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.

May 3, 2020—Fourth Sunday of Easter

The shepherd calls
His sheep by name

The Call of the Good Shepherd
The Twenty-third Psalm, today’s responsorial psalm, is arguably the best known of all the psalms. The line that reads “Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage” (Psalm 23:4) connects this week’s scriptures to the wonderful story of the road to Emmaus, which we heard last week. The Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is constantly at our side. He calls us each by name, beckoning us into a deeper relationship with him. That call, issued to each of us at the moment of our baptism, carries with it the promise of the Good Shepherd: “I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

Called By Name
In today’s Gospel we hear the Lord Jesus tell his followers that sheep learn to recognize the voice of the shepherd. They will not follow a stranger’s voice. In the Rite of Baptism, the very first question put to the parents is, “What name do you give your child?” And just before the words “I baptize you…” the priest or deacon calls the one to be baptized by name. In a sense, we learn to hear our name called by God from the moment of our rebirth in the waters of baptism. This is the root of all vocational calls, whether to marriage, holy orders, or the consecrated life. On a day when we remember that Jesus is our caring shepherd, let us listen once again to the Lord calling us each by name into loving service.
Sunday, May 3rd Readings

Reading I: Acts 2:14a, 36-41—All peoples called by God will receive the gift of the Spirit if they repent and are baptized.

Psalm: Psalm 23—The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Reading II: 1 Peter 2:20b-25—Once we were like straying sheep; but now we have been returned to the shepherd, our guardian.

Gospel: John 10: 1-10—The shepherd leads the sheep out into pastures of abundant life.

4th Sunday of Easter 2020

John portrays Jesus as the Good Shepherd in today’s Gospel. He describes our intimate relationship with him. Jesus calls each one of us by name. Each one of us recognizes his voice and follows him.

Let’s take a look at our relationship with the Good Shepherd.

Let’s look at Jesus first:
- He knows us.
- He loves us.
- He gives us life.
- He feeds us.
- He leads us.
- He protects us.

Let’s look at ourselves:
- We know his voice.
- We listen to him.
- We stay close to him.
- We feel safe around him.
- We follow him, no matter where he leads us.
- We trust him.

Let’s look at our relationship with Jesus:
- Our relationship with Jesus is so special that it transforms us. We become almost one with the Good Shepherd and he with us.
- When people hear our voices, our voices will never be ones that lie, seduce, or mislead. They will be voices that speak the truth, express love, comfort, and encouragement.
- When people see us reaching out in love for one another, they will encounter the Good Shepherd.

A Story—A Prisoner of War

Auschwitz was not yet a killing ground for Jews, but a place for criminals and enemies and critics of the Nazi regime. Many priests were there. The prisoners lived in a two-story barracks with eight hundred other prisoners. They were sent out daily to build more barracks. The Nazis treated the prisoners cruelly, saving their special hatred and punishments for priests.

Whenever a prisoner escaped, all the others had to stand in the sun for days with their hands on their heads. After a second escape, ten prisoners were machine-gunned. After a third escape, one hundred prisoners from the barracks were forced to stand in rows. Ten of them would die.

The camp commander ordered each row, one after another, to step forward. He then began a random selection of prisoners until he picked ten. On one day in July of 1941 the camp commander had selected six men. When he chose the sixth man, the man broke down sobbing. “My wife, my children! Who will take care of them?” Suddenly a prisoner from the sixth row spoke up. He turned to the commander and said, “I will take the place of this man with the wife and children.”

There was something serene and remarkable about the volunteer’s demeanor. The commander, however, was not impressed. “You must be one of those vermin priests,” he snarled. But he accepted him as one of the ten. All ten, this volunteer and the nine others, were locked in a bunker to starve to death.

The man, who volunteered, was indeed a priest. But he wasn’t just any priest. He was the well-known Franciscan Father Maximilian Kolbe of Poland.

