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. 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
*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 26, 2020 — Third Sunday of Easter

On the Road
One central metaphor employed to describe the Christian life is a journey. In today’s second reading, Peter addresses the early Christian community: “Conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning.” When we think of a journey, we normally think of some kind of movement from point A to point B. The Christian journey, begun in the waters of baptism (point A) has as its ultimate destination eternal life with God in heaven (point B). Unfortunately, we find ourselves on all kinds of detours along the way. Because of our humanness and sin, we make foolish turns and sometimes seem unable to detect the presence of the Lord. Today’s story of the two disciples on their way to Emmaus illustrates for us the fact that, even when we are dejected or on one of our many detours, the Lord is there, walking right beside us.

Finding God in Broken Things
The two disciples were having trouble, as many of us still do today, finding the presence of God in broken things. The body of their Lord had been broken on a cross. They were confused at the broken seal on the tomb—not yet understanding what this meant. Their dreams of the reign of God that Jesus had preached were broken, too. Luke tells us they were “downcast.” But as they continued on their journey with the unrecognized traveler, his sharing of the scriptures inspired them to keep him as companion, and at their table he became the host. Then grace was present, known, seen, and believed in the broken bread. Their joy overcame their fear, and they sped to Jerusalem to share their good news.
The Chaplet of Divine Mercy in Song
Recorded at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA, get your Rosary out to listen, sing and pray along with this beautiful 21-minute devotion: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5TGfsOKMM
Or, if you’d like captions, the same recording is at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSVvBQtSsFM

God, We Need You
Great Mystery, Holy One,
I ask that our awareness of your presence and love increase in our hearts and minds.
I pray that You would envelope us like a gentle breeze and whisper your deep care for us.
I thank you for your provision for our physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.
May we be surprised by glimpses of glory in the ordinary things, and help us to listen for the next right thing that you are trying to teach us, or have us do.
Give us this day our daily bread and insight. Comfort our weary hearts.
Protect those who are serving our community through the essential jobs.
Uphold those who have been thrust into grief and are unable to be with others.
Spirit, fill the ache and heal those who are sick.
God, we need you. Every hour, we need you.
Help us to enter in and find that you are waiting right there to meet us in our need. Amen.
—Mindy, Interim Director of the Journey Center

Prayer Intentions
Please keep the sick in your prayers: Gail Barrett, Chris Borr, Bud Cappa, John Cordero, Lola Danielli, Don D’Ambroga, Patricia Daniels, Fr. Aaron DePeyster, Fran Dias, Fran Evans, Charles Fulger, Frank Gyorgy, Yvonne Hanlon, Mary Jo Henrikson, Benita Jeppson, Maureen Latimer, Charles Marchese, Shirley Marelli, Diana Martinez-Bleth, Liz Mullins, Lea Nelson, Peggy Pavone, Joel Rivera, Phyllis Rogers, Angela Saul, Fr. David Shaw, Darlene Speer, Bart Taylor, Mercedes Vegvary, Claire Vincent, William Wallace, and Dolores Zeni.
Please also pray for those who have died: Patricia Allen, John (Jack) Collins, Msgr. Gerard Fahey, and Norrine McMichael.
World Day of Prayer for Vocations—May 3rd

Even when Mass is cancelled, God is still calling. When youth groups can’t meet, God is still calling. When Catholic schools are closed, God is still calling. When college students are stuck at home, God is still calling.

In the hardest, strangest times, God is still calling.

During this pandemic, God is still calling young people to the priesthood and religious life. How can you help them hear the call?

Seminarians need our prayers.

“These last four years have been incredible, but they haven’t been easy.” That’s how one seminarian from the Midwest, now preparing for ordination, described his time in seminary.

“The academics are tough, sure. But for me—and I think for most of the other guys—the hardest part is abandoning yourself to formation, to admit there’s stuff you need to work on personally and to put a hundred percent into growing in virtue.” He laughs, “Thankfully, seminary formation works! When I visit home, my brothers say I’ve lost my edge on Xbox, but I can tell I’ve become a stronger Catholic man… Honestly, my classmates and I are just eager to be ordained, get into the parish, and start bringing Jesus to people.”

Because we Catholics care so deeply about the quality of our priests, we need to redouble our prayers for seminarians. They are striving to be faithful to daily prayer, discern the gift of celibacy, serve part-time in hospitals and schools—all while doing master’s level coursework. On World Day of Prayer for Vocations next Sunday, please pray for all seminarians.

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 27–May 3: Tom Beirne, May 4-10: Pat Barclay, May 11-17: Drew Hofmann. Please wear protective gloves for your safety.

NEWS OUTSIDE THE PARISH

Station 3990—Disaster Relief Program

The Redwood Empire Food Bank typically operates 11 direct service programs. These programs include School Pantry, Senior Basket, and Groceries to Go. However, in times of crisis, we add a vital program to our operation. This program is called Station 3990!

The Redwood Empire Food Bank launches Station 3990 when the need for food is generated by a disaster, and we are no stranger to disaster. However, COVID-19 is unlike anything we’ve experienced in the past. It is driving thousands of people to the Redwood Empire Food Bank’s doorstep—it is affecting everyone.

Your donations are vital to keep Station 3990 activated. With this activation comes necessary resources: food, transportation, logistics, and staffing. All of this comes at a high cost. You can help! Every dollar donated makes an incredible difference. Checks can be mailed to:

REFB, 3990 Brickway Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

Novena to End the Coronavirus Pandemic

To be prayed for nine consecutive days:

O Mary, full of grace, patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of worldwide illness we ask your intercession for the human family before your Son’s throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. We pray for all who have lost jobs or security in this time. May your Son watch over all who are sick and their caregivers, bring to heaven all who have died, and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure to the coronavirus.

