

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.



January 10, 2021 – The Baptism of the Lord



Come to the Water!

In Isaiah today, we’re told to “come to the water.” Water quenches our thirst, washes us clean, gives us life. Through the waters of baptism, we are given new life,

washed clean of our sins, and our thirst is quenched with the waters of eternal life. It is now up to us, the baptized, to see that the waters of baptism do not return to God void, but that we are fruitful in carrying on Jesus’ mission, planting seeds where they can themselves germinate, grow, and provide food for our brothers and sisters.

Receiving the Holy Spirit

When Jesus was baptized, the heavens were torn open and the Holy Spirit descended upon him. When we were baptized, the heavens didn’t appear to have been torn open. Yet we received the Holy Spirit. There must have been some tear between the heavens and the earth. The Holy Spirit, driving within us, flowing among us, transforms us, tearing our new selves from our old selves. Our baptized selves have the divine within. May God be well pleased in us.



Sunday, January 10, 2021

Reading I: Isaiah 55:1-11—

Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life.

Responsorial: Isaiah 12—

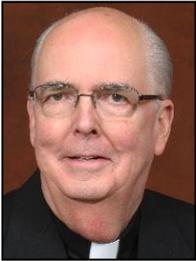
You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Reading II: 1 John 5:1-9—

To love God is to keep God's commandments.

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11—

The Spirit of God descends like a dove.



Baptism of the Lord

In Mark's account of the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan, God makes it very clear that Jesus is his son, that he loves him and is very pleased with him.

When you and I were baptized we received God's love, his life, and his Spirit. God said the same thing about

us as he did about Jesus. You are my sons and daughters. I love you all. I am very pleased with you. Let us never forget God's love for us and his delight with each of us.

A Story—A Man Named Seamus

Seamus was a young man who could not believe what he had just done. In the middle of the priest's homily, he suddenly left his wife and children in the pew and walked out. He felt angry inside, so angry that he could not sit still a minute longer. But he had no idea what his anger was about. Rather than embarrass his family further, he walked home from Mass on his own.

That afternoon he talked the matter over with his wife Sue, but neither of them could work out why he felt so angry. So, he made an appointment with his priest for the following Tuesday night. Fr. O'Malley suggested: 'Tell me everything you remember about Sunday morning, starting with all you spoke to when you arrived at church, and everything you can remember about the Mass.' Seamus outlined all the people he had spoken to, and what was said as best he could remember. But nothing stood out from the conversations which shed light on the source of his anger. He then made a summary of the flow of the Mass up 'til the gospel. He could not remember which gospel had been read and what it was about.

'It is interesting,' Fr. O'Malley said, 'how you remember well the first two readings, but have not got a clue about the gospel. So, let me remind you.' The priest pulled a missal down from the shelf and read the gospel. As Seamus heard the familiar words about John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus, he became aware that he did remember hearing them on Sunday, but it was not 'til Fr. O'Malley came to the last words of the text that he knew what his anger was about:

*And a voice spoke from heaven,
'You are my Son, the one whom I love;
I am very pleased with you.'*

'That's what I always wanted to hear from my father,'

Seamus said bitterly, 'and now it's too late, because he's dead.' Tears came to his eyes as he let himself feel for the first time the deep hurt he had been carrying for far too long.

'Perhaps there is something you can do about it,' Fr. O'Malley replied. 'Let us pretend that your dad is sitting right here in this chair.' He pulled an empty chair over and placed it in front of Seamus. 'Tell him how you feel. Don't leave anything out.'

Seamus stumbled over his words at first, but after a few moments he spoke passionately, pouring out everything he wanted to say to his father. When he was finished, Fr. O'Malley looked at him and said, 'what do you think your father would say to all that?'

Seamus thought for a minute and then he replied: 'I think he would say what he used to say when I was upset and afraid as a child. He would pick me up, give me a big bear hug, and say: "Seamus, I love you. There is nothing to worry about. That's my boy." When he left Fr. O'Malley's office, he felt that a heavy load had dropped from his shoulders. For the first time since his father died, he felt at peace.

Conclusion

Let us never forget God's love for us and his delight with each one of us. Let us also not forget to do our best to express that love and delight for one another.



Follow Along with Monsignor's YouTube Mass for January 10, 2021

Included with this bulletin you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **January 10** Mass. You can print them out by opening the **2021-01-10 Mass Responses.pdf** file.



Star of the Valley Outdoor Communion

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

parking lot from 10:30-11:00 a.m. rain or shine.

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.

You may hand in offertory envelopes, or receive a 2021 calendar from the person **before you get your hands sprayed with sanitizer.**

The ministers assigned for **this Sunday** are: Bianca Bailie, Marcy Fox, Jennifer Willwerth, and Bob Zeni. The ministers assigned for **January 17** are: Kar Hofmann, Carole Kilgariff, Martin Kilgariff, and Marge Lamb. Please find your own substitute to fill in for you if needed.

Prayer Intentions

Pray for the sick: Gail Barrett, Lola Danielli, Patricia Daniels, Fran Dias, Fran Evans, Frank Gyorgy, Mike Hanlon, 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, Ed Turpin, Mercedes Vegvary, Claire Vincent, William Wallace, and Dolores Zeni.

Also pray for those who have died.

Sunday's Mass Intention

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

Song of Hope & Promise

Click on [The Day We Are Together Again](#), by Humbird and performed by Congregation Bet Haverim (5:44)



Crossing the Threshold

As the difficult year 2020 comes

to an end and we welcome the New Year, I have been thinking about *thresholds* lately. Yesterday's Feast of the Epiphany reminded me of the rich Eastern custom of placing an inscription (*traditionally, written in chalk*) above the doorway, or threshold, in your home: **20+C+M+B+21**.

