

# 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

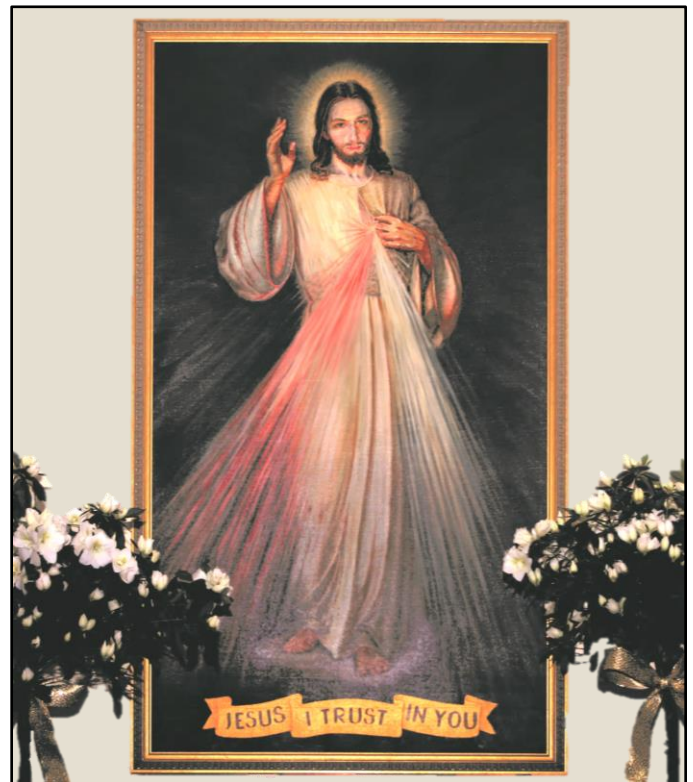
Saturday **Suspended**. For appointment, email or leave a message for Msgr. Pulskamp.

## 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.



## April 11, 2021—Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday

### Divine Mercy Sunday

When Pope St. John Paul II canonized Sister Faustina, he also, on the same day, surprised the entire world by establishing Divine Mercy Sunday as a feast day for the entire Church. According to the Pope, all Masses said on this day, the Sunday after Easter, were to be in honor of the Divine Mercy. Our Lord told Sister Faustina, “I desire that the Feast of Mercy... be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter... The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion (in a state of grace on this day) shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.”

### The Image of the Divine Mercy

Jesus appeared to Sister Faustina with rays of red and pale light streaming from the area around His heart. His hand was raised in blessing, recalling the scene of Easter Sunday night (see John 20: 19-23).

He asked Sister Faustina to have this vision painted along with the words, “Jesus, I Trust in You!”

He presented this image to remind people to trust in His mercy, and to come to Him for mercy:

*I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the words: Jesus, I trust in you.*

Jesus explained that the rays represented the blood and water which flowed from His pierced side and taught Sister Faustina the prayer:

O blood and water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in you.



**Sunday, April 11, 2021**

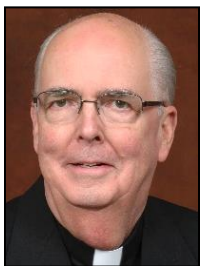
### Scripture Readings

**Reading I:** Acts 4:32-35—They were of one heart and mind.

**Responsorial:** Psalm 118—Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

**Reading II:** 1 John 5:1-6—Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God.

**Gospel:** John 20:19-31—Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.



### Second Sunday of Easter— Divine Mercy Sunday

In today's Gospel Jesus gifts his apostles and us with peace. Three times he says "Peace be with you." It is not a peace that the world gives, that is merely an absence of war. But the peace Jesus gives is serenity in the face of life. The gift is a sense of

calm knowing that Jesus is "My Lord and my God," I live in his presence and that there is nothing in this life that can separate me from him.

