

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

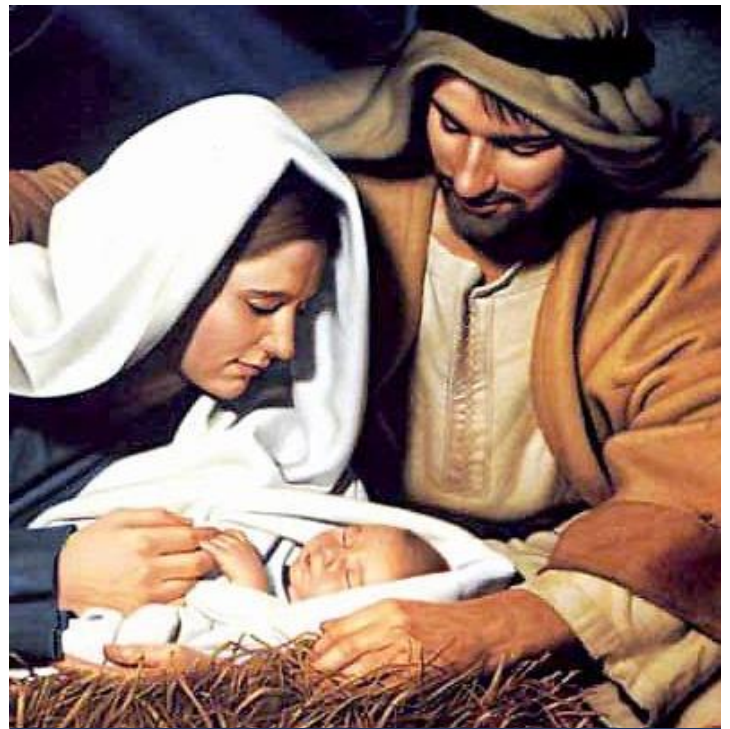
Saturday **Suspended**. For appointment, email or leave a message for Msgr. Pulskamp.

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.



And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

December 20, 2020—4th Sunday of Advent

A Place for God to Dwell

In a few short days, on Christmas morning, we will hear John's Gospel account of the incarnation: "And the Word became Flesh, and came to dwell among us." John uses the Greek version of *shekinah* to emphasize that Jesus, God among us, pitched his tent on earth to be our companion on our journey. For much of his earthly ministry, Jesus was an itinerant preacher, a nomad. While most of us live in permanent places and are not called to this kind of mobility, we would do well to ask if there is still a place in our hearts for Jesus to pitch his tent. As we have surely heard and read over the past several weeks, we ought to "keep Christ in Christmas."

This is a lesson for all seasons today, a lesson that Israel struggled to learn, a lesson that our own Church has struggled with as it assumed the trappings of earthly status. We need to make sure that when God-in-Flesh comes knocking at our door, we can respond that there is plenty of room within.



The Fourth Advent Candle— the Candle of Joy

The fourth candle, lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent along with the others previously lit, is the Angel's Candle. As we light this flame we are reminded of the heavenly hosts that proclaimed Christ's arrival with "Behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy!" The Angel Candle is also purple, reminding us that it was the Angel's birth the angels were announcing.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



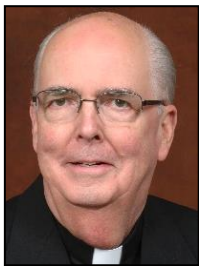
Sunday, December 20 Readings

Reading I: *2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16*—The kingdom of David shall endure for ever before the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 89*—
“For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.”

Reading II: *Romans 16:25-27*—The mystery kept secret for long ages has now been manifested.

Gospel: *Luke 1:26-38*—Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son.



Fourth Sunday of Advent A Story—When I Grow Up

Let me share with you the lives of two children. The parents of the first child were somewhat mismatched. The father was unemployed for most of his life. The boy’s mother was a teacher. He was born in Port Huron, Michigan. He was appraised by his

teachers as having an IQ of 81. He was taken out of school after three months, being considered too backward to teach. He did not re-enroll in school until two years later because he had picked up scarlet fever and a respiratory infection. And he was going deaf as a result of his illness. His emotional health was poor. He was stubborn, neurotic, and aloof. He liked mechanics. He liked to play with fire and wound up burning down the family house. The only thing said of him was that he liked to tinker and he liked to fool around with trains.

