

# 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](http://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 17-18, 2020

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Power Struggles

If you are engaged in struggles over your own and others’ power in your life, this week’s scriptures provide a way of resolving many of those struggles without taking sides. The readings leave little doubt as to who holds the real power in the world. It is “the Lord, and there is no other” who anoints Cyrus and grasps him by the right hand (the hand of power), making him victorious and giving the Israelites their freedom. The psalm tells us to give glory and honor to the Lord, who is “beyond all gods” and “governs the peoples with equity.” Paul gives thanks to God, whose power is at work in the gospel Paul preached and in the Thessalonians themselves. In Jesus’ power struggle with the Pharisees, he says, “Repay... to God what belongs to God.” God is the power above all human powers—in government, business, the Church, and our own families. We owe God all “glory and honor,” thanks, loyalty, and our lives.

## Power Within

We are to give praise and pay tribute to God as the one and only source of true power in our lives. When we do, our ordinary power struggles can more easily be resolved. Like the Thessalonians, we discover the power within ourselves. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live in faith, hope, and love. We no longer feel we must dominate others. We are compelled neither to resist those who have power over us nor always to give in to them. We stop fearing our own power. God’s power within us and over all human powers gives us confidence, courage, and humility in every power struggle we may encounter.



## Sunday, October 18 Readings

**Reading I:** *Isaiah 45:1, 4-6*—

We are to worship God alone,  
the God who calls us by name.

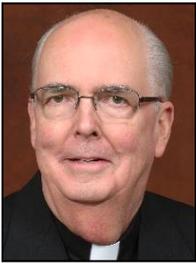
**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalms 96*—

Give the Lord glory and honor.

**Reading II:** *Thessalonians 1:1-5b*—

We have received the gospel not only in word, but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Gospel:** *Matthew 22:15-21*—Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.



### **Give to Caesar what is Caesar's; give to God what is God's.**

What you and I give to Caesar and what we give to God became very evident during the recent wildfires.

■ We gave to Caesar. Our taxes enabled first responders to come to our rescue.

■ We gave to God by reaching out in

love as we protected and cared for one another.

### **Reflections**

- Make God the center of our lives. He gives us everything we are and everything we have. Without Him, we can do nothing.
- Respect and treasure the life He has given us and others.
- Don't get too attached to things; we have to leave them behind.
- Get attached to people, all kinds of people. They are more important and precious than things. We do need each other.
- Share everything we are and everything we have with others.
- Make sure that people see the love of God, His image on our hearts and in our lives. "Love is thicker than smoke."
- Remember to say thank you.

### **A Story—Heart of Gold** by *Florence Myles*

It was Thanksgiving, a day when Americans thank God for the many blessings that he has showered upon them. It is also the time when Americans celebrate by eating a lot of food, especially turkey and all the trimmings. But in one house, there was no delicious smell of turkey roasting in the oven, no pies cooling on the counter, and no beautiful table setting. The mother had lost her job a few weeks earlier. Her daughter's tiny salary went to pay the rent. A son was still in school and there was no father in the home. Things looked very bleak this Thanksgiving. The mother was cooking some leftover stew on the stove and warming up some day-old bread in the oven. She was a proud woman and didn't want anyone to know how bad things were in her home.

Suddenly, there was a knock at the door. When she opened it, there was Mr. Gold, a door-to-door salesman who kept everyone supplied with things for their houses. He stood there with his arms full of grocery bags and a smile on his face. "May I come begging to you today?" he asked. "Here it is Thanksgiving Day, and I have no place

to go and no one to share it with."

The mother was embarrassed, but she invited him in and started to explain that they didn't have much to eat on this special day. But before she could continue, Mr. Gold, who knew quite well that the family was having serious financial trouble, interrupted her by saying, "Here, I have all this food. It's only chicken, but who's to know?" He then began unpacking the groceries. There was enough food for a great feast, from soup to nuts, plus two pies for dessert.

The family had a wonderful Thanksgiving feast that year. Mr. Gold didn't eat too much, but nobody seemed to notice. When he was leaving, he thanked the family for taking such good care of a lonely old man on that Thanksgiving Day.

