

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.



October 10-11, 2020

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

At the annual Chrism Mass, the diocesan bishop blesses the oils to be used in parishes throughout the diocese for the coming year. The Archbishop of Boston in the 1970s, the late Humberto Cardinal Medeiros, was presiding at a particularly memorable one. That particular year, a young woman, who lived with an emotional disability and was obviously in quite a bit of distress, rushed toward the table that held the oils, grasped one of the vessels and began pouring the oil all over herself. She prayed aloud as she did so. Most of those in attendance at the cathedral stood by in shocked silence, except for one person.

Cardinal Medeiros approached the distraught woman and gently placed his hands on hers. He offered soothing words and a pastoral embrace. Her expression immediately changed from twisted and frightened to calm and peaceful.

Each time I hear today's Gospel about the king who gave a wedding feast I think of Cardinal Medeiros' actions that day. The king in the parable asks his servants to invite all people, those perceived as "good" and those perceived as "bad," to the banquet when the regular invited guests do not show up. At Boston's Chrism Mass that year, one who might have been perceived as "bad" had entered the cathedral and done something that was unacceptable. Yet the cardinal saw fit to comfort her in her distress. His actions were very much like the king's in today's parable—which are a sign to us of God's way of acting. God's embrace extends to all, the good and bad alike. Let us praise God for a welcoming love that does not make distinctions. All are called to holiness.



Sunday, October 11 Readings

Reading I: Isaiah 25:6-10a—

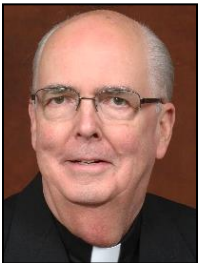
We rejoice in the salvation of the Lord who saved us.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23—

I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Reading II: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20—In whatever circumstances we find ourselves, our needs will be met in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14—The invitation is issued; everything is prepared, come to the feast!



God apparently is planning a wonderful, joyous banquet for us. It is to be “a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.”

Everyone is invited. God has said “invite to the feast whomever you find, good and bad alike.”

It will be a banquet to remember,

I’m sure. May I suggest two things to you?

1. Accept the invitation. RSVP immediately that you will attend, if you have not already done so.
2. Get ready for the banquet. Make sure that you have a suitable wedding garment to wear.

If you are a great sinner, it may take you a little longer than other people to get ready. You may have to get rid of the old outfit you were going to wear to the banquet and get a new one. You may have to repent of your sinful ways and, with the rest of us, clothe yourself in Christ.

St. Paul wrote to the Galatians and reminded them that “all of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with him.”

He wrote to the Colossians and exhorted them as “God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues put on love which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.”

He writes to us today in his Letter to the Philippians, reminding us to clothe ourselves in Christ by developing the virtues of detachment and resiliency, two virtues that we certainly need during Covid-19 restrictions, wildfires, evacuations, and recovery. “I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things, I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him who strengthens me.” Let go of difficult situations and bounce back with God’s help.

A Story

This story comes from a large state mental hospital in Oklahoma. A priest was supervising nursing students in several wards. One ward was particularly depressing. It contained rows upon rows of beds in a large dormitory,

and for the most part the men on the ward simply sat all day long on their beds, staring at the floor. Some of this behavior was undoubtedly due to the medication they were on, while some of the behavior was due to severe depression and other forms of mental illness.

One young man, however, was markedly different from all the other men. For this young man, whose name was Terry, there were not enough hours in the day to do all the things he wanted to do. He loved to take walks on the campus and talk with those he met. He loved to visit the canteen to see what new items the store had gotten in. He loved to visit the patients’ library, check out books, and spend hours reading. He loved to attend the movies the hospital had on occasion, he enjoyed the occasional bingo games and dances the hospital had from time to time.

Terry was a poster boy for detachment and resiliency. Though he was in a dismal place he seemed not to notice the negatives all around him. Rather, he only saw the exciting opportunities that were present. He never lost hope and he never lost joy. He was glad to be part of the universe, and every day he woke up wondering what wonderful things he would experience that day.

Conclusion

After Mass, look in your closet and see what shape your wedding garment is in. You may need a new one, one that is more Christlike. After all, you don’t want to miss God’s joyous banquet whenever it may be.

Pastor’s Corner

Welcome back everyone. I hope you are all safe and well. We have been dealing with one thing after another as a parish: Covid-19 restrictions, no in-person Masses, power outages, wildfires, evacuations and now recovery. Thankfully, we believe in a God who is with us through it all. He surrounds us with his presence.