He then sends the apostles and us forth with the help of the Holy Spirit to foster that peace in ourselves, in one another, and in the world around us. "Receive the Holy Spirit." "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

#### ■ We foster that peace by showing compassion to people.

"We know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments." (1st Letter of St. John)

#### ■ We foster that peace by respecting and being just to people.

"No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. There was no needy person among them." (Acts)

#### ■ We foster that peace by forgiving and reconciling with people.

"Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (John)

#### ■ We foster that peace by uniting with people in freedom and in the pursuit of happiness.

"The community of believers was of one heart and mind." (Acts)

### A Story

In 2005, Christo Brand, a South African man, received a call that every parent dreads; his son had died in an automobile accident. On his way to the hospital morgue, Christo received another phone call. A friend said: "I heard about your boy. It is a terrible thing when a parent has to bury a child. I understand how it feels because I lost my own son in the same way. I wish I could give you some strength to bear this."

While you may not recognize the name Christo Brand, you almost certainly will recognize the name of the caller: Nelson Mandela, the former president of South

Africa. What makes this story truly remarkable isn't that the former president called to console a relatively unknown countryman; rather, what makes this story incredible is that Christo Brand had been Mandela's prison guard for 12 years. By 2005 their relationship had become a friendship.

Mandela had an insight that changed the course of history and his wounded nation. He knew that the only way South Africa and the world could know peace was through a commitment to forgiveness and reconciliation.

### Conclusion

People and our world are in great need of the peace that only the Lord can give. He has given it to us to foster and share in ourselves, in one another, and in our world.



### Follow Along with Monsignor's YouTube Mass for April 11, 2021

Included with this bulletin you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **April 11** Divine Mercy Sunday Mass. You can print them out by opening the **2021-04-11 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: Jan and Ted Rosshirt, Martin Kilgariff, and Marge Lamb. The ministers assigned for **April 18** are: Mimi May, Eva McGinn, Joyce O'Connor, and Connie Pearson.

December 8, 2020-December 8, 2021 has been declared by Pope Francis as the Year of St. Joseph. To honor this year and great St. Joseph, the Church is encouraging all the faithful to go to St. Joseph in a special way and to recognize him as our universal patron.

### Prayer to Saint Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
to you God entrusted His only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

## 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, Janet Pyne, 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.

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## Sunday's Mass Intention

The intention for this weekend's Mass is for the repose of the soul of **Bob Waska** (requested by Frances Waska.) The intention for next Sunday's, April 18th Mass is for the soul of **Maria Teresa deTorres** (requested by Maria Hopper.)

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## Lie Low to Be Raised High

In 1812, six young women joined to devote their lives to providing care and education for Catholic families living in Kentucky. Nineteen-year-old Catherine Spaulding from Maryland was chosen to lead the group that became the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (S.C.N.). Mother Catherine guided the congregation for 45 years, until her death on March 20, 1858. Today 550 S.C.N. sisters serve in 20 states and four foreign countries. Find your own quiet path of humility so that you, too, can be exalted.

## Be the Change

Gregory XV became pope by "popular acclaim" on February 9 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.



## Church Reopening Plan

Thank you to everyone who returned the survey! The total response was encouraging and the results are being tabulated. Your participation in our parish reopening plans are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your patience and prayers that we will all be together in our church in the near future. The committee is working diligently to make this a reality.

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## Quail Quip

Never lose hope. The butterfly is proof that beauty can emerge from something completely falling apart.

—Jane Lee Logan



## Zooming with Father Leslie

Join us on Zoom this week, **Wednesday, April 14 at 11:30 a.m.** to discuss next weekend's, April 18, Mass readings: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Psalm 14; 1 John 2:1-5a; and Luke 24:35-48.

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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## Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos Events

Friday, **April 16**, 7:30 p.m. through Sunday, April 18, 2:00 p.m. Fr. Tom Weston, SJ leads a non-silent (virtual or in-person, your choice) weekend of welcome, refreshment, and renewal for friends and family members of alcoholics and addicts. Join with others who use the 12-Steps and the riches of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius to pray, reflect, and rest. Time for quiet, for community, for reflection. Spouses, adult children and friends are welcome.

