

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 95409-5939*
*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.



July 18-19, 2020 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**The kingdom of heaven
is like a mustard seed**

The Mercy, Power, & Love of God

The first reading today, from the book of Wisdom, makes its point over and over, at least five times in five verses! God is mighty, but lenient to all. God's power is shown in kindness and clemency, not in harshness and condemnation,

and those who govern God's people must govern in the same way, with kindness. This loving kindness and gentleness is not contrary to God's might, but is a direct result of God's primacy over all. Who are we, then, to judge what is in the hearts of our fellow Christians and all people, when God commands justice with love and clemency?

Likewise, the Holy Spirit makes up for our ignorance of what we need, speaking in a language we do not yet understand. But God knows our needs before we do, understands the intercessions of the Spirit, and helps us in our weakness. This is our hope: God's mercy, power, and love.





Sunday, July 19 Readings

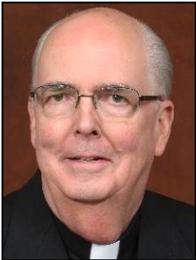
Reading I: *Wisdom 12:13, 16-19*—

God gives repentance for our sins.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 86*—Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Reading II: *Romans 8:26-27*—The Spirit intercedes for us.

Gospel: *Matthew 13:24-43*—Let the seeds grow together until harvest.



The Kingdom of Heaven

Today Jesus speaks about the kingdom of heaven. It is like a field where wheat grows alongside weeds. It is like a small seed that grows into a large bush. It is like yeast that leavens a large batch of dough. Today we will focus only on the first parable of the “Wheat and the Weeds.”

- In the Kingdom of God, good and evil grow together until harvest time.
 - Church: Saints and Sinners—Mixed Salad
 - Individual: Virtues and Vice—Mixed Salad
- This is how God deals with the wheat and the weeds, with the good and the evil.
 - Caring ■ Kind ■ Patient
 - Tolerant ■ Lenient ■ Forgiving
 All the while fostering our growth toward holiness.
- Should not God’s ways be ours in dealing with the good and bad in others and in ourselves?

Story I—The Dark Side of St. Jerome

Jerome was born to a well-to-do family and received a very fine education. He soon became fluent in both Latin and Greek.

Even at a young age, Jerome showed great energy and enthusiasm for what he wanted out of life. Unfortunately, though, he also had a very abrasive personality that showed itself in a confrontational style with others. He was stubborn and often alienated long-time friends.

One night, Jerome had a dream in which he was standing in front of the judgment seat of Christ. When Jesus asked him who he was, Jerome replied, “I am a Christian.” The answer from Jesus came quickly: “Liar! You are not what I would call a Christian.”

Deeply touched by this dream, Jerome withdrew to a desert to live a very austere life where he eventually became a monk. The task Jerome took on, and for which he is most famous for, was to translate the Bible from Hebrew and Aramaic into Latin and to write biblical commentaries.

At the same time, though, Jerome continued to make enemies because of his blunt outspoken nature and his sarcasm. He could cut a person to shreds with this cruel tongue.

Despite his obnoxious personality that never was tamed, St. Jerome continued to study and write and pray.

St. Jerome was a blend of wheat and weeds. The weeds were, apparently, just as hardy at the end of his

life as they were when he was a young man. However, his wheat, his virtue grew stronger than his weeds, his dark side. Jerome became a leading light of the Church. He was proclaimed a “Doctor” of the Church because of his exquisite writings.

Conclusion

If you and I look at ourselves, we too are a blend of wheat and weeds, just like St. Jerome. Some people around us we probably label weeds, some wheat. Apparently, we will just have to get used to this arrangement. Let’s not waste time in judging one another, however. God is the judge now and will be at the end of time. He will separate the weeds and the wheat, the good from the evil. I’m sure he will be just as loving and forgiving of us at the end of time, as he is with us now.

Story II—The Cars of Heaven

Three men died and went to heaven. Upon their arrival, St. Peter asked the first if he had been faithful to his wife. The man admitted to two affairs during his marriage. St. Peter told him that he could receive only a compact car to drive in heaven.

Then St. Peter asked the second man if he had been faithful to his wife, and the man admitted to one affair. St. Peter told him that he would be given a mid-size car to drive.

The third man was asked about his faithfulness, and he told St. Peter he had been true to his wife until the day he died. St. Peter praised him and gave him a luxury car.

A week later the three men were driving around, and they all stopped at a red light. The men in the compact and the mid-size cars turned to see the man in the luxury car crying. They asked him what could possibly be the matter. After all, he was driving a luxury car. “I just passed my wife,” he told them, “and she was on a skateboard!”

Oh, what a loving, patient, forgiving God we have! In only we could be so loving.