### **Conclusion**

Like the people in the story we have been through a very trying time as flames surrounded us, threatening our homes, our families and our very lives. We gather as survivors to thank God today for his protection, for the supportive love we have shared with one another and for the many people, known and unknown, who rushed to help us. This latest wildfire has humbled us once again, made us reassess what is important to us in life, drawn us closer together in love, and challenged us to get up and move on again with hope.

## A Prayer of Thanksgiving

For Creating us, we thank you Lord  
 For Redeeming us, we thank you Lord  
 For Loving us, we thank you Lord  
 For Calling us by name, we thank you Lord  
 For our Baptism, we thank you Lord  
 For our Faith, we thank you Lord  
 For our Holy Communion, we thank you Lord  
 For the Gift we are to each other, we thank you Lord  
 For our Families, we thank you Lord  
 For the Children in our lives, we thank you Lord  
 For the sound of Laughter, we thank you Lord  
 For the beauty of Song, we thank you Lord  
 For the magnificence of our Surroundings,  
 we thank you Lord  
 For the Air we breathe, we thank you Lord  
 For the Water we drink, we thank you Lord  
 For the Health we enjoy, we thank you Lord  
 For Sunshine and Rain, we thank you Lord  
 For changing Seasons, we thank you Lord  
 For our own Resurrection, we thank you Lord  
 For all our Benefactors, we thank you Lord  
 For our Parents, living and dead, we thank you Lord  
 For all your Gifts, we thank you Lord

*Monsignor Fahey*



### Follow Along with Monsignor's YouTube Mass for October 18

New each week! Attached to this email (and in the Bulletins section of our website) you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **October 18** Mass. You can print them out by opening the **2020-10-18 Mass Responses.pdf** file.



### Zooming with Father Leslie

Join us this week, **Wednesday, October 21** at 11:30 a.m., to discuss the October 25th scripture readings: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b, and Matthew 22:15-21.

It is a blessing to have the opportunity to gather virtually and find out how we are all doing. Send

your request for the Zoom meeting link and information to Marcy Fox at [marcyfox@gmail.com](mailto:marcyfox@gmail.com).

### Sunday's Mass Intention

The intention for this weekend's Mass is for the repose of the soul of **Etalo Kenilvort** (requested by Jackie Kenilvort.)

### 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, 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 and Fr. David Shaw (obituary attached.)

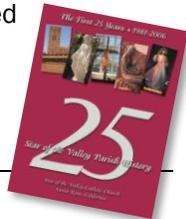


### Agnes Rose Lynch Kolling 1927-2020

Agnes Rose passed away at the age of 93, joining her high school sweetheart, Walter, to whom she was married for 62 years.

She and Walt became founding members of her beloved Star of the Valley Church in Oakmont with

Msgr. Fahey in 1981 where she also served as the first president of the Women's Club in 1982. She will be fondly remembered for authoring the history book *Star of the Valley Parish History – The First 25 Years*.



### Welcome Back Hugs

We're very happy to see that many of you have safely returned home, and look forward to seeing the rest of our parish family returning soon. Each of our beloved priests—Father Leslie and Msgr. Puskamp—are okay, thanks be to God.

We also give thanks for all the efforts of the first responders who helped save our homes, church, Parish Center, and community from the fires that surrounded us, and for the police who guarded Oakmont while we were evacuated. We pray for all those continuing to battle and completely extinguish what's still burning, as well as for healing and peace for those who lost homes, property, family, friends, or their own lives.

### NEWS OUTSIDE THE PARISH

#### Outdoor Mass at Holy Spirit Church

Saturday at 5:00 p.m., and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the plaza between the church and its parking lot.

### 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 19-25:** Dennis Sabourin, **October 26-November 1:** John Dolan, **November 2-8:** Bob Chapman, **November 9-15:** Tim Cummings.

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



### Prepare for Disaster Help for Seniors

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.

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

LISTOS California has launched a Disaster Preparedness course over text message, and it takes just 30 seconds to sign up! Text "LISTOSCA" to 72345

Click on [COVID-19 Tips for Caregivers](#).

### Area Agency on Aging—www.SoCoAAA.org

Older adults, family members and caregivers can find support and services for ages 60+ by calling 565- 4636.

- ♥ Call to talk with a social worker trained to help you navigate the unique needs, life changes and challenges of aging.
- ♥ Get personalized referrals to programs that offer meals, transportation, public benefits and more.
- ♥ Connect to daily wellness call from friendly volunteers at Petaluma People Services Center and Catholic Charities.