(Mention your own intention.)

St. Damien of Molokai, minister to lepers, pray for us
St. Anthony the Great, who healed infectious diseases, pray for us
St. Edmund, patron of victims of pandemics, pray for us
St. Rocco, protector against epidemics, pray for us
St. Frances Cabrini, foundress of hospitals, pray for us
St. Agatha, patron of nurses, pray for us
St. Luke, patron of doctors, pray for us
St. Joseph, patron of the dying, pray for us
Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence in the tender compassion of our God. Calm our fears and help us to trust in the Divine Physician. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Novenas

Novenas are an ancient tradition of prayer in times of great need. The practice traces its origin to when the apostles prayed for nine days between the Ascension of Jesus and the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

The rosary, too, is a powerful intercessory tool. If you find yourself with more time than usual during times of social distancing, you can spiritually join with millions of Catholics by praying the rosary for worldwide healing.

Update: Offerings Needed

It is no longer necessary to hold onto your weekly donations and offertory envelopes. Our Collections Counting Team members are willing to resume their positions to complete the counting and depositing of offerings sent in the mail, while observing social distancing and wearing protective face masks and gloves.

Since the “shut down” has extended well beyond our original expectations, and we don’t know how long the current shelter-in-place will last, we now encourage the mailing in and/or dropping off of your monetary offerings to Star of the Valley, if you are able to without causing a hardship for yourselves.

Please enclose your check (and offertory envelopes if you have them) into a plain envelope before mailing them to: Star of the Valley Parish, 495 White Oak Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409. Or, you may drop them into the locked mailbox outside the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center.

TGIF

Q: What day is it? A: Friday!
Q: What are we doing? A: Going out!
Q: And where are we going? A: To the patio!
Fruit of the Spirit

Charity (Love)
Jesus has told us, “Love one another as I have loved you.” When we love God and others it is then, and only then, that we fully understand St. Paul when he said, “God is love.” What are ways that I can emulate Jesus’ commandment to love? (John 15:9-17; Mark 12:28-34)

Joy
Gloom and doom are not the way of the followers of Jesus. Throughout the history of humanity with God we are constantly reminded that joy is the result of that relationship. At Jesus’ birth the first thing we hear is the angels announcing joy to the whole earth. This is a joy that transcends mere happiness. It endures through all times of trial and desperation. In what kinds of experiences have you found the joy of the Spirit? (Psalm 33:1-11, 20-22; John 17:1-23; Romans 14:17-18; 1 Peter 3:9)

Peace
We normally think of peace as being without stress. Peace for a Christian was described by St. Augustine of Hippo as “the tranquility of order.” Peace, he said, is three-fold: “Peace with God,” the spiritual order; “peace on earth,” the relational order; and “the peace of God,” the psychological order. True peace is ultimately knowing in our deepest self that God is the one who is truly in control. What is the relationship between prayer and the peace of God? (Romans 5:1-8; 12:16-21; Philippians 4:4-9)

Patience
Our lives are frequently full of stressful and trying situations. In spite of this, we are called to patience in the same way our God has been patient with us throughout the history of salvation. God calls us to follow Jesus who is the living example of God’s desire for us to be patient with one another. Is there somebody in your life right now with whom you need to show patience? (Matthew 18:21-35; Colossians 3:12-14)

Kindness
In realizing that God has first lavished loving kindness on us through Christ, it is clear that we must follow in kind. In the practice of kindness, we find sympathy, benevolence, and empathy. This, in turn, will lead us to a preferential option for the poor. In what ways are grace and kindness intertwined? (2 Samuel 9; Ephesians 2:4-7)

Faithfulness
Human faithfulness is never secure. And though we may never see God as we see one another, faithfulness to God is never broken and never without its” rewards of joy, peace and eternal life. Why is faithfulness an important part of a spiritual life? (Lamentations 3:19-25; Matthew 25:14-30)

Goodness
A man asked Jesus, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answered, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.” (Mark 10:17-18). When we think of goodness; we must always remember that the standard for goodness is never measured from the human perspective. Our reference point must always be centered on God. Can you name a trying time when you were able to stay centered on God who is the source of all goodness? (Romans 7:18-20; 12:9, 21)

Gentleness
When we think of gentleness we think of kind, easy going, peaceful actions. As a Christian, being gentle is important since we want to imitate Christ’s actions which were gentle and humble in heart. How can your gentleness toward your neighbor lead to inner peace and extend to the greater community? (Matthew 11: 28-30, James 3:13-18)

Modesty
All glitter and no substance is not the way of the Christian. We are not to exalt ourselves only to be humbled. In our modesty, Christ will bring forth our virtues for all to see as he wishes. Am I modest enough to allow the Spirit to shine through? (Luke 14:7-14)

Generosity
We have all heard, “God’s generosity knows no bounds.” If we are to be more God-like, then we need to extend ourselves as God does. If all people practiced true Christian generosity, not a single person would be left wanting, anywhere in the world. How can we be more generous with our time, talent and treasure to help our parish, local community and the community of humanity? (Matthew 20:1-15)

Self-control
Those who go to extremes are seldom those we choose for role models. Self-control allows us to stay on the path of true holiness without getting side tracked. Self-control gives us the ability to stay the course to accomplish the task Jesus lays before us. What positive examples of self-control come to mind and where are we in most need of self-control? (2 Timothy 1:6-7; 2 Peter 1:3-8)

Chastity
The pure of heart are those who will see God. We are called to be chaste in all our relationships: married, unmarried, friends and acquaintances. Chastity is more of a way of being and relating to others than simple actions. Chastity is definitely an unpopular virtue to practice in a culture of immediate gratification. What are concrete things I can do to continually develop the virtue of Chastity in a basically non-Christian culture? (Matthew 5:1-12)