

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

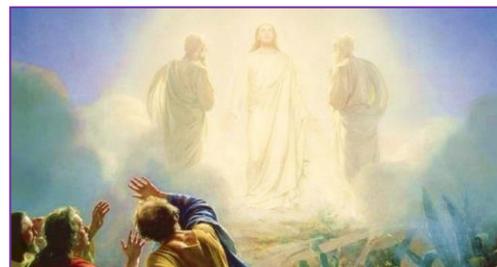
For appointment, email or leave a message in the office.

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.



February 28, 2021—Second Sunday of Lent



Listen & Follow

When God called out to Adam in Eden after he had eaten the forbidden fruit, Adam hid

himself from the Lord. When God called out to Abraham in today’s first reading, Abraham’s first words are, “Here I am!” Adam’s disobedience leads to his unwillingness to face God. Abraham’s obedience is displayed by his immediate eagerness to respond to God, even without understanding what God asked him to do, sacrifice his own son. But unlike Adam, Abraham placed his trust in God and responded obediently. So, too, did Jesus.

The Transfiguration takes our breath away. It is good that we are dazzled on a yearly basis, because we need this brightness to bring us back to lives of love and purpose. We really want to put Christ first, but the harshness of daily life often pushes him to the sidelines.

Though our tests may not be as severe as Abraham’s and our peak experiences not as dramatic as the Transfiguration, we all face the daily challenges of walking “before the Lord in the land of the living.” As we follow our varied calls to love and serve, let’s be comforted by Paul’s reminder to the Romans: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” May our vision be transfigured by the knowledge that the Jesus we see in the least of our sisters and brothers is also the Jesus who suffered and died on the cross and is also now the Jesus of dazzling glory.

How can I transfigure my life this Lent? What will I do to show the transfiguration Jesus has made in me?



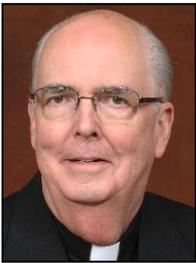
Sunday, February 28, 2021

Reading I: *Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18*—I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky.

Responsorial: *Psalms 116*—I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Reading II: *Romans 8:31b-34*—If God is for us, who can be against us? It is God who acquits us, who will condemn?

Gospel: *Mark 9:2-10*—This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.



Second Sunday of Lent

We just heard the account of Jesus' transformation on the mountain of the transfiguration. He appeared to Peter, James and John as the glorified Christ, as he would be after his resurrection.

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

You and I follow Christ. He is slowly transforming us with his love as we journey with him during Lent and throughout life.

A Story—The Teapot

Once upon a time two grandparents were in a little gift shop, looking for something to give their granddaughter on her birthday. Suddenly, the grandmother saw a precious teacup. "Look at this lovely teacup, Harry. Just the thing!" Granddad picked it up, looked at it, and said, "You're right. It's one of the nicest teacups I've ever seen. We must get it." At this point the teacup startled the grandparents by saying, "Well, thank you for the compliment, but, you know, I wasn't always so beautiful."

The grandparents, still surprised, said, "What do you mean you weren't always so beautiful?" "It's true," said the teacup. "Once, I was just an ugly, soggy lump of clay. But one day a man with dirty and wet hands threw me on a wheel and started turning me around and around till I got so dizzy that I cried, 'Stop! Stop!' But the man with the wet hands said, 'Not yet.' Then he started to poke me and punch me until I hurt all over. 'Stop! Stop!' I cried, but he said, 'Not yet.' Finally, he did stop, but then he did something worse. He put me in a furnace, and I got hotter and hotter until I couldn't stand in any longer, and I cried, 'Stop! Stop!' But the man said 'Not yet.'"

"Finally, when I thought I was going to be burned up, the man took me out of the furnace. Then some short lady began to paint me, and the fumes were so bad that they made me sick to my stomach. I cried, 'Stop! Stop!' but the lady said 'Not yet.' Finally, she did stop and gave me back to the man again, and he put me back in that awful furnace. I cried out, 'Stop! Stop!' But he only said 'Not yet'. Finally, he took me out and let me cool. And when I was cool, a very pretty lady put me on a shelf, right next to the mirror, I was amazed! I could not believe what I saw. I was no longer ugly, soggy, and dirty. I was beautiful and firm and clean. And I cried for joy!"

Conclusion

The story reminds us that God is the potter, we are the clay. With love he is molding us in his image and likeness.

He is doing this out of love so that you and I can also be potters and reshape our world with our love, which is really his love.

We have our work cut out for us. Our world needs to be shaped with more love in all so many ways.

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 the repose of the soul of **Jim Ernst** (requested by Nora Ernst.) The intention for next Sunday's, March 7 Mass is for the repose of the soul of **Lincoln McCarthy** (requested by Maria McCarthy.)



Follow Along with Monsignor's YouTube Mass for February 28, 2021

Included with this bulletin you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **February 28** Mass. You can print them out by opening the **2021-02-28 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. **Before you get your hands sprayed with sanitizer**, you may stop to roll down your window and hand in offertory envelopes.

Next (remove gloves if you're wearing them) you will get your hands sprayed with sanitizer, 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: Kar Hofmann, Blanche Kaiser, Martin Kilgariff, and Marge Lamb. The ministers assigned for **March 7** are: Mimi May, Eva McGinn, Joyce O'Connor, and Connie Pearson.