The second child did not show much promise either. She was a child of an alcoholic father who was quite abusive. The child was sickly and often bedridden. In fact, she was in the hospital more that out of it. She was considered to be erratic, neurotic, and withdrawn. She would constantly bite here nails. She had a back brace from a spinal defect. She was homely. She constantly sought attention. She was a daydreamer.

These two certainly were people unlikely to hear any particular call—but they did. And they responded. The little boy, as you might suspect, grew up to be Thomas Edison, one of the greatest inventors the world has ever seen. And that homely little girl grew up to be Eleanor Roosevelt who spent a great deal of her adult life caring for and promoting and helping the underprivileged and deprived of this world. They both heard a call to be something more than what their lives dictated, a call to go beyond the confines of whom and what they were.

God certainly called, and kept calling Mary to be something more than what her life dictated, to go beyond the confines of whom and what she was.

This is the Mary that we encounter at the Annunciation.

- A teenager
- Unmarried
- Puzzled—Mother of the Son of the Most High
- Confused—Conceive by the Holy Spirit

- But gifted with tremendous faith and trust in God
- Said “Yes” to God’s call
- “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

Mary’s “Yes” to God’s call brought her beyond an ordinary life and beyond whom and what she was. The person she became and remains is the Mother of God.

God calls and continues to call, each one of us, as he did Thomas Edison, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Mary, to do particular things in life. He calls us beyond our ordinary lives and beyond who and what we are. Over time he forms us into the people he wants us to be, people we did not even know we were. All we have to do is keep listening to God and keep saying “Yes” to what he asks of us.



Follow Along with Monsignor’s YouTube Mass for December 20

New each week! If you receive the bulletin by email, you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **December 20** Mass attached. You can print them out by opening the **2020-12-20 Mass Responses.pdf** file.

Sunday’s Mass Intention

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



Star of the Valley Outdoor Communion

The fourth drive-thru distribution of Holy Communion at Star of the Valley is this **Sunday** at the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center parking lot

from 10:30-11:00 a.m. rain or shine. Spread the word! There is no drive-thru on Christmas.

Wear a face covering and stay in your vehicle as you proceed in the line through the parking lot. You will stop and roll down your window to get your hands sprayed with sanitizer (remove gloves if you’re wearing them), and then stop again to receive Communion in your hands. You may then pull your mask away to consume the Host, then drive away and say your prayer of thanksgiving when you arrive at home.

The ministers assigned for **this Sunday** are: Mary Kay Riccioni, Sherry Rosevear, Ted Rosshirt, and Jan Rosshirt. On **December 27** Micki Sabourin, Don Shelhart, Barbara Spotleson, and Fritz Spotleson. Please find your own substitute to fill in for you if needed.

Advent Reflection

At the conclusion of the virtual Mass, please stay tuned to the SOV YouTube Channel for an Advent Reflection presented by Fr. Pat Leslie and Marcy Fox. The presentation will appear right after the Mass closing prayer. This weekend’s reflection will be on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

CHRISTMAS



Christmas

Friday, December 25 Readings

Reading I: *Isaiah 52:7-10*—

All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

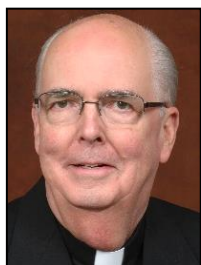
Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 98*—

All the ends of the earth have seen

the saving power of God.

Reading II: *Hebrew 1:1-6*—God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being.

Gospel: *John 1:1-18* or *1:1-5, 9-14*—The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace.



Christmas

After I listen to a reading of the Nativity story, I am filled with feelings of awe, freedom, love, hope, joy, peace, and solidarity with the rest of humanity.

