We members of Star of the Valley Parish gather around the central act of Catholic worship, the celebration of active participation in the Mass. As a Eucharistic centered people, we reach out to heal, console and listen in the spirit of truth and justice, with a preferential option for the poor, thus advancing as individuals and as a community into the image of Christ.

Pastoral Staff
Rev. Msgr. James Pulskamp, Pastor
Rev. Msgr. Gerard Fahey, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Patrick Leslie, Assisting Clergy

Contact Numbers
Parish Office Phone: 539-6262
Parish Office Fax: 539-8620
Answering service when the Office is closed.
E-mail: sov@sonic.net
Website: www.starofthevalley.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Located in the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center
495 White Oak Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409-5939*
*This is the church and parish’s mailing address.
Sharon A. Charlton, Office Manager
Anna Jean, Office Secretary

Welcome New Parishioners
Please sign the book next to the side door in the back of the Church.

Mass Times
Weekday Masses: Tuesday–Friday Suspended
Oakmont Gardens: Wednesday Suspended
Sunday Masses:
Saturday Suspended, Sunday Suspended

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Suspended

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday Suspended. For appointment, email or leave a message for Msgr. Pulskamp.

Anointing of the Sick
For appointment, email or leave a message in the office.

Ministry to the Sick & Homebound
Suspended during Coronavirus shelter-in-place order. Contact the office to arrange a visit or receive Holy Communion after the shelter-in-place is lifted.

April 5, 2020
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

The Journey
On any long journey it is only natural to tire as we progress; we often need, as we near our destination, a bit of a “boost” to help us make it through the last leg of the trip. (Since we can’t foresee the exact end of our current shelter-in-place “journey,” we hope these weekly bulletins are helping to provide a boost of encouragement to “keep truckin’.”) The triumphant beginning of Passion Sunday serves that purpose (in normal times.) It energizes our Lenten pilgrimage so we have the stamina to walk the last few—and by far most difficult—days with Jesus in Jerusalem. Ask yourself how committed you truly are to taking these last steps with him.

Ultimately, we—who are the Body of Christ through our baptism—must identify with Jesus Christ at the end of this Lenten trek. We must, with him, enter into this time of trial so we can, also with him, enter into his final triumph. We must be witnesses to the humility and compassion he showed, even in the face of adversity, suffering, hatred, and rejection. Like him, with renewed energy, we must turn away from any desire to seek or justify revenge; instead, we must continually extend our hands in forgiveness, healing and tenderness. As Christ, our reconciling embrace must stretch wide open, until we resemble him, arms stretched wide on the cross of our salvation.

The Passion of Christ & Holy Week
“The whole city was shaken” (Matthew 21:10). If the beasts of burden, the tree branches all over the road, and the shouted hosannas weren’t enough of a sign, when Jesus passes through the gates of the holy city the very earth quakes.  

(Passion continued next page.)
**Passion continued**

During this Coronavirus pandemic, it seems the whole world is experiencing an earthquake. Is God trying to get our attention? If so, what is his message?

Jesus is on his own. Everyone had abandoned him. Judas betrayed him, his closest friends fell asleep, all his disciples fled after his arrest, Peter denied even knowing him. Pilate believed him innocent, but washed his hands of him in frustration with the riotous crowd. Those passing by the crucified Jesus openly mocked him. Finally, Jesus cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46).

The psalmist, in today’s psalm, feels abandoned as well, as we might if we are persecuted and find ourselves on our own. Gloom and despair close in like a pack of dogs, from which there is no escape. Like one defeated, the psalmist loses all his belongings, right down to what he is wearing. But he continues to call on God, continues to place his faith in God, continues to praise God. God’s power and mercy are greater than the forces of the entire world around him.

For many of us, most of the time we live a very comfortable life. We are blessed with a wonderful family, a decent job, good health, and a nice place to live. God is smiling upon us. We aren’t even conscious of our good fortune. But then a spouse leaves, or we lose our job, or we find out we have cancer, or disaster strikes (like this pandemic.) Now where is God? Isaiah, taking on the persona of the Suffering Servant, never doubts that God is right there with him. Therefore, no matter how excruciatingly difficult it is for him he is willing to face it head-on. Despite the violence he is forced to endure, he takes refuge in the knowledge that God is Stronger and will save him.

How can I rely on God during this time of trial and hardship?

**Masses Cancelled Through April**

Due to the recent federal order extending the social distancing requirements to the end of April, Bishop Vasa sent a memo to all parishes in the diocese saying that the church lockdown situation will remain, so, unfortunately, there will be no Holy Week or Easter Masses for congregations to attend in person. However, there are opportunities to view Masses online for those who have access to the internet.

**Urbi et Orbi**

Last week, on Friday, March 27, Pope Francis addressed the world and prayed for an end to the coronavirus. After the scripture story from the book of Mark was read about Jesus calming a storm at sea, the Pope gave a homily. We are attaching his homily, Pope Francis *Urbi et Orbi*, to this bulletin.