When the guards were out of earshot, the prisoners swapped information with one another about the fate of those ten men in the bunker starving to death. It turned out that Kolbe was leading the doomed men in prayer and hymns. A piece of bread had been smuggled in to be used in a Mass.

After three weeks, all the men had died except Kolbe, who was near death. The Nazis, impatient to use the bunker to punish others, had a doctor inject poison into Kolbe to finish him off.


When we follow the Good Shepherd, speak with his voice and love as he loves, we too become Good Shepherds like Maximilian Kolbe, and we have life and have it more abundantly.

Happy Anniversary Monsignor!

April 29 was the 53rd anniversary of Msgr. James Pulskamp’s ordination to the priesthood.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations—May 3rd

Please pray for seminarians, those called to the priesthood, and those called to religious life.

Prayer Intentions

Please keep the sick in your prayers: Gail Barrett, Chris Bor, 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, Bart Taylor, Mercedes Vegvary, Claire Vincent, William Wallace, and Dolores Zeni.

Please also pray for those who have died: Patricia Allen, John (Jack) Collins, Norrine McMichael, and Robert Murray.
I Give What I Have
I heard a report the other day that touched my heart. The report observed that many people were feeling frustration. This is completely understandable when you consider all the restrictions that are now in place. Something so simple as grocery shopping has turned into a potential life-threatening situation. Some necessities are in short supply, entertainment is closed, larger family gatherings are dangerous, and even places of worship are closed. No wonder so many feel frustrations. But the report was not about the inconveniences or limitations that seem so obvious. Many people are expressing their frustration that they could not do more to help others who were suffering. I was deeply moved.

We easily become aware of our limitations in times of crisis. We wish we could do more to help. Research has shown that people frequently imagine themselves in the profession that is needed most in times of upheaval. I remember, for example, when my grandmother’s house burned to the ground. Not only did I want to be a firefighter, I even imagined that I was one. The little boy simply wanted to help. Pause and think for a moment of the times in your life you wished you could do what helps most. Here is where we find our sense of compassion, our empathy and care for someone who is hurting or in need.

Sometimes it happens that people confuse limitations (powerlessness) with shortcomings (faults). We can feel a sense of guilt when we can’t do more. Nonetheless, both these feelings testify to our growing consciousness and our desire to be and do the best we can.

St. Peter, in the Acts of Apostles 3:1-10, experienced his own sense of limitation. He realized he had nothing to give the poor crippled man who was begging for help. Peter had no silver, no gold. He had nothing that would benefit his poor friend except for the treasure in his heart. In Acts of the Apostles 3:6, Peter says, “What I do have, I give you!” Peter blessed the man in the name of Jesus. He could rise up and walk. Peter transcended his limitations and even his shortcomings. There is a profound invitation here. Whenever we feel limited, powerless, failed, or weak, it is an invitation to seek out what we do have. Never be hesitant to give what you do have in the treasure chest of your heart.

Sometimes when you have nothing to give, no gold, no silver, no talents, no gift, give the greatest gift of all—yourself. Peter gave what he had, according to Acts of Apostles, at the gate called “Beautiful.” It is always a beautiful thing when we share who we are with others.

Thank you for being a beautiful people, a wonderful community, a generous person in the self-giving of yourself no matter what the limitations. Together let us make every day a time to do something beautiful for one another.

Be at peace, deep peace.
Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center

Point to Ponder
A positive attitude gives you power over your circumstances instead of your circumstances having power over you.

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Thank You
Thank you for mailing and delivering your offertory envelopes and donations. We appreciate you making up for lost Mass collections!

In case you didn’t know, 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 it looks like our shelter-in-place will be extended through the end of May, if not indefinitely, 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.

Parish Security Team Schedule
Thank you to our SOV volunteers for continuing the service of ensuring that our church and parish center are secure. May 4-10: Pat Barclay, May 11-17: Drew Hofmann, May 18-24: John Dolan. Please wear protective gloves for your safety.