Last week I came upon the *Lorica of St. Patrick (The Deer’s Cry)*. One stanza stayed with me.

Christ with me, Christ before me,
 Christ behind me, Christ in me,
 Christ under me, Christ over me,
 Christ to the right of me, Christ to the left of me,
 Christ in lying down, Christ in sitting, Christ in rising up.
 Christ in the heart of every person, who may think of me!
 Christ in the mouth of everyone, who may speak to me!
 Christ in every eye, which may look on me!
 Christ in every ear, which may hear me!

Let us all live in God’s presence. Let us enjoy and find peace in his presence. Let us invite other people into his presence.

— Msgr. Pulskamp

We pray for the safety of families returning home, and hope for those whose future remains uncertain.





Follow Along with Monsignor's YouTube Mass for October 11

New each week! Attached to this email (and in the Bulletins section of our website) you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **October 11** Mass. You can print them out by opening the **2020-10-11 Mass Responses.pdf** file.

Sunday's Mass Intention

The intention for this weekend's Mass is for the repose of the soul of **E. W. Lima** (requested by her family.)

Parish Security Team Schedule

Thank you to our SOV volunteers for continuing the service of ensuring that our church and parish center are secure. **October 12-18:** Tom Basile, **October 19-25:** Dennis Sabourin, **October 26-November 1:** John Dolan, **November 2-8:** Bob Chapman.

If, for any reason, you're not able to fulfill your duty week, please call Jim Warman at 707-230-2682.

Prayer Intentions

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

Also pray for those who have died: Agnes Kolling.

Zooming with Father Leslie

We have postponed our **Zooming with Father Leslie** until **Wednesday, October 21.**

Let's continue praying for one another as we recover from yet another evacuation.



Prayer to St. Florian for Firefighters

Oh, Almighty God, whose great power and eternal wisdom embraces the universe, watch over all Firefighters. Protect them from harm in the performance of their duty to fight fire, save lives, and preserve property.

We pray, help them to keep our homes and all buildings safe day and night. We recommend them to Your

loving care because their duty is dangerous. Grant them Your unending strength and courage in their daily assignments.

Dear God, protect these brave persons. Grant them Your Almighty protection and unite them safely with their families after duty has ended. Amen.

Choose to Persevere

Scripture

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." *Matthew 11:28*

Reflection

When my friend Ed and I rode our bicycles from Portland, Maine, to Portland, Oregon, we started our journey by dipping our tires in the Atlantic Ocean. Then we pedaled for 3,500 miles until we reached the Pacific Ocean. Although the weather and terrain gave us many challenges along the way, no part of the trip was more challenging than South Dakota. From a distance, I thought the Great Plains would be flat roads and easy riding. But little did I realize the winds would work against us in agonizing ways. At times we biked for an hour and a half and advanced only 6 miles! Amid the futility of our efforts and the forces working against us, I remember saying to myself, "Why in the world am I doing this?" The fatigue and exhaustion made me want to dump my bike by the side of the road and give up on the journey. But the decisions we made amid our weaknesses and powerlessness were arguably the most important of our journey. When we chose to persevere—even when everything inside wanted to give up—something in our attitudes changed. When we learned to say "yes"—even though everything within us wanted to say "no"—something in our inner spirit shifted. And to our surprise, as we made these adjustments on the inside, the wind shifted in our favor on the outside. And when it did, it carried us beyond the desolation of the plains to the beauty of the Rocky Mountains.

Meditation

On the road of faith, God alone knows the winds of adversity that blow against us. [The pandemic, wildfires, politics, political campaigns, voting, evacuations, power outages, racial injustice, violent demonstrations,] ... fatigue at work, and the demands of family can all take their toll and make us want to give up. Today Jesus calls us to rest in him amid the demands of the world and the needs of others. When we continually offer up to him all that we are, even our powerlessness, we find even the winds of adversity can shift in our favor and give a peace beyond understanding and a rest the world cannot give.

Prayer

Lord, you alone rule over creation. When the winds of life wear me out, help me know you are there to strengthen me. In my powerlessness, help me turn to you. Send forth your Spirit to help me persevere and to trust in the beauty beyond the pain.

—Author Unknown

Job Opportunity

The Diocese of Santa Rosa is actively recruiting a Diocesan Finance Officer/CFO. This position works out of the Chancery. For more information please go to our website www.srdiocese.org and click on Employment Opportunities, or to the direct link below: <http://www.srdiocese.org/content/employment-opportunities>. Position opened until filled.

