

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.



August 1-2, 2020 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



They All Ate & Were Satisfied

Jesus fed the five thousand men, “not counting women and children.” We can assume, since women were among his most faithful followers and they tend to bring their children with them everywhere, that the women and children outnumbered the men—a vast crowd indeed! Yet, how were they fed with five loaves and two fish? Matthew notes that first, “Jesus said the blessing.” He gave thanks to God for what was given: an act of thanksgiving that is always transformative. This act of praise and thanksgiving transforms our bread into his body and blood, and conforms us to Christ for the life of the world. The desire for God is a gift that reflects God’s desire for us. It doesn’t matter if we feel that our prayer is ineffective, or if we are comforted or not by our images of God. God is working in us by the gift of that desire, and our will to respond is our consent to God’s call. Come to the water: come to the feast!



Sunday, August 2 Readings

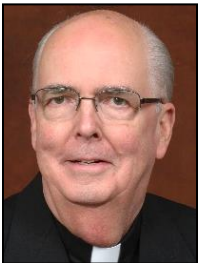
Reading I: *Isaiah 55:1-3*—Come to the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 145*—The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Reading II: *Romans 8:35, 37-39*—

Nothing can separate us from God's love.

Gospel: *Matthew 14:13-21*—The people ate and were satisfied.



Compassion

The antiphon of today's responsorial psalm after the first reading sets the theme for this Sunday's readings.

The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Each reading reminds us of God's tremendous compassion for us.

Isaiah:

- *All you who are thirsty, come to the water!*
- *You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat.*

Psalms 145:

- *The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.*

Matthew:

- *When he disembarked from the boat and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with compassion for them and he cured their sick.*
- *He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied.*

In the reading from Romans we hear that God's love and our love are intertwined. When we love, God loves. St. Paul tells us "*I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" When we are compassionate, God is compassionate.

In the Gospel, Christ looked out at the crowd and was motivated to meet their needs. Christ looks out upon the crowd that surrounds us today. He still sees the sick, the hungry and those in need of money. He also sees a nation struggling with Covid-19, racial inequality, and violence. He strongly urges us to not just stand idly by, but to do something. He tells us to be compassionate, as he is compassionate.

I encourage all of us to come up with specific compassionate things that we can do for people in the crowd who are in need.

- Contribute to and participate in Catholic Charities programs.
- Volunteer at or contribute to a local food bank.
- If you can, help someone who is hurting financially.
- Shelter in place.

- Avoid crowds.
- Wear a face covering.
- Keep a safe distance from other people.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Call a person who is sheltering in place.
- Check yourself for racial biases, even subtle ones, and drop them.
- Interact with all people, all the time, in a nonviolent way.

A Story: Mary Brenner

Ten years ago, Mary Brenner was a forty-eight-year old divorced mother of seven children. She worked in Beverly Hills and owned a carbon paper manufacturing company. She dealt with all the movie stars. She went to their parties. She hobnobbed with the celebrities, the kind of people whose faces leer at us out of *People* magazine.

What turned her around and made her see life differently? She came across a very famous photograph you and I have seen many times. The photograph was taken during the Holocaust and it's a picture of people lined up. A little eight or nine-year-old boy is standing with his hands up and a Nazi is pointing a rifle at the child, whose little eyes show deep fear and bewilderment.

Mary Brenner looked at that photograph and suddenly realized that life could never be the same for her. She felt an enormous compassion for all those who were victims of other people's brutality, for those who were the most marginalized.

So, she went to the bishop of San Diego and said, "I'd like to have some kind of a little religious order here, and I'd like to dedicate myself to those people nobody wants, the most deprived.

She wound up being called Sister Antonio, and she works with the women in the Tijuana Prison, a women's prison in Mexico. These women are certainly among the most abject, forlorn, and neglected segment of humanity. She's their friend, companion, sister, mother, and grandmother, all wrapped in one.

Look at the crowd around us. They are very much in need of Christ's compassion. You and I can give it to them.





Follow Along with Monsignor's YouTube Mass for August 2

New each week! Attached to this email (and in the Bulletins section of our website) you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **August 2nd** Mass.

You can print them out by opening the 2020-08-2 **Mass Responses.pdf** file. It

will also contain a new **Prayer of Spiritual Communion**.

Have you Subscribed?

If you haven't already subscribed to our parish YouTube channel, now is the time. Our volunteer video team needs your support in order to enhance their production of the Mass video that they post to YouTube each week.

It's **free**, quick and easy to support this effort, and will pay back huge dividends for you and all who watch our Mass to enjoy. Simply click on the red **SUBSCRIBE** button on your screen the next time you tune into Star of the Valley's Mass. Thank you.

Psalm 145 in Song—18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Click on [The Hand of the Lord](#) to listen and pray for three minutes.

Sunday's Mass Intention

The intention for this weekend's Mass is for the repose of the soul of **Lincoln McCarthy** (requested by Maria McCarthy.)

Christ the King Reflection

Silver Lining

Last week at our Retreat Center staff meeting, we were sharing how best to stay connected with all our wonderful retreatants. After the continued discussion around various options and discerning whether outdoor liturgies, livestreamed conferences, etc., would be optimal, we smiled when someone said they were still looking for the "silver lining" in the clouds of COVID-19!

Perhaps one of the benefits of this lockdown—while acknowledging the overwhelming sadness and horrific grief—is a forced reassessment of our priorities. Life strategist and author (*"How Did I Get So Busy?"*) Valorie Burton questions, "If a video camera had followed you over the last seven days, what would it reveal about your life? Would it show you were fruitful and joyful? Overloaded and stressed out?"

These thoughts have been on my mind and in my prayer lots lately.

