

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.



April 25, 2021—Fourth Sunday of Easter

The Good Shepherd

This Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally referred to as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Today we listen to the words of the Lord as he refers to himself as the “good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep.” It is sometimes so difficult for us to grasp the reality that anyone would lay down his or her own life for the sake of someone else. This is especially true in a society that places high value on power and personal advancement, often at the cost of “trampling” on other people in order to climb the ladder. Today’s scriptures point to the one we are called to emulate—the one who lays down his life for his sheep. Today’s scriptures challenge us to discover ways to bring life to those around us—to build up rather than to tear down.

Rooted in Baptism

Today gives us the opportunity to take the time to pray for those who lead us in ordained ministry. In this time of challenges in our world and neighborhoods, with restricted gatherings, closed churches, and fewer if any Masses, our bishops, deacons, and priests need our support as they continue to embrace their vocation to do as Saint Peter did—to point others to the Lord. Since all vocations are rooted in the sacrament of baptism, it is good for us to remember that it was at the moment of our baptism that we became Christ for others. Each of us is called to become more and more like the Good Shepherd as we learn to live out our baptismal call. As we make our way along the Christian journey, we need nourishment and guidance from those appointed to be our shepherds. We need to pray that God will strengthen those who have become weary.



Sunday, April 25, 2021

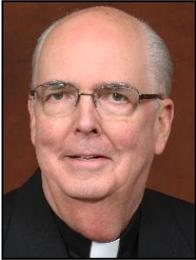
Scripture Readings

Reading I: Acts 4:8-12—There is no salvation through anyone else.

Responsorial: Psalm 118—The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Reading II: 1 John 3:1-2—We are God’s children now.

Gospel: John 10:11-18—The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.



Fourth Sunday of Easter

John portrays Jesus as the Good Shepherd in today’s Gospel. He describes our intimate relationship with him. Jesus calls us each by name. We recognize his voice. We trustingly follow him.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, leads us throughout our lives.

- He guides us.
- He feeds us.
- He teaches us.
- He urges us to passionately give witness about him.
- He urges us to compassionately and justly serve one another.
- He protects us.

A Story—Lamb Chops

Several years ago, Dan and his wife Carolyn were traveling in Palestine with fellow tourists. As they traveled through the countryside they were enchanted by the scenery, history and lifestyle of the people as told by the tour guide. In his description, the tour guide engaged in a heart-warming portrayal of the relationship of a shepherd with his sheep. The guide told the people that a shepherd feeds the sheep with care, and how he is always gentle with them.

The guide pointed out that because the shepherd leads the sheep, instead of driving them, there is never any reason for the shepherd to be harsh with the sheep. The sheep love and trust the shepherd, and the shepherd loves his sheep.

The tour guide went on to say that on a past tour, he was telling the tourists that same message about the beautiful relationship between shepherd and sheep. In the middle of his pastoral tale, however, he suddenly lost his audience. All of them were looking out one side of the bus’s windows at a man chasing a flock of sheep. He was throwing rocks at them, whacking them with sticks, and siccing the sheep dog on them. The sheep-driving man in the field had completely torpedoed the guide’s enchanting narrative.

The tour guide told his audience how he had become so angry, that he jumped out of the bus, ran to the man chasing the sheep, and accosted him. The guide said, “Do you know what you have just done? I was spinning a charming story about how gentle shepherds are and how the sheep love him. And here you are, mistreating and assaulting these sheep. What is going on? Just what kind of a no-good shepherd are you?”

The man looked bewildered for a minute and then replied, “Shepherd? Shepherd? I’m not the shepherd! I’m the butcher!”

When we deal with each other we want to be more like the shepherd, not the butcher.

Conclusion

Our Good Shepherd is leading us, caring for us, and protecting us with the hope that we, too, will become Good Shepherds.

If we are to become Good Shepherds, we will have to stay close to the shepherd, even within earshot. We will have to train our ears to be sensitive to Jesus’ voice.

- It will never be a voice that lies, seduces, or misleads.
- It will always be a voice that speaks the truth, expresses love, comforts, encourages, and promises us that, if we follow him, we will have life and have it more abundantly.