Not Everything is Cancelled
sunshine is not cancelled
spring is not cancelled
love is not cancelled
relationships are not cancelled
imagination is not cancelled
kindness is not cancelled
devotion is not cancelled
dancing is not cancelled
reading is not cancelled
naps are not cancelled
music is not cancelled
hope is not cancelled

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Dear Friends,

You’ve been on my mind this month as we navigate the rapidly changing world around us. I pray you are healthy, safe, and supported. My colleagues and I have had the privilege of connecting with many of you over the past few weeks, and we thank you for your encouragement and support for our mission.

Caritas Village is on my mind too. Like recent wildfires, floods, and power shutoffs, the COVID-19 crisis has underscored the crucial importance of resources like Caritas Village to protect the most vulnerable among us.

While the crisis has put so much on hold for so many, bringing Caritas Village to life continues unimpeded. Despite the challenges we face, we need to keep going to bring this lifesaving resource on-line as quickly as possible. We’ve made great strides over the past two months.

The Santa Rosa City Council unanimously approved the project on March 3rd, we finalized our designs for Caritas Center, and our architects have begun construction drawings.

It must be acknowledged that our path to completing the capital campaign has gotten steeper in the face of the economic crisis the world is facing. We are pursuing institutional and government funding sources for Caritas Village as much as possible, and we are continuing to work behind the scenes on all the steps necessary to break ground later this year or early next year.

We also know that the community will continue to step up as it has already, and that those who can give, will. The campaign continues to seek and welcome contributions and we encourage you to help make this widely known. Just this week I heard from a woman named Francine who experienced a life-threatening event of paralysis and blindness, who needed our help paying rent while she recovered. “What a treasure to be able to return to my home after the hospital and acute rehab,” she wrote. “Thank you, Catholic Charities, you made a real difference in my life and you have my gratitude, His blessings, and for all creation.

Thank you for being a part of my life. I’d love to hear from you.

Rebecca Kendall,
Chief Development Officer
707-308-4797 (Office) rkendall@srcharities.org

May Crowning
This Thursday, May 7, at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Vasa, via the St. Eugene’s YouTube channel, will lead students, families and teachers in a special May Crowning to honor Mary, our Mother, and to give thanks to her for bringing our Savior into the world. This lovely devotional ceremony of prayer, song, and placing a crown of flowers on her statue is a favorite tradition. You may participate from home by clicking on this link: www.youtube.com/channel/UC2ueqwT5jZnglWxq0ENTP4Q

Saints for all Seasons
Six years ago, on April 27, Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II were both canonized. Commentators pointed out the apparent differences between these new saints: one known for his progressive outlook in convening Vatican II, one seen as upholding more traditional Catholic values. And yet their canonization was the perfect snapshot of what we believe the communion of saints to be—holy role models who are each unique unto themselves, demonstrating so many different ways to follow Christ. Ask John XXIII and John Paul II to pray for you today, requesting they guide your own distinct path to holiness.

ACTS: A Simple Way to Pray
The daily habit of prayer opens your heart to consolation from God. Daily personal prayer should be a staple for all Christians, but especially now, in these uncertain times. Whether you have five or fifty minutes, the ACTS method is a remarkable profound way to have a heart-to-heart encounter with Christ. Find a quiet place and talk with God in your own words, then repeat the practice daily.

A - Adoration—Praise God
In your own words, worship the Triune God. Fervently praise Him for His goodness and love!
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory! Isaiah 6:3

C - Contrition—Ask Forgiveness
Humbly acknowledge your sins and weakness. Abandon yourself to the merciful heart of Jesus.
Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out. Acts 3:19

T - Thanksgiving—Be Grateful
Let your heart overflow with gratitude to God for His grace, His blessings, and for all creation.
l will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1

S - Supplication—Seek Help
Pour out your needs and confidently ask for the help of our all-powerful and all-loving Father.

Public Notice
All public gatherings consisting of ten or more are prohibited.
Thursday, November 7th, 1918

Live the Gospel—Be the Gospel
God isn’t calling us to go to church,
He’s calling us to be His church.