STAR OF THE VALLEY
Catholic Church

495 White Oak Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

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
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Answering service when the Office is closed.
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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
*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 10, 2020 — Good Friday
Friday of the Passion of the Lord

A Love Story
Some of us remember the great religious movies from the past (just saying) that conjure up images of Charlton Heston as Moses in The Ten Commandments or Jeffery Hunter as Jesus in King of Kings.

My personal favorite was Franco Zeffirelli’s Jesus of Nazareth.

Lately they have taken a different turn, especially due to CGI (computer generated imagery). More blood. More gore. More shock evoking scenes.

So, if one compared the graphic, over-the-top violence of the movie ‘The Passion of The Christ’ to today’s reading of the Passion here and now—our version would pale in comparison, maybe even degenerate into insignificance.

An observer might even be bored with our rendition. But to be bored with the Passion Story because of its mildness is to totally miss the point.

The point is not to re-enact those events. The point is not to present a dramatic, engaging rendition. The point is not to bring in special effects to make one cringe or cry. The point of the story is not to highlight the cruelty of the Jews and the Romans, severe though it might be.

The point is not to make you feel sorry for Jesus. But rather, to recall in faith WHO suffered—and WHY He went through it all—not only freely—but with a sense of genuine fulfillment.

Why did He do it?

Love—Love was Jesus’ motive.
Love is always a mystery and God’s love more so than any other. The point is not to feel Jesus’ pain—but, to feel His Love.

While we can never fully understand such total self-giving, we can grow in appreciation and begin to imitate it. This is the opportunity of The Passion-Time—to allow our hearts to be touched again by the overwhelming love of Jesus Christ—for us.

In our busy and often distracted lives, it is important to make time for such a change of heart. To fail to do so is to live un-enriched by the most stupendous reality this world has ever known.

The Passion is a Love Story.
**The Service of Self-Giving**

As Holy Week unfolds, we might want to stop and think about why Jesus was crucified as a criminal of the State of Rome. We are quite familiar with the theological interpretations of his death as sacrifice for our sins. The traditional approaches, quite beautifully and powerfully, point out he died that we might live. Jesus sacrificed his own life as he was slaughtered by the powers of vindictive rulers. For centuries, Christians have explored the death of Jesus seeking to know and appreciate the meaning of his death. I would like to explore for a moment what motivated the execution of Jesus.

The various interpretations of the death of Jesus must not prevent us from exploring the motivations for the execution. Jesus came that we might have life. He gave of himself throughout his life. Much like the first responders and the health care professionals of today. They are willing to die in their pursuit of caring for people. This does not mean these heroic people seek to die. When we say, “Jesus gave us his life,” we mean he gave of himself throughout his life. He offered us his life in his every thought, word, and deed. No one needs to die to give of their life for the sake of others.

But sometimes it happens that such people who give of themselves are rejected, scorned, and threatened because they said or did something that upset the religious and political establishments. I think of the Navy Captain who put his status on the line for the sake of infected sailors. I think of doctors and nurses who speak the truth about their lack of supplies. I think of governmental and religious leaders who confront the politics of greed and self-centeredness. I think of Jesus who demanded that the Kingdom of God belonged to the poor and despised of this World.

Sometimes one suffers because they did something right. People are scorned for defending the poor and disenfranchised against the powerful and greedy. Doctors and nurses are called thieves because they point out the failures of government. Jesus was executed because he believed his homeland should be free to live in peace, the poor were precious in the sight of God, and salvation was not simply a next life hope but this life reality. For speaking truth to power, Jesus was executed, crucified, rejected, and scorned.

Anyone who speaks truth to power, walks in the footsteps of Jesus no matter who they are or what religion they practice. Jesus recognized that what truly mattered was not himself but the well-being of those who had no one to care for them. Pope Paul VI reminded us of the children, women, and men “outside” the Church who often live the Gospel better than those of us who claim membership.

From a Christian perspective, Jesus is risen in all those who work in the service of others. Truck drivers delivering our food, grocery clerks, nurses, doctors, caregivers of every type now each and every day put their lives on the line that we might live. Light a candle in their honor, say a pray for their well-being, reach out in any way you can to encourage another. Be inspired and transformed by those who came to serve rather than be served. —Fr. Tom Bonacci, CP of Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center

**Song for Good Friday Meditation**

Here is a song and video for today. ‘Now We Remain’ by David Haas. Click on this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zd3lShuZNmU

**Good Friday Reflection**

How did the disciples feel while witnessing all that Jesus endured? What was Mary feeling as she watched her precious son endure the unimaginable? Their teacher, their inspiration, their son, brother and friend had been taken away, falsely condemned, then brutally tortured and crucified before their very eyes as they stood by, completely terrified and helpless. Their sense of stability was suddenly uprooted and their sense of normalcy taken away from them. They had no conscious understanding of the Resurrection that would take place or what the future would bring for them. In that moment it was real, it was tragic, it was over! Jesus would soon be taken down from the cross, placed into a cold, dark tomb and it would seem that all hope was gone and the future desperately bleak and uncertain.