October 13, 1917

The Message of Fatima



October 13, 1917

In **Fatima**, an obscure Portuguese town 70 miles north of Lisbon, near midday in a hollow called “Cova da Iria,” three children pasture their little flock of sheep. The day is **May 13, 1917**.

The shepherd children report that a luminous being appears, “brighter than the sun, giving out rays of clear and intense light.” The being, a woman, says, “I am from Heaven.”

Venerable Pope Pius XII, in 1940, gave the Church’s stamp of approval to the Fatima apparitions. Pope Francis, like his predecessors, calls upon the world to heed the appeals of Our Lady of Fatima.

“She asks us to never offend God again,” he said. “She forewarns all humanity about the necessity of abandoning oneself to God, the Source of love and mercy.”

The Message: Prayer & Reparation

What happened on **May 13**, and for the next five months leading to a spectacular culmination on **October 13, 1917**, most of us know.

The three shepherd children, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta, experienced “the Lady from Heaven” on the 13th of each month. The Lady revealed herself to be Mary, the Mother of God.

The **May 13** apparition came barely a week after Pope Benedict XV begged Our Lady for help as Europe stood paralyzed by a trench war, with anarchy and atheism looming on the horizon. This was true especially in Russia.

Fr. Robert J. Fox, an expert on the Fatima apparitions, says, “the children fell on their knees, repeating in their hearts: ‘O most Holy Trinity, I adore You! My God, my God, I love You in the most Blessed Sacrament!’”

Our Lady replied, “Say the Rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war.”

In her **July 13** apparition, Mary brought a message of repentance, reparation, and the conversion of Russia. She also predicted the end of World War I, but told the children that if the world did not stop offending God, another war, even worse, would break out.

“To prevent this,” the Blessed Mother told the children, “I shall come to ask for the Consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of reparation on the first Saturdays.” Mary promised a great miracle on **October 13**, so all would believe her.

Miracle of the Sun—a Sign Ignored

On **October 13, 1917**, alerted to the prophesied miracle, 70,000 people gathered at Fatima. At noon, those gathered saw the sun “dance” and “spin” in the sky. Despite this dazzling display, the world ignored Mary’s warnings.

Twenty-two years later, World War II began. By war’s end in 1945, 60 million people had been killed, more than half of them civilians. Our Lady’s prediction had come true with deadly accuracy. Her predictions of hunger, persecution of the Church, destruction of nations, and great suffering of the Holy Father were also fulfilled.

Sister Lucia: ‘Mary’s Witness’

Lucia dos Santos lived to be 97, dying on **February 13** (the same day of the month as the apparitions had usually occurred), 2005, less than two months before St. John Paul II’s death. Her cousins died young, victims of the Great Flu Epidemic of 1919. John Paul declared Francisco and Jacinta blessed on **May 13, 2000**, making Jacinta the youngest non-martyred child ever to be beatified.

As Our Lady predicted, it was left to Lucia—a Carmelite nun who lived for another 87 years after Fatima—to spread the Fatima message of prayer, penance, and conversion, and to promote devotion to the Immaculate Heart.

Fatima after 103 years

Does Fatima have relevance today? Yes, but we must focus on the right things.

As late as 2005, Sr. Lucia would express frustration that people still wanted to dwell on the miracles and secrets. She said, “I am not focusing on the miracles. We are going to be judged on the 10 Commandments when we die. We must stop offending God. We must know God.” She summed this up in what she called her 11th Commandment: “Do whatever God tells you. That is what Our Lady wants.”

In 1982, one year after the assassination attempt, Pope John Paul II journeyed to Fatima to thank Mary for sparing his life. There, he called the “message of Fatima more relevant than it was 65 years ago. It is more urgent.” Substitute 103 for 65, and the quote catches up to us in 2020.

The message comes with a warning of dire consequences if the world continues to shun God, and make no mistake: The world continues to shun God, as evidenced in our never-ending wars and acts of terrorism, our killing of innocents in the womb, our hedonistic excesses ... the list goes on.

Something does seem amiss, from global warming to the culture of death, from our neglect of the very young and old to the myriad persecutions of the Church and conflicts across the globe. One wonders: How long will God keep His patience?

Our Lady urges us to **pray the Rosary daily**, and also to **offer sacrifices as acts of reparation** for the conversion of sinners and for sins against her Immaculate Heart.

Mary’s message is this: There is still time.

It is never too late—until it becomes too late.

Join Fr. Chris Alar, from the Shrine of Divine Mercy, as he explains the Marian apparitions reported in 1917 by three shepherd children in Fátima, Portugal, by selecting: [**Understanding Fátima.**](#)
