



Church of Santa Maria

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

Reading this bulletin in print? Visit www.SantaMariaOrinda.com for a copy with functional links!

We want the real thing.

*Why we don't like settling
for anything less*

*Pictured: A falcon soars above the rocks
and trees of the Diablo foothills near
Castle Rock in Walnut Creek*



The 1st Sunday of Lent
February 26, 2023

I went for a hike in the Castle Rock area of the Diablo foothills this past week mostly with the goal to go enjoy the sun, mud, and cows. (I was successful on all three, for the record.) What I didn't expect was to see multiple warning signs that certain trails and Castle Rock itself was closed through the end of July because of peregrine falcon mating season - super cool!

According to the signs, this protected species is territorial and, understandably, very sensitive to intruders during nesting season. The rocks are closed so the proud falcon parents don't leave their nests to try to scare you away from their precious falcon eggs. These signs were, of course, loaded with photos of fluffy white falcon babies and sleek, protective-looking parents as part of the educational process.

However, being a member of our species, my first instinct was to think, "Wow, that would be so cool to see a peregrine falcon nest in real life."

Okay. Obviously, I was not about to jump the fence and go rock climbing into their protected territory to be dive-bombed by protective parents.

But a photo is not the same as the real thing, and I wanted the real thing.

This desire for the real thing is a human desire purposefully written into the very neurons of our brain and fibers of our heart - God doesn't want us to settle for anything less, because He made us for encounters.

A photograph of a cute fluffy chicklet doesn't have the same effect on our heartstrings as encountering a real one in the flesh. Er, feathers. We want the real thing.

Reading about Mahler's first symphony might be a fine way to study it, but it's nothing compared to hearing it in the concert hall. We want the real thing.

Knowing things *about* someone isn't the same as really knowing them - no matter how many fun facts you can spout off. We want the real thing.

Hearing Joel and the Psalms tell us that the Lord is gracious, kind, and merciful is not the same as knowing the grace, kindness, and mercy of the Lord - the real thing.

Memorizing the words to the the Our Father is not the same as approaching with filial piety the Good Father who provides everything - the real thing.

As humans, we don't want photos or simulacra, we want the real thing, because God has written that desire in our hearts. **He doesn't want us to settle for anything less than Him, because He is the only place we will find fulfillment.**

Lent is the season where the Lord calls us to jump the fence and climb the rocks in search of the real thing - God Himself. **We're journeying into the space where we'll have an encounter with God, because knowing about God is not the same as knowing God.** This Lent, make these next few weeks an adventure into the depths of your heart, and you will find that the Lord has something deep in His own heart for you as well. It's the real thing.

*Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Weekend Worship Opportunities

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, February 25, 2023

4-4:30pm | Confessions in the Church

The 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, February 26, 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: Welcome to the team, Suzanne!

We are happy to welcome parishioner **Suzanne Wells** to our team as the new Administrative Assistant! Suzanne will be the first voice who answers the phone and the recipient of all emails addressed to our general email.



Jo Ann Bell has stepped back from her position as full-time Administrative Assistant, but has requested to be kept "on call" as a backup and sub when needed, so don't worry - nobody's missed any final farewells!

Inspirational missionary book signing will leave a lasting impression

Father Augustine Joseph, author of the book *Mission Stories*, will be joining us at the morning Masses on March 5 to sign his inspirational book!



In a "previous life," Father Augustine was a missionary priest in rural India - working with and through issues like leeches, poverty, dinners of rice and dog meat, and what to say when someone comes up and says "**Father, I have three wives and want to be baptized.**" His book, *Mission Stories*, doesn't just cover the shocking, though - it's a beautiful and humble tale of loving and grateful souls who give thanks for the lengths someone went through to share the Sacraments and Christ's love with them.

Father Augustine himself will be joining us Sunday, March 5 and will be available after the morning Masses for a book signing and conversation - but you'll have to read the book to find out his response to that polygamous potential convert!

[Read Bishop Barber's entertaining description of this book here](#)

Sacristy access limited

for refurbishment

Beginning Monday, February 13, access to the sacristies in the church will be limited for the following 5-7 weeks.

During this time, we will be refurbishing both rooms, including asbestos removal, water damage repair, painting, reflooring, etc. During this time, the room at the far end of the Parish Hall will serve as a temporary sacristy.



Prayer and Worship

Chuck Kovely Funeral Mass

Wednesday, March 29
11:00am
Queen of Heaven Cemetery
Chapel

Reception follows at the
Lafayette Park Hotel

Please RSVP to Hilma Johnsen by March 19 at 925-254-7209



Pray for the repose of the soul of Daniel Mein

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Daniel Mein, who recently passed away.

