

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 24-25, 2020

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Love of God & Neighbor

It’s easy to tell when two people love each other. They like to be near each other and spend time together. They share intimate thoughts and feelings. They enjoy making each other happy. And knowing that they are loved allows them to reach out to other people and treat them with love and respect.

In this Sunday’s Gospel Jesus tells us that the greatest law is to love God with our whole heart and soul and mind. What does it mean to love God? Certainly it means spending time together by reading and reflecting on God’s holy word. It also means sharing our thoughts and feelings with God in prayer and listening for God’s voice. Where do we go to be close to God? Anywhere in God’s creation, with others or alone, where we can acknowledge His presence. What can we do to make God happy? How do we, like the Thessalonians, “serve the living and true God?”

The reading from Exodus makes it very clear that we serve God by serving those who are oppressed or in need. Jesus makes it more personal—we are to love our neighbors. That means those with whom we work and play and live. When we spend time with God, we can’t help but experience God’s great love for us. Knowing that we are loved by God helps us to reach out in charity and justice to our neighbors both near and far away.

Thus, love of neighbor flows naturally from those who love God. We cannot truly say that we love God unless it shows in loving relationships and compassion to those in need. At the same time, we cannot maintain our love of neighbor unless we take time to drink from the wellspring of God’s refreshing love.



Sunday, October 25 Readings

Reading I: *Exodus 22:20-26*—

God hears the cry of the oppressed.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 18*—

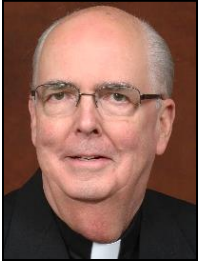
I love you, Lord, my strength.

Reading II: *1Thessalonians 1:5c-10*—

God's people are renowned for their

conversion and love of God.

Gospel: *Matthew 22:34-40*—The greatest law is the law of love.



Fall In Love With God

Well, the Pharisees and the Scholars of the Law are once again out to trap Jesus. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" There were 631 commandments.

Jesus avoids the trap by summarizing the law as other famous rabbis had done before him. Rabbi

Hillel, for example, summed up the commandments in this way: "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor."

Jesus also draws from the book of Deuteronomy. "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with your entire mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment."

Then he draws from the book of Leviticus. "The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

These are not really two separate commandments, but rather two faces of the same love.

God takes the initiative with this love. He loves us first in so many ways. We open ourselves up to His free, unmerited, unbounded love and let it sink deeply into us.

♥ In gratitude, we love Him back.

♥ In gratitude, we love one another.

♥ In gratitude, we love ourselves.

Love says it all. It should be before our minds, deep in our hearts, and shown in everything we do.

A Story—A Bishop with a Simple Message

A missionary bishop had to celebrate confirmation for a group of severely handicapped children. They were all institutionalized, and none of them were capable of even the simplest kind of academic work. The chaplain of the home warned the bishop not to speak for more than two or three minutes; anything more would be beyond their capability. He was also asked to avoid any complicated language.

The bishop was quite nervous about what he would say. He spoke this message to the children: "Dear children, your Mom and Dad, and brothers and sisters, all love you. That's why they gently stroke your head and your hair and your cheeks. And that is what happens when you are confirmed. The Good Lord gently strokes you because he loves you so much. So, when I make the sign of the cross on your forehead with the holy oil our dear Father is stroking and caressing you."

A few minutes later, as he touched a cerebral palsy

victim's forehead, the little boy's face grimaced in a little contortion, and with great difficulty he said the word "stroke" while the saliva spilled out of his mouth. His mother wiped away the saliva and her tears with the very same handkerchief. But the boy had gotten the message. God was stroking him.

The bishop remarked, "You know, I don't know what others might think about that theology but basically this is what God does. God stroked the people of Israel. The father stroked the Prodigal Son. Jesus stroked the children, stroked and caressed the lepers, laid his hand on the eyelids and the heads and ears of those who were handicapped and afflicted." In brief, the bishop had summed up the message of Christianity in one word: that God is love and we need that love, depend on that love, and live that love, if we are to be whole.

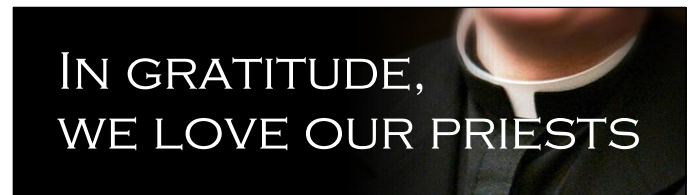
Conclusion

Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you will do with your evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.

—Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J. (*Superior General: 1965–1983*)

Song: **Hold on to Love**

Hold on to Love by Jesse Manibusan (4:20)



Prayer of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus

O Jesus, I pray for your faithful and fervent priests;
for your unfaithful and tepid priests;
for your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields;
for your tempted priests;
for your lonely and desolate priests;
for your young priests;
for your dying priests;
for the souls of your priests in purgatory.
But above all,
I recommend to you the priests dearest to me:
the priest who baptized me;
the priests who absolved me from my sins;
the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me your Body and Blood in Holy Communion;
the priests who taught and instructed me;
all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way (especially _____).
O Jesus, keep them all close to your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity.
Amen.



Follow Along with Monsignor's YouTube Mass for October 25

New each week! Attached to this email (and in the Bulletins section of our website) you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **October 25** Mass. You can print them out by opening the **2020-10-25 Mass Responses.pdf** file.

Sunday's Mass Intention

The intention for this weekend's Mass is for the repose of the soul of **Jim O'Malley** (requested by Karen O'Malley.)

Prayer Intentions

Pray for the sick: Gail Barrett, Bud Cappa, John Cordero, Lola Danielli, Patricia Daniels, Fran Dias, Fran Evans, Frank Gyorgy, Yvonne Hanlon, Mary Jo Henrikson, Bette Johnson, 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, Armin Tietze, Mercedes Vegvary, Claire Vincent, William Wallace, and Dolores Zeni.

Also pray for those who have died: Charles Fulger and Fr. David Shaw.

NEWS OUTSIDE THE PARISH



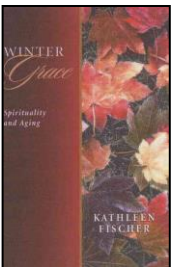
Outdoor Mass at Holy Spirit Church

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

Educational & Spiritual Support Opportunities

Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Center for Education & Spirituality present: **Racism—The Struggle for The Soul of a Nation Pausing at The Intersection of Greed, Power, & Virus.** This Four-Part Series on Zoom will be presented on four consecutive Mondays in November 2020—Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2020—7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

\$15 per session or \$50 for the series. Includes materials that will be sent to participants. Register by October 30, 2020 at <http://bit.ly/2020Racism>.



Winter Grace: Spirituality and Aging

This is a virtual 4-Part Book Series: Spiritual Guides for Today—**Winter Grace: Spirituality and Aging** by Kathleen Fischer, November 12, 19, December 5, 12, 2020—1:00-2:30 p.m. Register by November 10, 2020 at http://bit.ly/2020_WinterGrace, \$25.

The book is available online or wherever books are sold. Please read chapters 1 and 2 for the November 12 session.

Call us for more information about either series at 510-933-6360.

Mercy Center Special Novena Prayer for Our Country

Join us for a special Novena. A novena, (the word comes from Latin: novem, "nine"), is a prayer said over the course of 9 days.

Researchers have studied the effects of meditation and prayer, and the results indicate a significant shift in consciousness and reduction in violence when large groups of people pray and meditate at the same time around a particular intention. Join us as we pray for wisdom and discernment.

Please share this novena with your friends and invite them to pray and meditate for the United States during this election time. The prayer service is available on our website. Click on this link: [Novena for the U.S.A.](#)

Blessings on the journey!

—Mary A. DuQuaine, Mercy Center Director

The Common Good

Fr. David Knight served for several years as a bush pastor in Chad (*Africa*). He received his doctorate in theology from Catholic University in Washington and then taught spirituality at Loyola University (*New Orleans*), Christian Brothers University (*Memphis*) and at Catholic University. He speaks four languages, has published forty books, and has given retreats all over the world.

In a recent article Fr. Knight powerfully articulates the difference between what is legal and what is moral, lamenting the fact that many people, Catholics included, cannot grasp the distinction between what is a crime and what is a sin.

To decide what acts should be punished by law is the function of government. It is ruled, not by morality, but by a practical, pragmatic concern for the common good. But like it or not, consciously or not, deliberately or not, the government often takes on the role of the Church, forming our conscience about what is and is not a sin. The solution is for the Church to do her own job and teach so convincingly the evil of the death penalty or abortion, for example, that no one who believes in reason and in God would ever embrace those realities, or commit those sins.

Perhaps it is because we are gearing up for political campaigns and national elections, but suddenly folks are asking the difficult questions around the Catholic vote again. Should a priest deny Holy Communion to a politician because his or her vote doesn't comply with the Church's moral position on the dignity of every human life? In this country, Fr. Knight writes, the Church should focus more attention on persuading the people not to commit sins than on pressuring politicians to put them in jail if they do. The Common Good.

—Fr. Jack Conley, CP

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 26-November 1:** John Dolan, **November 2-8:** Bob Chapman, **November 9-15:** Tim Cummings, **November 16-22:** Mike O'Callaghan.

