at their Open House this Sunday, or see about joining the 2023 CYO Track and Field season, which collaborates with Santa Maria Track!

Registration is now open, and CYO Track and Field will begin practice in February with meets starting in March. More information is available [here on our website.](#)

NEW: Stay "Spiritually Motivated" at Theology on Tap

Fr. Luke Leighton and Fr. Daniel Williamson are hosting Theology on Tap sponsored by St. Anthony's in the City on Wednesday, February 15 at St. Boniface Church.

Theology on Tap
St. Boniface Church
131 Golden Gate Avenue, SF
6-8:30pm

The theme is "Staying Spiritually Motivated." Grab a pint, enjoy Catholic fellowship, and learn some tips, tricks, and motivation from your favorite Friars!



Good Stewardship

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! The cost estimate for this phase of Restore and Renew is a little less than \$60,000, so if we reach this goal, we will have covered the total project cost!

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.

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, January 29

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

10:30am: Claire Bevis

5:00pm: *Intention of the Presider*

Monday, January 30

8:30am: Harvey Jaunis

Tuesday, January 31

8:30am: Hannelore Kolb Lorz

Wednesday, February 1

8:30am: Javier Garcia-Angulo

Thursday, February 2

8:30am: Peter Patrick Cox

Friday, February 3

8:30am: Brigitte Schwarz

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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CalRE# 00469962
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Orinda, CA 94563



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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

Prayer Intentions

For the Sick:

Reverend George Mockel

Pastor

gmockel@santamariaorinda.com

Deacon Rey Encarnacion

rencarnacion@santamariaorinda.com x301

Deacon James Pearce

jpearce@santamariaorinda.com x301

Megan Arteaga

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12),
Communications, and CYO
martega@santamariaorinda.com x308

Jo Ann Bell

Administrative Assistant
jbelle@santamariaorinda.com x301

Helena Dietrich

Music Ministry
hdietrich@santamariaorinda.com x307

Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC

Pastoral Care of the Sick
mmnguyen@santamariaorinda.com x309

Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)
mmphan@santamariaorinda.com x306

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, Shirley Jones, 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, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Ben Richey, Carl Robinson, Ustrula Simmons, 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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