When the Book of Exodus (chapter 31) and Leviticus (chapter 25) speak of rooting a person out of community and putting them to death if they desecrate the Sabbath, the hyperbole might seem a bit violent (!)... but am I aware of the violence my frenetic lifestyle is doing to others and myself? In other words, has there been a rhythm of sabbath rest in my life? If you are looking for inspiration and challenge, a good read would be Wayne Muller's, *"Sabbath: Restoring the Sacred Rhythm of Rest."*

Ahhh... silver lining!

—Fr. Jack Conley, CP



Zooming with Father Leslie

The first "Zooming with Father Leslie" will be on Wednesday, **August 5**, at 11:30 a.m. Join us for a lively discussion about these three questions:

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?

There's still time to email your answers to any or all of these questions to marcyfox@gmail.com. Or, to receive an email invitation to **Zooming with Father Leslie**, email marcyfox@gmail.com with your request.

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, 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, especially from the coronavirus.

Marilyn Brown's Pandemic Story

This June, 96-year-old parishioner, Marilyn Brown walked into her kitchen only to be greeted by a flooded floor emanating from her old refrigerator. A kind neighbor helped her clean up. Her next step was a visit to a hardware store with name and serial number of the broken refrigerator. The verdict—too old to repair and a new one must be ordered. However, in the middle of a pandemic with supply chain disruptions, the next available new refrigerator would not arrive until July 9th! Oh dear.

Marilyn returned home discouraged, wondering how she could survive a month without refrigeration. As she walked into her house, she heard a strange noise. It was coming from the kitchen. It was her broken refrigerator making ice! It was working. Amazing.

She did not cancel her order for a new one not knowing how long this miraculous revival might last. Well, on July 8th in the evening Marilyn went into her kitchen. Silence. She opened the refrigerator door. Darkness. It was broken. July 9, the new refrigerator was delivered.

Is this a miracle? Some say no, simply a coincidence. Marilyn does not believe in coincidences—only miracles.

Parish Security Team Schedule

Thank you to our SOV volunteers for continuing the service of ensuring that our church and parish center are secure. **August 3-9:** Frank Donovan, **August 10-16:** Jennifer Willwerth, **August 17-23:** Larry Frediani, **August 24-30:** John Byrne.

Prayer to Overcome Racism

Mary, Friend and Mother to all, we ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism. Guide us to build a just society without prejudice. Grant us the love to uphold the dignity of each person. Mother of the Church, pray for us. Amen.

—Adapted from usccb.org/racism

DONATE HERE



Change Notice

37 people have now made or set up donations

through our Online Giving portal. Thank you for supporting Star of the Valley Parish in all the ways you do, whether online or with paper and using your offertory envelopes.

FYI, certain second collections have been removed from the online giving list of funds to which you may donate. Please continue to use your offertory envelopes for these second collections.

Star of the Valley's online giving portal can be found on our parish website at www.starofthevalley.org, or by clicking 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. If you set up recurring gifts, it helps us more if you choose the frequency of "monthly," "quarterly," or "annually."

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.

Paintings of Appreciation

These were seen on a fence in the area of Delport and McMinn Avenues in Santa Rosa in July 2020.



Keep Moving Forward

Next time you're stressed, take a step back, inhale and laugh. Remember who you are and why you're here. You're never given anything in this world that you can't handle with God's help. Be strong, be flexible, love yourself, and love others. Always remember, just keep moving forward.

NEWS OUTSIDE THE PARISH

5-Day Meal Packs for Seniors

Seniors in need may receive 5-Day Meal Packs at Steele Lane Community Center. The City's Senior Center staff are partnering with Council on Aging to distribute the meals and often include additional resources to support seniors during this difficult time, such as disaster guides, disposable masks, and donated gifts. Meal packs are distributed at Steele Lane Community Center each Thursday. To register, seniors age 60+ should call 707-525-0143 ext. 013 by 10:00 a.m. on the prior Wednesday.



Caritas Village Support Needed

On **August 6th**, the Design Review Board (DRB) and Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) will be voting to approve or deny some crucial plans and permits for Caritas Village. Though the council authorized our plans, the DRB and CHB must approve these plans and permits before we can move forward.

There is still the risk of a negative vote. If there aren't enough positive voices to overshadow the NIMBYs who will show up, these boards could vote NO, forcing us to appeal their decision to the Santa Rosa City Council and adding costly and unfortunate delays to the project.

With all the fallout of COVID-19, our community can't wait any longer for new affordable housing and services. Your help could complete the public review process for Caritas Village at last.

Will you join us? This meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, **August 6**, at 5:00 p.m. Your attendance makes a difference. To help us track our support, please RSVP for this meeting. [Click here to RSVP](#). Then, on **August 6**, [CLICK HERE](#) to join the Zoom meeting, or join by phone: 888-475-4499 (Toll Free), Meeting ID: 923 2628 0600. Additional Meeting Access Info: [CLICK HERE](#) for instructions.

Hundreds of community members have written letters in support of Caritas Village. But this meeting requires new letters to demonstrate the community's continued enthusiasm. Haven't been able to write a letter yet? Now's your chance to write one, or revise your old one!

Click [HERE](#) to download a letter template—once you have a completed the letter (scanned and signed with your signature!), please [Email your letter to John](#).

Please feel free to further personalize your letter in conjunction with the language provided!

Jesuit Retreat Center Retreats via Zoom

We are excited to announce our 2020-21 Retreat Calendar. As you know, we've been greatly restricted in being able to offer on-site retreats due to the pandemic. But health and safety are our #1 priorities. To that end, we are offering virtual retreats in August and September. These retreats will be held via a Zoom call.

Right now, we are offering on-site retreats starting in October. But that is subject to change, of course, depending on the spread of the virus.

Please check out our retreat offerings here:

[Jesuit Retreat Center Events](#).