The Second Half of the Hail Mary

From *Champions of the Rosary: The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon* by Fr. Donald Calloway, M.I.C.

Until the 14th century, the rosary was prayed using the existing form of the Hail Mary: the combination of the Angelic Salutation [Lk 1:28] and the Evangelical Salutation [Lk 1:42]. This form of the Hail Mary contained an implicit prayer of petition, since it was an invocation to the mediating Mother of Jesus Christ. When the Black Death hit Europe, the Divine Craftsman inspired his people to formulate an explicit and urgent prayer of petition that he grafted onto the existing Hail Mary. By forging the intercessory prayer of his people into the flaming shaft of the sword, the Divine Craftsman gave the rosary the added bonus of being a prayer against death itself. After all, millions of people were dying. Everyone, at all levels of society, lived with the imminent fear of death. The Venerable Fulton J. Sheen articulated this point quite well:

“This [the second half of the Hail Mary] was not introduced until the latter part of the Middle Ages. Since it seizes upon the two decisive moments of life: ‘now’ and ‘at the hour of our death,’ it suggests the spontaneous outcry of people in a great calamity. The Black Death, which ravaged all Europe and wiped out one-third of its population, prompted the faithful to cry out to the Mother of Our Lord to protect them at a time when the present moment and death were almost one.”

After the Black Death, the second half of the Hail Mary began to appear in the breviaries of religious communities, especially those of the Mercedarians, Camaldolese, and Franciscans. Its insertion into various breviaries also resulted in the full Hail Mary beginning to be used in the Dominican rosary. Like many things involving the rosary, however, it took a few centuries for this development to become universal practice. It wasn't until the prayers of the rosary were officially codified by the Church in the 16th century that inclusion of the second half of the Hail Mary became the norm.

The people of the 14th century greatly needed the “hope-filled” dimension of the second half of the Hail Mary prayer. They not only needed to know that Mary would pray for them “at the hour of their death,” but also that she would pray for them “now” in their current, dire situation. In addition to the plague, the people found themselves in another challenging situation: the confusion of the Avignon Papacy. As if the Black Death were not enough, the politically motivated ordeal of the Avignon Papacy lasted from 1305–1377 and caused great anxiety, confusion and concern among the faithful. Even after the crisis ended in 1377, it was soon followed by the Hundred Years War between France and England. The people of the 14th century endured non-stop stress and anxiety. For those who had survived the Black Death and the many other anxieties of the first half of the century, the latter part of the century offered them a new crisis in the form of the Great Western Schism. At times there were as many as three different individuals claiming to be the true pope. Even various saints were at odds over which pope was the real one, arguing with each other over the matter and defending the person

they believed to be the authentic Vicar of Christ. This crisis began in 1378 and lasted until the early 15th century. The Great Western Schism was a theological nightmare, causing further division and confusion among the clergy and laity. In the medieval mind, there was no doubt that they needed Mary's intercession “now” and at the “hour of death.”

[Just as the people of the 14th century greatly needed the “hope-filled” dimension of the second half of the Hail Mary prayer, so do we. With all that is going on with the coronavirus and the fires, we need to know that Mary will pray for us “now” in our current situation.]

An Election Season Prayer

God, I know that I don't have to get angry.
I don't have to get worked up.
I don't have to get depressed.
And I don't have to throw anything at the TV.
I just have to use my conscience and vote.

So, help me remember
what Jesus taught in the Gospels,
and what our church teaches,
especially about the poor, the refugee, the migrant,
the sick, the homeless, the unborn, the disabled,
the hungry, the elderly and the lonely.
Help me remember the “least” among us,
and help me ponder in my heart
how to cast my vote for the good of all.

God, I know that no candidate is perfect,
because I'm not perfect either,
the last time I checked.
So free me of the burden of having to vote
for someone who satisfies all my desires for a candidate.
My candidate will be imperfect, like me.

Help me to be grateful for the ability to vote,
because not everyone has that privilege.
And when I meet people voting for someone else,
help me to take a deep breath and
give them the benefit of the doubt,
because they are following their consciences, too.
Help me remember
that even though they sometimes drive me nuts,
I don't have to argue with them,
I don't have to convince them,
I don't have to hate them,
And I don't have to demonize them.

Then, after the election, help me work for unity.
Because I know that's what you want.
Amen.

—Fr. James Martin, SJ, with Michael D'Amico



An Election Prayer

Mary, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to thee.
Crush the plans of the enemy under your
heel,
and obtain from your divine son
an election according to his holy will.
We thank you for obtaining this grace.

—Fr. Pillari, Our Lady of Fatima Rosary