One of my favorite Christmas stories is one that I shared with you a few years back. It, too, triggers the

same feelings.

A Story—*Joyeux Noel*, Jay Cormier

It happened on Christmas Eve 1914 during the First World War.

Three regiments—one French, one Scottish, and one German—had been locked in battle for weeks in the dirty dark trenches along a French hillside. On Christmas Eve, a truce was called. As the night began, a German soldier sang “Silent Night” for his comrades—from the other side of the battlefield, two Scottish bagpipes picked up the accompaniment; then the pipers began to play “Adeste Fidelis” and a tenor started to sing along with them. Soon soldiers from each side peered over “No Man’s Land” and cautiously approached one another. Slowly, tentatively, the troops laid down their weapons.

The troops exchanged photographs of their wives and girlfriends and shared precious bits of chocolate and champagne. A priest from the Scottish regiment celebrated Mass in the cold field and all three regiments joined in prayer. On Christmas Day, the two sides happily skirmished in a soccer game. French, Scot, and German soldiers then helped one another bury their dead comrades.

But when the war resumed late on Christmas, the three sides could no longer draw weapons against the others. They were no longer enemies—Christmas had transformed them into fellow fathers and sons and farmers and artists and clerks.

The dawning of Christ illuminates our perspective on the world and of one another. In his light, we recognize one another as brothers and sisters and sons and daughters of his heavenly Father. The coming of Christ transforms the hopeless and cynical winter landscape into a new springtime when peace is not only possible but imperative.

Let us make Mr. Cormier’s prayer our own today: Welcome, O Child of Bethlehem! Fill our empty hearts with your Father’s peace: the peace that heals, that comforts, that lifts up, that unites. And may your Spirit make us sharers of that peace, enabling us to become God’s “people of good will”—a people dedicated to building your world of compassion, justice, peace (and joy) for all people, in all seasons.

Joyeux Noel

To watch a scene from **Joyeux Noel** (Merry Christmas), a Christmas film set during WW1 (based on a true story) click [Joyeux Noel](#). To rent the full French movie that came out in 2006 just type: *2006 Joyeux Noel full movie* in the YouTube search box.

NO Outdoor Drive-By Communion Service on Christmas Day



Follow Along with Monsignor’s YouTube Mass for Christmas

Included with this bulletin you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **December 25** Mass. You can print them out by opening the **2020-12-25 Mass Responses.pdf** file.

Christmas Mass Intention

The intention for the Christmas Mass is for the repose of the soul of **Msgr. Gerard Fahey** (requested by Bill and Terry Cutler.)

Prayer Intentions

Pray for the sick: Gail Barrett, 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, Bart Taylor, Mercedes Vegvary, Claire Vincent, William Wallace, and Dolores Zeni.

Also pray for those who have died: Msgr. Gerard Brady and Mia Ruhm.

Office Closed on Christmas Day

The parish office will be close on Friday, **December 25**, in order to celebrate **Christmas**.

Mass Intention Scheduling on Hold

As of the end of this year, we will have 56 Mass Intentions waiting to be rescheduled due to our limit of celebrating only one Mass per week. Please be patient, and pray for us to be able to resume our normal Mass schedule as soon as possible. Stay safe and well.



May Christ come to you this Christmas
with the gift of Love,
the blessing of Hope,
and the promise of Peace.





Drive-Through Christmas Program 2020

The "Pandemic Version" of our usual Christmas Basket Program was very successful thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who organized, planned, set up, stood out in the cold, and made special deliveries. "Santa's Elves" included Sr. Joanne Abrams, Barbara Spotleson, Drew and Kar Hofmann, Pete Hardy, Phil Marvier, Eva McGinn,

Connie Pearson, and Sherry Rosevear. Also, from St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Dorothy Murray played a big role, as did Sharon and Anna from our parish office.

91 families were invited and those able to attend were given a special Safeway Gift Card, with a higher monetary value than usual, since we couldn't invite them inside or give them food or gifts this year.

58 children at the Family Support Shelter also received Target gift cards.



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