May perpetual light shine upon him!



The Season of Lent

**St. Patrick's Day
dispensation from
Friday abstinence**

[Please click here](#) to see the decree granting dispensation from abstinence of meat on the upcoming Feast of Saint Patrick (Friday, March 17).

Bishop has encouraged everyone who makes use of this dispensation to engage in another sacrificial or charitable act that day.



Invitation to Thursday Morning Lenten Faith Sharing

On **Thursdays from 9:30am to**

10:30am, join us in the Parish Office or on Zoom for a deep dive into the season

of Lent with the resource "Restore: a Journey of Healing and Restoration" with Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT!



[Click here to watch the Ash Wednesday video](#)

Each week throughout Lent, Sr. Miriam will lead you to meet the tenderness of God's mercy, the power of his love, and the restoration of your heart and life as you practice prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and sacrifice.

Want to go the extra mile? Feel free to purchase **Restore: A Guided Lent Journal for Prayer and Meditation** from [Ave Maria Press](#) or [Amazon](#) to guide you through the Lenten journey! It is NOT required for your participation on Thursdays - just an option.

[Email Megan](#) for more details or to receive the Zoom link!

Stations of the Cross begin February 24

During Fridays in Lent, we will be praying the Stations of the Cross immediately following Friday morning Masses. On Good Friday, there will be no morning Stations; instead, the Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at 7:30pm



Service and Outreach

NEW: Looking for a Lenten service project?

We're encouraged to fast, pray, and give alms during this observance commemorating the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the desert. What better way to fulfill our Lenten obligations than eating less ourselves and giving that balance to those most used to involuntarily fasting?



We need 8 volunteers to make 8 bag lunches each to be delivered to the Oakland Catholic Worker on the following days:

- March 8
- April 12

We also need one driver each day to deliver these lunches in Oakland.

Here's what to pack:

- Sandwich of your choice
- Fruit (grapes, oranges, apples, dried apricots, raisins) and baby carrots
- Something savory (pretzels, chips)
- Something sweet (Oreos, cookies)
- NO DRINK NEEDED

It's helpful if you write the kind of sandwich on the bag. We'll give you more details when you sign up!

[Email Janet Riley if you will help feed the hungry this Lent!](#)

"Food, Glorious Food!"

This is the title of a song from the children's movie *Ice Age 2: The Meltdown*. In it, a flock of animals sings out, embodying the universal struggle to obtain and enjoy life-sustaining food. The ending leaves the listener with the words, "Oh, food,

wonderful food, marvelous food, glo-ri-ous food!"

Some of us struggle more than others to obtain food - let's help others enjoy that Glorious Food at **our next Food Drive on Sunday, February 26 for St. Mary Center in Oakland!**



Donation items needed included NON-EXPIRED:

- Canned tomatoes, sauce, soup
- Canned protein (tuna, chicken, beef, SPAM, chili, beans)
- Canned veggies/fruit
- Beans, rice, pasta, flour
- Plastic jars of peanut butter and jam or jelly
- Cereal
- Plastic bottle of cooking oil

We still need one driver at 11am to take the donations to Oakland!

[Contact Gail if you can help!](#)

Food for Thought

NEW: Who's that standing next to the Pope?

One of our parishioners sent us this photo, and gave us the challenge to guess - **who's that standing next to the Pope in her First Communion dress?**



For reference: this photo was taken in 1951, and this is Pope Pius XII, and yes - the girl in the First Communion dress currently attends Santa Maria!

We can't wait to see what you all come up with!

Good Stewardship

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, February 26

8:30am: The Intentions of Father Mockel and the Staff of Santa Maria
10:30am: In Thanksgiving by the Pagaduan Aquino Family
5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria, Living and Deceased

Monday, February 27

8:30am: Maria Michelle †

Tuesday, February 28

8:30am: Maria Michelle †

Wednesday, March 1

8:30am: The Intention of Sr. Magdalene Nguyen, LHC

Thursday, March 2

8:30am: Louise Govednik Rogina †

Friday, March 3

8:30am: Karl Rogina †

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.

Bulletin Sponsors



ANA ZIMMANK, YOUR EXPERT IN REAL ESTATE

Awarded the International President's Circle which represents the top 7% of Coldwell Banker agents worldwide. CalRE# 00469962
ana.zimmank@cbtnorcal.com
anazimmank.com
5 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563



©2022 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logos are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Realogy Brokerage Group LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

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

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
marteaga@santamariaorinda.com x308

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

Suzanne Wells

Administrative Assistant
swells@santamariaorinda.com x301

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, 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

For the Dead:

Chuck Kovely †, Daniel Mein †, Leslie Wares †

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**