The initials C, M and B represent Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, and the crosses stand for "saint." The letters also abbreviate the prayer "Christus mansionem benedictat." "*May Christ bless the house.*" Coincidentally, the month of January takes its name from the Roman god, Janus, the "guardian of thresholds". This ritual casts a Christian interpretation over the threshold we cross at the beginning of the calendar year.

Perhaps an even more important threshold this year will be the unfolding of the Covid-19 pandemic. Two weeks ago, I quoted Pope Francis: "We never come out of any crisis the same: either we come out better or worse, but never the same; and that will depend, to a large extent, on our capacity to cultivate—especially in the younger generations—an imagination that would help them believe that another way of writing history is possible..."

So, if there is to be a "new normal," what do I imagine it to be? I remember celebrating a funeral where the son of the deceased addressed the congregation as the liturgy began, saying his Mom's greatest gift to her family was her deep faith. Then the young man went on to say that the greatest gift we, as a congregation, could give to the family at this time was to praise God for her life, singing and responding loudly at the liturgy! And what a celebration it was!

Perhaps a New Year's resolution this year might be a simple commitment to participate—really participate—at Mass. Lots of folks have said how they miss gathering for liturgy in person at their parish or here at Christ the King. Let's resolve to come back together, crossing the threshold with renewed enthusiasm for the Eucharist. As St. Augustine said, "S/he who sings prays twice!"

—Fr. Jack Conley, CP



150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church

Pope Francis declared 2021 the year of St. Joseph. See his Apostolic Letter included with this bulletin. The aim of this letter is to encourage us to implore St. Joseph's intercession and imitate his virtues and his zeal.

Renew the Face of the Earth

We have longed for the year 2020 to be over, to move away from the pandemics that have wounded us collectively and individually. With 2021 on the calendar now, it feels like maybe, just maybe we can start anew at some point. Given the chance, we, along with all of creation, have the capacity to renew, that is, to be "new again"—not only each year but each moment.

An essential ingredient to renewal is peace. The church calls us to follow Christ the Way of Peace, as Pope Benedict said on this day in 2007, "with hearts full of hope, notwithstanding the dangers and difficulties that surround us." Let us pray for **and choose** peace for ourselves and for the world in all that we renew this year.

Friend or Foe?

Water is a rich and potent symbol. We all know that no life on earth would be possible without it. It touches nearly every facet of human life, and its absence is soon noted. Without it, the grain, wine, milk, and other "rich fare" from Isaiah would not be possible. The messianic age is characterized as a time of abundance and fertility, not attainable without water. It was a precious commodity in Jesus' world. Water has its dark, dangerous side as well—the chaos of the dawn of creation was symbolized by water, the earth was destroyed (and still knows destruction) by the waters of the flood. Israel risked it all in the waters of the Red Sea as they fled Egypt and entered the desert. In similar fashion, today Jesus risks it all in his calling as Son of God and, like the Israel whose son he also was, he will enter the desert in the next few verses of Mark's Gospel.

Thicker Than Water

Another powerful life symbol is blood. Like water, it is essential. John's letter today tells us that three things testify to Jesus as the Son of God: water, blood, and the Spirit. Today's feast forms a hinge of sorts between the two great "water and blood" moments in the life of Jesus. It is the culmination of the season of the Nativity, the time when we remember and celebrate that Jesus came into the world as a fully human being, in water and blood. It is also the day on which he begins his public ministry of calling Israel to repentance by proclaiming the reign of God, a ministry that will ultimately end in water and blood as he is crucified. But hovering over all of this is the Holy Spirit. It is by the Spirit that Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary; it is the Spirit who guides his entire ministry from Jordan to Calvary; and it will be the Spirit who brings his resurrected life back to the world, who continues it to this very day in the waters of baptism and the blood of disciples, by which his Body, the Church, is still proclaiming the reign of God to the world.

Women's Club News

I am pleased to announce that the Women's Club has gifted the parish \$2,159.18 representing our efforts in fundraising for the parish during 2020.

During the last two months of 2020 the Women's Club reached out by phone, mail or email to our members with Holiday Wishes. A special thanks to Paula Scull who coordinated the holiday outreach, and the outreach committee: Marcy Fox, Ruth Fulger, Mardie Hart, Justine Haugen, Carole Kilgariff, Leila O'Callaghan, Mary Valentine, Cristina Wadsworth, and me, Joey Cuneo.

The future of the Women's Club is yet to be determined. We are "on hold," waiting for guidance from Msgr. Pulskamp and the Pastoral Council.

We look forward to a healthy and more active 2021!
Joey Cuneo, President 2020

Men's Club News

2020 has been a very unusual year for all of us. Our club has not disbanded. We are here and intend to continue all of our activities when the Star of the Valley Parish reopens. In the interim, the officers of the club have agreed to continue in their respective positions into 2021. In addition, all club memberships will also be carried over, with no request for 2021 dues.

It's the board's intention to host a large social gathering to celebrate the renewal of the parish and our club. We all look forward to getting together as quickly as possible. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jim Warman, President SOV Men's Club

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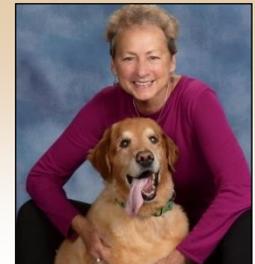
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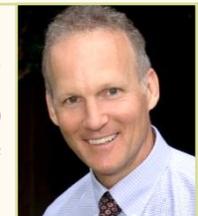
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