Follow Along with Monsignor’s YouTube Mass for April 25, 2021

Included with this bulletin you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **April 25** Sunday Mass. You can print them out by opening the **2021-04-25 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: Kar Hofmann, Blanche Kaiser, Mary Kay Riccioni, and Sherry Rosevear. The ministers assigned for **May 2** are: Micki Sabourin, Don Shelhart, Barbara and Fritz Spotleson.

From Fear to Gratitude

Sarah Hart sings her new song, **Petition** (6:47) and shares afterward about how the pandemic has affected her and her song writing. Click on the underlined link above.

Choose CALM

When anxiety comes remember this acronym:

Celebrate God’s goodness

Ask God for help

Leave your concerns

Meditate on good and blessings

This acronym reminds us of the truth of Philippians 4:4-9 which starts: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

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, Carolyn McKenna, Leo McKenna, Liz Mullins, Lea Nelson, John O'Neill, 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: Virginia Good, Sylvia Strong, and Paul Rasore.

Sunday's Mass Intention

The intention for this weekend's Mass is for the special intention of **Magda Shelton** (requested by Jack Krause.) The intention for next Sunday's, May 2nd Mass is for **Msgr. Thomas Keys** (requested by Frances Waska.)

Prayer for Priests

O my Jesus, I beg you on behalf of the whole Church: Grant it love and the light of your Spirit, and give power to the words of priests so that hardened hearts might be brought to repentance and return to you, O Lord.

Lord, give us holy priests; you yourself maintain them in holiness.

O Divine and Great High Priest, may the power of your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them from the devil's traps and snares which are continually being set for the souls of priests.

May the power of your mercy, O Lord, shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of priests, for you can do all things.

—From the Diary of St. Faustina, 1052



April Showers—We Need You

Transparency is a root of all lasting relationships and we cannot keep this good news to ourselves any longer. A generous parish family has offered to match your

contribution to keep a roof over our pastor's head. Details on how to donate will be arriving in your mailbox this coming week.

Seek a Way to Serve

Saint Timon is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (6:5) as one of seven deacons chosen by the apostles to assist in ministering to the community of believers in Jerusalem. As the apostles concentrated on preaching, the deacons assisted in providing for the material needs of the community.

This focus on both word and deed, or evangelization and service, continues to be the hallmark of Christian discipleship. As the church teaches in *Lumen Gentium*, "Each one of the faithful must willingly hear the word of God and accept God's Will, and must complete what God has begun by their own actions with the help of God's grace."

What will you do to continue the work of love that begins and ends with God?



Zooming with Father Leslie

Join us on Zoom this coming week, **Wednesday, April 28 at 11:30 a.m.** to discuss next weekend's, May 2, Mass readings: Acts 9:26-31; Psalm 22; 1 John 3:18-24; and John 15:1-8.

Send your request for the Zoom meeting link to Marcy Fox at marcyfox@gmail.com.



Church Reopening Plan

Instead of asking for new volunteers right now, we've decided to wait awhile, until we, at least, resume a Mass schedule like we used to have before the pandemic. Of course, if you don't want to wait, please let someone know how you'd like to help by contacting a ministry or committee leader (see the list on the back of the May calendar, attached.)

Meanwhile, we're still planning on starting to have Sunday Masses inside the church, using a temporary time schedule, on the first weekend in June. More information and details will be mailed.

Hang in there, and please keep your parish in prayer.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

"Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.'" (John 10:11)

Jesus uses the image of the good shepherd to teach us an important lesson in discipleship. The general job of a shepherd is to mind a herd of sheep, trying to keep as many together as possible. Success is measured in numbers. The good shepherd has a different approach, as Jesus describes. The good shepherd measures success in the care for each of the sheep in his flock, even to the point of laying down his own life for them.

The image of the good shepherd reminds us of the preciousness of the sheep, that God has great love for each of us. This love even goes so far as to sacrifice their own life for the sake of the sheep. It is the ultimate sign of love.

If God holds each of us in such tremendous love, we too are called to love and sacrifice for one another. Even in small ways, we can make sacrifices of our time, talent, and treasure for the betterment of others. In this way, we follow God's call to love and sacrifice for the sake of others, imitating the example of Christ this Easter Season. May all of us grow in our understanding of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and better follow his example.

NEWS OUTSIDE THE PARISH

The Story of Saint Joseph the Worker

To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the "May Day" celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955. Click on [St. Joseph the Worker](#) for a short reflection and audio recording.