Go to our parish website www.starofthevalley.org, and click on **VIEW MASS** on the top menu bar. All the recorded Masses will appear. Click on the current weekend Mass. Be sure to click on the red **SUBSCRIBE** button, which costs nothing and will give us video enhancement tools if we get enough subscribers.

You can also watch the Mass by going directly to YouTube (using any device with an internet connection):

- ▶ On the internet, log on to <https://www.youtube.com>
- ▶ In the Search field type in **Star of the Valley Parish Santa Rosa CA** and press **Enter**
- ▶ Click on either the photo of our Resurrection Cross, or the name **Star of the Valley Parish Santa Rosa CA**
- ▶ Click on the video of the Mass.

Support our efforts: Click on the red **SUBSCRIBE** button.



Follow Along with Monsignor's YouTube Mass for July 19

New each week! Attached to this email (and in the Bulletins section of our website) you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **July 19th** Mass. You can print them out by opening the 2020-07-19 **Mass Responses.pdf** file.

Prayer Intentions

Pray for the sick: Gail Barrett, Bud Cappa, John Cordero, Lola Danielli, Patricia Daniels, Fr. Aaron DePeyster, Fran Dias, Fran Evans, Charles Fulger, Frank Gyorgy, Yvonne Hanlon, Mary Jo Henrikson, Trula La Calle, Maureen Latimer, Charles Marchese, Shirley Marelli, Roberta McElroy, Liz Mullins, Lea Nelson, Peggy Pavone, Richard Peterson, Joel Rivera, Phyllis Rogers, Angela Saul, Fr. David Shaw, Bart Taylor, Mercedes Vegvary, Claire Vincent, William Wallace, and Dolores Zeni.

Also pray for those who have died: Don D'Ambrogia, Margaret Focha, and Christina Sweeney.

Sunday's Mass Intention

The intention for this weekend's Mass is for the repose of the soul of **John Passalacqua** (requested by Joey Cuneo.)

DONATE HERE



Online Giving Is Here!

Online giving is now a live option for Star of the

Valley parishioners and supporters. If you would like to check out our new online giving option, visit our parish website at www.starofthevalley.org, and in the menu at the top click on [DONATE HERE](#). For a brief tutorial video, at the bottom of the donation screen, click on [Need help?](#) and then choose the video for online giving. We hope this way of donating to the parish will make it more convenient for you. Please let Anna, in the office, know if you need further assistance.

Collection Report—March thru June 2020

This is a special report comparing collections during the past four months of the pandemic to what was received last year during the same four-month period.

While collection revenue is down, as expected, due to the church being closed since March, we are very appreciative for the continued financial support we have been receiving from so many of you. Your contributions, during this chaotic time, allows Star of the Valley to continue providing spiritual support to our parishioners even if in a modified format. Thank you!

Mar-June 2020	Mar-June 2019	4-Months Goal 2019-20
\$77,130	\$111,563	\$119,068

Note: The monthly collection amounts are Ordinary Parish Revenue consisting of First-Plate collections, Parish Repair & Maintenance, and Holy Day collections received in the named month.

Each day comes bearing its own gifts—untie the ribbon.

Exciting News from the Pastoral Council

We are diligently working on a plan to set up a Zoom meeting for all interested parishioners. Father Patrick Leslie has volunteered to host these meetings. Our first step is for you to think about the following three questions that will be the topic for our meeting discussion.

1. What is a challenge you face during this pandemic?
2. Has there been an unexpected blessing during the pandemic?
3. Is there any religious practice that is helping you stay connected with God and your faith?

The time frame for the Zoom meetings will be on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. Stay tuned for further details on how and when we will start.



BIG EVENT Dinner Cancellation Procedures

It will be the responsibility of the person who made the original dinner reservations to contact their tablemates to ask how they would like us to handle their \$30 payment: donation or refund requests.

There are cases where we do not have mailing addresses for those with dinner reservations. *If*, for instance, you paid for a table of 8 people and the reservation is in your name, we need your help contacting your dinner tablemates to see if they wish to donate their dinner payment to the parish, or receive a refund. You will need to let us know and provide us their addresses so that we can make sure they receive the donation letter and/or a refund.

Procedure for donation of, or requesting a refund of \$30 dinner payments for the cancelled 3rd Annual St. Patrick's BIG EVENT Dinner:

☘ **Donation:** If you are donating your \$30 dinner payment to the parish, thank you. You don't need to do anything. We will consider it a donation as of August 1st, 2020 and it will be reflected on your annual 2020 contribution statement from the parish if you are a parishioner. If you are a non-parishioner, you will receive an acknowledgement of your tax-deductible donation later this year. Be sure we have your current mailing address.

☘ **Request Refund:** Refund requests are due **July 30, 2020**, by calling, texting, or emailing Linda Nolet at 469-774-6306 or LN11@att.net. A check will be mailed to you, so, please leave your current address and phone number when making the request.