**Divine Mercy Chaplet & Novena**

To help you sustain your faith, bring you peace, and enrich your prayer life during these challenging times, see the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena attached to this bulletin.

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**MASS INTENTIONS—MARCH 18–MAY 3**

If you have scheduled a Mass intention for someone during this extended “shelter-in-place” period, we will contact you to reschedule, after we know when public Masses will be allowed again.

**Please Keep the Sick in Your Prayers**


**Easter Triduum**

**Why We Celebrate One Act in Three Days**

Lent officially ends at sunset on Holy Thursday, giving way to the most important days of the Liturgical Year, the Easter or Paschal Triduum, (TRIH-doo-um, Latin for “three days.”) We can see why Easter itself is so important: Christ’s resurrection from the dead signals our own liberation from sin and death. With Jesus’ death on the cross on Good Friday, there would be no need for him to rise from the dead.

**Day 1—Christ Is the Sacrifice**

Christ offered his Body and Blood in the Last Supper on Holy Thursday evening, and then on the Cross of Calvary on Good Friday. Pray and meditate on the Passion. The Church usually gathers on Good Friday to venerate the cross and contemplate the mystery of Christ’s sacrifice for our salvation. You may like to do this in your home.

**Day 2—Christ in the Tomb**

Taken down from the cross, Christ is buried in the tomb in preparation for the Sabbath day of rest. As a sign of the Church’s unity with Christ in the tomb, the Church has no Mass today until the evening.

**Day 3—Christ Is Raised Up**

Though the evening Easter Vigil liturgy begins in darkness, it is soon overcome by the light of candles that fill churches everywhere. When the morning sun rises, alleluias ring out in welcome to our Risen Savior. This solemn feast brings to a joyful climax Christ’s journey from death to life, a journey we hope to share with him.
PARISH EVENTS
For your safety, and in order to comply with the shelter-in-place order, all previously scheduled parish events are on hold (if they haven’t been cancelled). See the attached April Calendar. We anticipate that May’s calendar will be the same, but since this pandemic is an evolving situation, stay tuned.

Easter Mass Collection
Last month, all registered parishioners received a letter with the Holy Week and Easter Mass schedule, along with an Easter offertory envelope, in the mail. Please save your Easter envelope donation, to put in the collection at Mass whenever Sunday Masses are resumed.
For those who receive regular sets of offertory envelopes (which includes an Easter envelope), you may discard the Easter envelope that came with the letter.

Offertory Envelopes—What Do I Do with Them?
The current crisis may have an economic impact on you, as it is also affecting your parish, but your needs have to be met first. There is no need to mail offertory envelopes to the church at this time because our parish volunteer Collection Counting Team is on a break until the shelter-in-place order is lifted.
If you have offertory envelopes, once the church reopens, you may put them in the collections at Mass.
If you don’t get offertory envelopes, you might want to set aside some cash each week, or write a check to put in the collection when Masses resume.

Church & Msgr. Fahey Parish Center Locked
Both the church and Msgr. Fahey Parish Center will remain locked throughout April, or longer if needed. The parish office phone is off. If you need to reach the office staff, or Msgr. Pulskamp, you can email us at sov@sonic.net or, call us at 539-6262 and our phone answering service will get the message to us.

More BIG EVENT Thanks
We’d like to acknowledge parishioners who were inadvertently omitted from the previous bulletin. In addition to those mentioned previously, we also appreciate the generosity and support of—Patron: Bob Marotto; and Benefactors: Al Maggini.

St. Patrick’s Day Wreaths Thanks
Thanks to Bianca Bailie and Terie McKenna for making and selling St. Patrick’s Day wreaths at our last Donut Sunday in March! Their effort brought $110 in support of the parish. And, thanks to those of you who participated by purchasing a wreath!

Star of the Valley Church Website
Please inform parishioners who do not have email that bulletins and updated information regarding the church closure are posted on the Star of the Valley parish website: http://www.starofthevalley.org/.
You might also want to visit the diocesan website for information: http://www.santarosacatholic.org/.

Star of the Valley Women’s Club News
The SOV Women’s Club 2020 Directories are almost ready to be distributed. Joey Cuneo and Linda Nolet will be hand delivering them to members’ homes.
At this time, we are unable to give you a firm date for our next General Meeting & Luncheon and Bridge & Games Luncheon. Still, your Board of Directors and Chair Women are busy behind the scenes so we’ll be ready for when these events, and others, can be scheduled.
Please call me with any questions, Joey Cuneo, 707-694-2634 or email joeycuneo33@gmail.com.

Parish Security Team Schedule
Thank you to our SOV volunteers for continuing the service of ensuring that our church and parish center are secure. April 6-12: Marie Crimaldi, April 13-19: Joey Cuneo, April 20-26: Bob Chapman. Please wear protective gloves for your safety.