To register for the virtual version of this retreat, click on [Virtual Fr. Weston Retreat](#) or, for the in-person retreat click on [In-Person Fr. Weston Retreat](#).

Friday, **April 23**, 4:00 p.m. through Sunday, April 25, 2:00 p.m. Fr. John Auther, SJ will lead a *silent* retreat (virtual or in-person, your choice) for women and men—Discerning God's Will for Your Retirement.

Are you soon to retire or already retired? Using the insights on discernment from St. Ignatius Loyola, come and probe the spiritual depths of your heart and mind to gain wisdom into God's will for this time of your life. Let God speak to you in our beautiful retreat environment and discern with God the direction of your life. Let your retirement become a time of a fuller union with Christ.

For the virtual retreat click on [Virtual Discerning Retirement](#). Or, for the in-person retreat click on [In-Person Discerning Retirement](#).

For more upcoming retreats click [here](#).

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## Acts of Mercy Bring Peace

In a place where people were fearful and grieving, Jesus comes with greetings of peace. His message of peace is a refrain throughout the entire gospel passage. First, he greets the disciples, who are fearfully hiding, with peace. Then, he greets the doubtful Thomas with peace. His followers needed this message. They needed calm in their state of darkness.

This Sunday we observe Divine Mercy Sunday. It is an invitation to reflect on the many ways our world longs for God's mercy. It might be those who are in grief and full of anxiety, like the disciples in the gospel. It might be those in need of the corporal works of mercy. It might be those who are seeking healing. Whatever the need, we are called to reflect on how we can share Christ's peace with others through acts of mercy.

God's mercy and love for us is enduring. Indeed, He sent his Son to bring us redemption, the ultimate act of mercy. Let us imitate Jesus' example of peace. Where there is fear, doubt, or any need for compassion, let us bring the peace of Christ.



## The Touch

The Gospel for the Second Sunday of Easter is John 20: 19-31. Thomas, a rather courageous and inquisitive disciple of Jesus in the Gospel of St. John, was absent when Jesus appeared to the disciples. While they were secluded in fear behind locked doors, Thomas was out and about. The Thomas episode is remarkable. He refuses to believe the testimony of his fellow disciples unless he touches the wounds of the Risen Jesus. One can only wonder why a Risen Jesus would still be wounded. Jesus appears to Thomas, blessing him with peace and the Spirit. Finally, Thomas exclaims Jesus as his Lord. Thomas came to see Jesus when he touched the wounds of Jesus.

Perhaps the first followers of Jesus understood Jesus to be risen in the woundedness of the poor and afflicted. As they fed the hungry, clothed the naked, comforted the sick and imprisoned, and welcomed the stranger, they

touched the wounds of the Risen Jesus. These wounds were and are the wounds of love.

Were you ever so tired, you ached from exhaustion? Were you ever wounded in attempting to help another person? Did your heart ever break as you experienced the suffering of another? These are your wounds, the signs of your loving care.

Thomas had the courage to touch the wounds of Jesus. The first followers had the courage to touch the wounds of the Risen One.

Blessed are you for touching the wounds of others with the love of your hearts and the deeds of your hands. Thank you for rising to the occasion to be the loving presence of Jesus to all. May the humility and simplicity of this beautiful and touching day be an inspiration to us as we humbly seek to touch the wounds of the Risen One in the suffering people of today.

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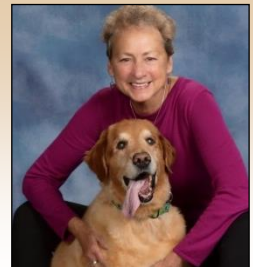
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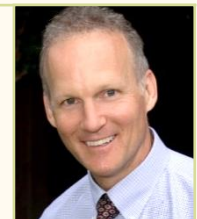
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