

# 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](mailto: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.



## **March 21, 2021—Fifth Sunday of Lent**

In the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead, we find a summary of most of Jesus' ministry. We see his human nature as he is moved by Martha and Mary's sorrows and as he himself weeps at the tomb of Lazarus. He explains to his followers that the death of Lazarus will serve as a sign of the glory of God. He crowns the miracles he works in John's Gospel by raising Lazarus from the dead—a "preview," if you will, of his own death and resurrection to come. This portrait of Jesus reminds us that he is with us, knows us, understands us in every moment of our lives. He knows the joy of our human feasting; he knows the sorrow of our weeping. As we prepare to walk with him through the days of Holy Week, we are filled with faith that—through Christ—God's glory will be with us in every moment of our lives and—with Christ—in our life everlasting.

## **Living in the Light & Life**

We have been following, in John's Gospel, the road to Jesus' destiny—to the place where the Father would be given the ultimate glory in his passion, death, and resurrection. Sometimes we need Jesus to walk that same sort of road with us. We think that a life situation, illness, or ailment is somehow a retribution for some wrong that we have done, and we must seek Jesus Christ to take us past that moment into a place of healing. When death itself enters or touches our lives somehow, we are called upon to place our ultimate trust and faith in Jesus Christ alone. He can take our chiding for not making our lives tribulation-free; but beyond that he can weep with us. He can be with us in the most woeful times of darkness and death, and transform them into God's glorious day of resurrected new life. When we are filled with faith in the Resurrection and Life, then we also will live and reign with him in everlasting glory.



**Sunday, March 21, 2021**

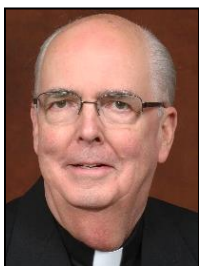
### Scripture Readings—Year A

**Reading I:** *Ezekiel 37:12-14*—I will put my spirit in you that you may live.

**Responsorial:** *Psalms 130*—With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

**Reading II:** *Romans 8:8-11*—The Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.

**Gospel:** *John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45*—I am the resurrection and the life.



### Fifth Sunday of Lent

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to the mother and said, “Mama, I don’t want to go out there. It’s dark.” The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. “You don’t have to be afraid of the dark,

dear,” she explained. “Jesus is out there. He’ll look after you and protect you.” The little boy looked at the mother real hard and asked, “Are you sure he’s out there?” “Yes, I’m, sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him,” she said. The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it open just a little. “Jesus, if you’re out there, would you please hand me the broom?”

In the Gospel this morning, we see a family at a dark time in their lives. They are valiantly trying to deal with the reality of death as we all have during this pandemic. Lazarus has died. Mary and Martha, their relatives and friends are dealing with their loss. The Good News is that Jesus was there with them. In the darkness, there is light.

We, too, have to deal with the darkness of death. We have to deal with the death of someone we love. We eventually have to deal with the reality of our own deaths. The Good News for us is that Jesus will be there for us too. In the darkness, we will find light. We don’t have to ask, “Jesus, are you out there?”

### A Story—Finding a Home

A long time ago there lived a little boy whose parents had died. He was taken in by an aunt who raised him as her own child. Years later, after he had grown up and left the aunt, he received a letter from her. She was in a terminal illness and, from the tone of her letter, he knew she was afraid of death. This man whom she had raised and touched, wrote her a letter in which he said:

It is now thirty-five years since I, a little boy of six, was left quite alone in the world. You sent me word that you would give me a home and be a mother to me. I’ve never forgotten the day when I made the long journey of ten miles to your house. I can still recall my disappointment when, instead of coming for me yourself, you sent your servant, Caesar, to fetch me. I well remember my tears and my anxiety as, perched high on your horse and clinging tight to Caesar, I rode off to my new home.

Night fell before we finished the journey and as it grew dark, I became even more afraid. “Do you think she’ll go

to bed before I get there?” I asked Caesar anxiously. “Oh, no,” said Caesar, “she’s sure to stay up for you. When we get out of these woods, you will see her light shining in the window.”

Presently, we did ride out into the clearing and there was your light. I remember that you were waiting at the door; that you put your arms tight around me; that you lifted me—a tired, frightened little boy—down from the horse. You had a fire burning on the hearth; a hot supper waiting on the stove. After supper you took me to my new room. You heard me say my prayers. Then you sat with me until I fell asleep.

You probably realize why I am trying to recall this to your memory now. Very soon, God is going to send for you, and take you to a new home. I’m trying to tell you that you needn’t be afraid of the summons or of the strange journey or of death itself. God can be trusted. God can be trusted to do as much for you as you did for me so many years ago. At the end of the road, you’ll find love and a warm welcome. And you’ll be safe in God’s arms. I’m going to watch and pray for you until you’re out of sight.

I shall wait for the day when I make the same journey myself and once again find you waiting at the end of the road to greet me.

### Conclusion

Remember the little boy’s question, “Jesus, are you out there?” It’s a question that Lazarus may have asked. The Good News is that Jesus was there for Lazarus and his family. He will also be there for us when we deal with the death of someone we love and even when we face our own death.