Once again, the 3rd Annual St. Patrick's BIG EVENT committee is grateful for your participation in the 2020 FUNdraiser!

Parish Security Team Schedule

Thank you to our SOV volunteers for continuing the service of ensuring that our church and parish center are secure. **July 20-26:** Mike Apicella, **July 27–August 2:** Dennis Ciecko, **August 3-9:** Frank Donovan, **August 10-16:** Jennifer Willwerth. If you cannot fulfill your service week, contact Jim Warman at 707-230-2682.

NEWS OUTSIDE THE PARISH

Celebrate St. Ignatius Day on ZOOM

Tune in on Saturday, **July 25th** from 10:00–11:00 a.m. to help us celebrate St. Ignatius Day. Join us on this Zoom talk entitled “**Adjusting Our Spirituality to the ‘New Normal.’**” Adapt familiar spiritual practices that may help strengthen your connection to God and others in this time of pandemic. May you leave with a deeper commitment to prayer, holiness, and service. Please register [HERE](#) and we’ll send you a Zoom link before that Saturday. The fee is \$15 for the event.

—The Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos

Patience

What comes to mind when you think about the word patience? I’ve found myself exploring what it means to me lately.

As Henri Nouwen wrote in his 1982 book *Compassion*, “The words com-passion and patience both find their roots in the Latin word *pati*, which means suffering... If we cannot be patient, we cannot become com-patient. If we ourselves are unable to suffer, we cannot suffer with others. If we lack the strength to carry the burden of our own lives, we cannot accept the burden of our neighbors.”

Nouwen goes on to write, “Patience means to enter actively into the thick of life and to fully bear the suffering within and around us. Patience means stopping on the road when someone in pain needs immediate attention.” (Nouwen, McNeill, & Morrison, 1982)

These words seem especially relevant right now, as we face daily opportunities to fully bear the suffering within and around us. You, our cherished supporters, bravely choose to live out Nouwen’s writings by sharing the compassion you’ve discovered deep within yourself with our most vulnerable neighbors.

Most of all, you take powerful action rather than succumb to passivity or complacency. In these uncertain times, the urge to close our eyes to suffering can feel overwhelming. Instead, you continuously keep the vulnerable among us warm, fed, and loved.

I pray that God would give each of us strength to carry the burden of our own lives, and to share the burden of our neighbors.

—Rebecca Kendall

Chief Development Officer, Catholic Charities

Memorial of Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin—July 14 Indigenous Help to Heal the World

Kateri Tekakwitha—born Mohawk and Algonquin in 1656, canonized in 2012—is a fitting intercessor for coronavirus, though she is actually, the patron saint of ecology. Losing her family to the same smallpox epidemic that left her disfigured and half blind, Kateri knew firsthand the suffering wrought by disease. Perhaps her empathy helps account for so many miraculous healings attributed to her to this day.

But Kateri’s love of the earth may also inspire our continued care of the environment, which has seen healing of its own during human quarantine. Kateri, pray for us on all fronts!



Catholic Charities Online Disaster Preparedness July Workshops

We’ll help you get prepared. Our team serves and educates vulnerable

population groups in Sonoma and Napa counties by empowering our community and raising awareness of many potential disasters California could face.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa has partnered with [LISTOS California](#), an initiative anchored from Governor Gavin Newsom and state lawmakers. This campaign is a new effort to boost disaster preparedness by engaging over one million of the most vulnerable Californians and connecting them with culturally and linguistically competent support.

Catholic Charities encourages those we serve to follow **5 basic steps to prepare** themselves and their families for when a disaster strikes.

- **Get Alerts** to know what to do
- **Make a Plan** to protect your people
- **Pack a Go Bag** with things you need
- **Build a Stay Box** for when you can’t leave
- **Help Friends and Neighbors** get ready

All are welcome to **join us for a free training**. Individuals and organizations can contact us to set up a training custom designed to meet your needs.

Live Curriculum Available:

- 1 Disaster Aware:** Fifteen minutes or less
- 2 Disaster Ready:** One Hour Training
- 3 Listos Program, CERT, Fire Safe Council:** Eight+ hours

To join the Zoom meeting and attend the online training at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, click on: [Disaster Preparedness ZOOM Workshop](#).



Meeting ID is: 878 3290 8688 or call this phone number: 1-669-900-9128.

To download a 19-page Disaster Ready Guide, click on [Disaster Ready Guide](#), or to get more information go to, or click on www.srcharities.org/prepare/.

This Is My Song/To hear this song click on [Finlandia](#).

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine;
this is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine:
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine:
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

May truth and freedom come to every nation;
may peace abound where strife has raged so long;
that each may seek to love and build together,
a world united, righting every wrong;
a world united in its love for freedom,
proclaiming peace together in one song.