### Sonoma County's Mental Health Warm Line

Call 707-565-2652 for free and private support if you or someone you know is experiencing emotional stress and anxiety during Covid-19. Seven days a week, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



CONGREGATION FOR DIVINE WORSHIP  
& THE DISCIPLINE OF THE SACRAMENTS

## Let us return to the Eucharist with joy!

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**A** letter on the celebration of the liturgy during and after the COVID-19 pandemic to the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences of the Catholic Church

The pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus has produced upheavals not only in social, family, economic, educational and work dynamics, but also in the life of the Christian community, including the liturgical dimension. To prevent the spread of the virus, rigid social distancing was necessary, which had repercussions on a fundamental trait of Christian life: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matthew 18:20); “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And all who believed were together and had all things in common” (Acts 2:42-44).

This community dimension has a theological meaning: God is a relationship of Persons in the Most Holy Trinity. He creates humanity... [and] puts himself in relationship with man and woman and calls them in turn to relationship with him.... The Lord Jesus began his public ministry by calling to himself a group of disciples to share with him the life and proclamation of the Kingdom; from this small flock the Church is born....

The Christian community has never sought isolation and has never made the Church a city with closed doors. Formed in the value of community life and in the search of the common good, Christians have always sought insertion into society, while being aware of an otherness—to be in the world without belonging to it and without being reduced to it (cf. *Letter to Diognetus*, 5-6). And even in the pandemic emergency, a great sense of responsibility has emerged. In listening to and collaborating with civil authorities and experts, the Bishops and their territorial conferences were prompt to make difficult and painful decisions, even to the point of suspending the participation of the faithful in the celebration of the Eucharist for a long period. This Congregation is deeply grateful to the Bishops for their commitment and effort in trying to respond in the best possible way to an unforeseen and complex situation.

As soon as circumstances permit, however, it is necessary and urgent to return to the normality of Christian life, which has the church building as its home and the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist....

Aware that God never abandons the humanity He has created, and that even the hardest trials can bear fruits of grace, we have accepted our distance from the Lord’s altar as a time of Eucharistic fasting, useful for us to rediscover its vital importance, beauty and immeasurable

preciousness. As soon as is possible, however, we must return to the Eucharist with a purified heart, with a renewed amazement, with an increased desire to meet the Lord, to be with him, to receive him and to bring him to our brothers and sisters with the witness of a life full of faith, love and hope.

Once the concrete measures that can be taken to reduce the spread of the virus to a minimum have been identified and adopted [including the availability of a vaccine], it is necessary that all resume their place in the assembly of brothers and sisters, rediscover the irreplaceable preciousness and beauty of the celebration of the liturgy, and invite and encourage again those brothers and sisters who have been discouraged, frightened, absent or uninvolved for too long.

The faithful should be recognized as having the right to receive the Body of Christ and to worship the Lord present in the Eucharist in the manner provided for....

In the Eucharistic celebration the faithful adore the Risen Jesus present; and we see with what ease the sense of adoration, the prayer of adoration, is lost. In their catechesis we ask Pastors to insist on the necessity of adoration. [Opportunities available at St. Eugene’s and Resurrection Parish.]

The Church will continue to cherish the human person as a whole. She bears witness to hope, invites us to trust in God, recalls that earthly existence is important, but much more important is eternal life: sharing the same life with God for eternity is our goal, our vocation. This is the faith of the Church, witnessed over the centuries by hosts of martyrs and saints, a positive proclamation that frees us from one-dimensional reductionisms and from ideologies. The Church unites proclamation and accompaniment towards the eternal salvation of souls with the necessary concern for public health. Let us therefore continue to entrust ourselves confidently to God’s mercy, to invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, *salus infirmorum et auxilium christianorum*, for all those who are sorely tried by the pandemic and every other affliction, let us persevere in prayer for those who have left this life, and at the same time let us renew our intention to be witnesses of the Risen One and heralds of a sure hope, which transcends the limits of this world.

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*From the Vatican, 15 August 2020 (Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)*

*The supreme Pontiff Francis, in the Audience granted on 3 September 2020 to the undersigned Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, approved this Letter and its publication.*

*Robert Card. Sarah, Prefect*