Sacraments of Reconciliation & Anointing
During these challenging times, the Holy See offers this in regard to the Sacrament of Confession for all the faithful: “Where individuals find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1452).”
The teaching of the Church is that all sins can be forgiven by way of an Act of Perfect Contrition. Such an Act requires: the love of God above all things; the sincere desire for forgiveness; and, the ardent commitment to receive the sacrament of reconciliation when available.
For those who may want a priest to come and anoint them, the Holy See reminds us:
“The Church prays for those who find themselves unable to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and of the Viaticum, entrusting each and every one to Divine Mercy and granting the faithful a Plenary Indulgence on the point of death, provided that they are duly disposed and have recited a few prayers during their lifetime (in this case the Church makes up for the three usual conditions required). For the attainment of this indulgence the use of the crucifix or the cross is recommended (cf. Enchiridion indulgentiarum, no.12).”

NEWS OUTSIDE THE PARISH
Holy Week & Easter Mass
Pope Francis will celebrate all of the Holy Week Rites in St. Peter’s Basilica, starting with Palm Sunday. To view them on the internet, go to the Vatican website or click on this link: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/events/mont h.dir.html/2020/4.html

Diocesan Live Streamed Masses
Go to http://www.srdiocese.org/ to view Bishop Vasa’s Holy Week and Easter Masses, or click on: http://srdiocese.org/livestreammass to see links to Masses at various parishes in the Santa Rosa Diocese. Scroll down to find this list.
How to Pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

1 On Rosary beads begin with the Sign of the Cross, 1
Our Father, 1 Hail Mary and The Apostles Creed.

2 Then on the Our Father Beads say the following:
Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul
and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord
Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of
the whole world.

3 On the 10 Hail Mary Beads say the following:
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy
on us and on the whole world.
(Repeat step 2 and 3 for all five decades).

4 Conclude with (three times):
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have
mercy on us and on the whole world.

In 1933, God gave Sister Faustina a striking vision of His Mercy, Sister tells us:
“I saw a great light, with God the Father in the midst
of it. Between this light and the earth I saw Jesus nailed
to the Cross and in such a way that God, wanting to look
upon the earth, had to look through Our Lord’s wounds
and I understood that God blessed the earth for the
sake of Jesus.”

Of another vision on September 13, 1935, she writes:
“I saw an Angel, the executor of God’s wrath... about
to strike the earth... I began to beg God earnestly for the
world with words which I heard interiorly. As I prayed in
this way, I saw the Angel’s helplessness, and he could
not carry out the just punishment...”

The following day an inner voice taught her to say the
prayers above on ordinary rosary beads:
“Say unceasingly this chaplet that I have taught you.
Anyone who says it will receive great Mercy at the hour
doing. Priests will recommend it to sinners as the last
hope. Even the most hardened sinner, if he recites this

Chaplet even once, will receive grace from My Infinite
Mercy. I want the whole world to know My Infinite Mercy.
I want to give unimaginable graces to those who trust in
My Mercy...”

“When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the
dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying
person not as the just judge but as the Merciful Savior.”

The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls
righteous. The read ray stands for the Blood which is the
life of souls.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart
of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You.

Say this Chaplet at 3 o’clock, if possible.

The Divine Mercy Novena

Jesus asked that the Feast of the Divine Mercy be
preceded by a Novena to the Divine Mercy which would
begin on Good Friday. He gave St. Faustina an intention
to pray for on each day of the Novena, saving for the last
day the most difficult intention of all, the lukewarm and
indifferent of whom He said:
“These souls cause Me more suffering than any
others; it was from such souls that My soul felt the most
revelation in the Garden of Olives. It was on their account
that I said: ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass
Me by.’ The last hope of salvation for them is to flee to
My Mercy.”

In her diary, St. Faustina wrote that Jesus told her:
“On each day of the novena you will bring to My heart a
different group of souls and you will immerse them in
this ocean of My mercy... On each day you will beg My
Father, on the strength of My passion, for the graces for
these souls.”

The different souls prayed for on each day of the
novena are:

**Day 1** Good Friday—All mankind, especially sinners
**Day 2** Holy Saturday—The souls of priests and religious
**Day 3** Easter Sunday—All devout and faithful souls
**Day 4** Easter Monday—Those who do not believe in
Jesus and those who do not yet know Him
**Day 5** Easter Tuesday—The souls of separated brethren
**Day 6** Easter Wednesday—The meek and humble souls
and the souls of children
**Day 7** Easter Thursday—The souls who especially
venerate and glorify Jesus’ mercy
**Day 8** Easter Friday—The souls who are detained in
purgatory
**Day 9** Easter Saturday—The souls who have become
lukewarm

Read more:
http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/dm
map.htm#ixzz2viZGKUAa

Read more:
http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/dm
map.htm#ixzz2viZGKUAa