He will give us strength, courage, comfort, love, peace, hope and new life.



### Follow Along with Monsignor’s YouTube Mass for March 21, 2021

Included with this bulletin you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **March 21** Mass. You can print them out by opening the **2021-03-21 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 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 get home.

The ministers assigned for **this Sunday** are: Micki Sabourin, Don Shelhart, Barbara and Fritz Spotleson. The ministers assigned for **March 28** are: Ted Sullivan, Mimi May, Cristina Wadsworth, and Bob Zeni.

## 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: Luigi Palombo.

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## Sunday's Mass Intention

The intention for this weekend's Mass is for the repose of the soul of **Ed Schudel** (requested by Jack Krause.)

The intention for next Sunday's, March 28 Mass is for the intention of **Dorothy Beardsley** (requested by Barbara Zednik.)



## Church Reopening Plan

We're happy that the number of active cases of COVID are going down in our area, people are getting vaccinated, and some restrictions may soon be lifted. But that doesn't mean we're ready to reopen the church yet, so be patient.

Our Pastoral Council met during this past week. It decided to continue to offer Mass on YouTube and drive-thru Communion as we are now doing until at least June. It set up a subcommittee to start planning for the reopening of the church. The subcommittee will address such issues as the number of Masses, the number of people allowed at a Mass, social distancing at Mass, signage, sanitizing, the need for volunteers, and costs involved. The progress the subcommittee makes will be posted in our weekend bulletins.

Msgr. Pulskamp will send a letter to all parishioners this week letting them know that we will continue with our current liturgical services for now, while we start planning for the reopening of the church for in-person services in early summer, if at all possible.

Please be patient and pray that we will all be together in our church in the very near future.

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## Make an Offer

"Offer it up" is a phrase that seems baked into our Catholic tradition. Often it comes out at times when we are at a loss from the complexities and pain of suffering, which can leave us hopeless, scared, and lonely. After months of social distancing, mourning deaths, job and school closures, and holidays spent alone, we are all in a kind of personal and corporate space of suffering. We are invited to truly **offer**, that is, to **give** ourselves into the care of others and into the loving embrace of Jesus the Christ who also has known suffering intimately. What do you need to offer up and how can you lovingly embrace others' offerings of themselves?

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May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.



## Zooming with Father Leslie Weekly During Lent

Join us on Zoom every week during Lent. This week's meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 24 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 28, Palm Sunday 2021:

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; and Mark 14:1-15, 47.

The **Reflection Questions** for this week are:

1. Sister Joan states that "Lent is our time to prepare to carry the cross of the world ourselves." Whose cross do you help carry beside your own? Do something concrete this week to lessen the burden of another; maybe someone you don't know, or don't like, or even consider an enemy.
2. "Everyone needs to know that they have lived for something." Draw a picture, create a collage, write a poem or a letter or find some creative way of letting yourself and others know what you live for.
3. Isaiah knew his gift: "God has given me the tongue of a teacher" and he used it to help bring in the reign of God. List one gift that God has given you and explore how you are using it to leave the world better than the way you find it.

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](mailto:marcyfox@gmail.com).

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## Lenten Reflections After SOV Sunday Mass

Fr. Patrick Leslie and parishioner Marcy Fox are presenting short reflections which are posted on YouTube immediately following 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.



## Healing Water Everywhere

The custom of dipping a finger into holy water and making the sign of the cross upon entering a church serves to remind us of our Baptism, whereby we first entered

the Catholic Church. But the waters of Baptism do much more, altering our metaphysical makeup in a profound way. Christians adopted the ritual from John the Baptist, but the practice has even more ancient roots. It's tied to the Jewish use of mikvahs, purifying pools—including those mentioned in the Bible, like Bethesda and Siloam—that believers visited to cleanse themselves of sickness and sin. Let your own bathing rituals remind you of your baptismal promises.

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My 60-year kindergarten reunion is coming up soon and I'm worried about the 175 pounds I've gained since then.



### Don't Look at Me

During Lent, it's easy to imagine we're scoring points with heaven by all this fasting, praying, and almsgiving. Giving up binge-watching for a season, spending 15 minutes daily in contemplation, or funding a different cause each Friday are all worthy activities that may deepen our commitment to faithful living. None of these practices will actually buy us a ticket to paradise, however. Grace is free and unearned, so we can't boast about it. Our Lenten practices are simply our way of saying "Thank You" to the Giver of all good gifts.

### Be the Change

Gregory XV became pope by "popular acclaim" on this day in 1621—interesting, because he changed the tradition soon after. Instead, Gregory made the case for the first secret ballot when electing a pope. He also did

other remarkable things, considering his papacy lasted barely two years. He established the first missionary organization of the Vatican, the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. And he canonized these beloved saints: Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Avila, Francis Xavier, and Philip Neri. Is there a change you've been meaning to make in your own practice of the faith? Begin today.



### Blessed Palms at Star of the Valley

On Palm Sunday, **March 28**, palms will be distributed at the drive-by Communion service.

### News from SRDCCW

To read the newsletter from the Santa Rosa Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, click on the attached file titled **Vine and Branches.pdf**.

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