Please find your own substitute to fill in if needed.

Let us not be weary in well-doing.

—St. Paul



**Lent:
Desert to Transfiguration**

If you watch our Sunday Mass on YouTube, you may have noticed how bare or empty the church looks now. Parishioner Dennis Ciecko, our volunteer in charge of decorating the church, did some “spring cleaning” to remove extraneous plants and items from around the sanctuary in order to

give it the look of desert barrenness for the season of Lent. This, in itself, has a lot of symbolism related to our Lenten scripture readings, reflections, and practices. The church is devoid of decorations (fasting, if you will) to allow for the focus of our prayer and worship time to be on Jesus as Word and Sacrament. In a desert, bare and missing signs of life, there is little to distract one from hearing the voice of God if one is listening.

But the word Lent means spring, too. (The English word *Lent* is a shortened form of the Old English word *lencten*, meaning “spring season”—*Etymology from Wikipedia*) So, to portray both—the desert barrenness and the promise of new life in the spring (a time for prayer and fasting in preparation for celebrating the promise of new life from our Savior, Jesus’ resurrection at Easter)—Dennis also created this beautiful desert-looking, dry arrangement which includes a bird nest with eggs waiting to hatch. With patience, the transfiguration of springtime comes to life, even from a desert experience.



Look carefully the next time you attend Mass online, and you’ll see it behind the altar.

Why Pray?

A time to take inventory.
To take a look from high and wide at our self,
our loved ones, our mortality.
A time to smile upon our blessings,
To humble our selfish yearnings,
To embrace those we know are in need
of our compassion,
And see them in our mind’s eye
as their most true selves.
A snapshot, down memory lane,
Of those we know and care for,
When they were most themselves.
Not happiest or proudest,
Not saddest or most reflective,
But that image of them when we see,
without advertisement or desire,
Their light shine within.
And finally see ourselves the same,
before we say amen.
When we are who we are, and no one else.

—Matthew McConaughey

Song to Pray

Click on [Gracious God](#) to hear Jesse Manibusan’s song with lyrics included for you to sing along. (3:30)



**Zooming with Father Leslie
Weekly During Lent**

Join us on Zoom every week during Lent. This week’s meeting will be on **Thursday at 11:30 a.m.** to discuss Lenten reflections by Sr. Joan Chittister based on the Sunday Scripture readings. This week’s session will focus on the scripture

readings for March 7, the Third Sunday of Lent: Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; and John 2:13-25.

The **Reflection Questions** for this **Thursday, March 4**, (next week we’ll return to Wednesdays) are:

1. Sister Joan lists a number of ways that we can “market” or “use” religion that can lead to spiritual deterioration. Did any of her examples speak to you in a personal way? Can you give one or two examples of where you see this marketing of religion taking place in our nation, our world today? How might a follower of Jesus respond to today’s “money changers in the temple?”
2. “Lent calls us to rend our hearts, to attune our conscience to the voice of a loving God and to ask ourselves, down deep, if and why we are ‘religious’ at all,” according to Sister Joan. Ask yourself this question. Then draw a simple picture of your answer.

We look forward to your companionship as we journey through Lent together. It’s not too late to join us. Send your request for the Zoom meeting link to Marcy Fox at marcyfox@gmail.com.

Lenten Reflections After SOV Sunday Mass

Fr. Patrick Leslie and parishioner Marcy Fox are presenting short reflections which are posted on YouTube, and immediately follow each Sunday Mass during Lent. Once the Mass is ended, stay tuned to hear them.

Thank you, Fr. Pat, Marcy, and the parish volunteer video team, for offering us another opportunity to journey through Lent together while maintaining our safe distancing. You all deserve big hugs when we are able to get back together in person!

On Fasting

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words; be silent and listen.

The Transfiguration

Meditate on the Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary spoken softly by Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel with beautiful movie clips. The Transfiguration is the 4th Luminous Mystery. Click [Transfiguration](#).



**Second Sunday of Lent—
Reflections on Mark 9: 2-10**

The word “transfiguration” is one of those magical and lovely words. The Greek word for transfiguration means “metamorphosis.” Jesus changes in appearance as he converses with Moses and Elijah,

who are transformative figures in their own right. They now appear to encourage Jesus on his journey to the Cross and beyond. Transformative figures always suffer much as they bless others and transform the world.

Metamorphosis reminds us of the beautiful butterflies of spring and summer. It’s long and laborious to become something beautiful (Mark’s Gospel uses the word “dazzling.”) Imagine if that winged creature of great

beauty gave up along the road, defeated by the trials and setbacks of life? The world would be missing something beautiful.

Seize the day as it is with all its difficulties. Strive to become beautiful in the here and now of life. If you cry over the news of the day, see your tears as the beauty of your compassion. If you laugh at a child’s joke, hear the beauty of the laughter. If you are encountering the need of another, experience the beauty of their courage to seek help. Life is a process. Live in the moment. It is but another step in manifesting the beautiful nature of you. In a word, be dazzling!

Blessings to you, Holy Community, for being a person of beauty in the here and now of life. As Moses and Elijah appeared to Jesus, may we appear to one another with comfort, understanding, encouragement, and peace.

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