Perhaps we are currently experiencing our own versions of “Good Friday.” We have been mandated to take shelter in our homes—our own “tombs” if you will—and for many it’s very challenging, uncertain and uncomfortable. While our tombs aren’t necessarily cold or dark and hewn out of stone, perhaps our vision or expectations of what’s to come may be dark, clouded or disconcerting. We have been mandated to shelter-in-place. Our freedom to move about freely has been severely limited, and we have been physically cut off from friends and family because of fear and out of love and concern for the welfare of each other’s health.

While we will never know what truly took place within the quiet, isolated darkness of that rock-hewn tomb over 2,000 years ago, we do know, in hindsight, that something pretty extraordinary happened. A major transformation took place—one that would change the course of history and humankind!

It could be now—in this year, 2020 A.D.—that we are each encountering emotional and spiritual transformations while forced to be isolated in our own “tombs.” It is my sincere hope (as I believe it is the hope of many) that these transformations we are currently undergoing—both as individuals and as a global community—will change the course of history and of humankind in new and inspiring ways!

And when that day comes when we are allowed to “resurrect” from our current “tombs,” may we rise with tremendous gratitude, audacious hope, and a new level
of conscious understanding that we cannot go back to the way things were before. So many of those things were not working for our highest good and in the ways which God created us to live—in communion with one another as beloved brothers and sisters.

We, as a human race, have strayed far away from our innate abilities to love and care for one another, and to love and care for our planet and all of the life forms who inhabit her. Maybe we can look at our current global crisis as an invitation to go back into our center, to sit quietly within our hearts and minds, and take this unexpected opportunity to reexamine our lives, our purpose, and our personal and collective mission—that mission being to live by the empathetic foundation of the Golden Rule—“do to others as you would have them do to you”.

As we deal with this global pandemic, we must wait a little longer for that glorious day of deliverance. In the meantime, may these following words be our prayer and a source of comfort in what is, and hope in what is to come:

O God, our one true Source and Creator, help us to feel your presence in every situation and in every moment of our lives, especially the most challenging. Help us find time to quiet our hearts and minds enough to hear your voice, allowing your encouragement to make us bold in our love and concern for one another, and may your wisdom renew our spirits.

Give us the desire to go out into our world and act with your message in our hearts, hoping and believing that one day goodness will prevail, that light will overtake the darkness in our world, and every heart will know true peace.

With hope, and in gratitude. we pray. Amen

—Denise Comb-Youseff
Resurrection Parish, Santa Rosa, CA

For all the human family: that God will deliver us from the Covid-19 virus, keep safe all who are vulnerable to the disease, and protect all healthcare workers who are serving those who are ill. We pray...

For our community, that even as we stay apart, we may care and pray for each other. We pray...

For people bored and lonely at home, that they may have God’s gifts of courage and perseverance. We pray...

For all who are ill, particularly those with the Covid-19 virus: that God’s healing Spirit will ease their suffering, free them from the virus, and restore them to full health. We pray...

For those who work on the frontline of healthcare, that they may be preserved safe from every danger; and for all scientists and researchers: that God will guide and inspire their work as they seek to relieve the suffering of the sick and to develop new vaccines and treatments. We pray...

For leaders of government and business: that through the example of Jesus, they may recognize how to be servant leaders and give priority to the needs of the most vulnerable. We pray...

For all who have been furloughed, laid-off or become unemployed: that God will quickly end the virus, open new opportunities for them, and help them find the assistance they need to sustain themselves and their families. We pray...

For all who are grieving: that God will comfort them, bring supportive people to accompany them, and fill their hearts with peace. We pray...

For all who have died, particularly those who had Covid-19: that they may live forever in the peace and joy of God’s presence. We pray...

For all those born today and this Holy Week: May only goodness, kindness and love follow them the rest of their days. We pray...

Loving God, You accepted the offering of Your Son for our sins. Now we place before You all these intentions and those in our hearts, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

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, click on this link: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/events/month.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.

Celebrate the Triduum Online
Musician and song writer Dan Schutte has put together songs for the celebration of the Triduum. Click on: https://www.danschuttemusic.com/wordpresstore/easter-triduum/