

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.



May 9, 2021—Sixth Sunday of Easter

True Friendship

True friendship takes hard work. Friendship entails walking with another through life's moments of joy as well as moments of deep disappointment and failure. Friendships need constant nurturing. Friends need to be present to one another, need to talk, need to be honestly critical, and need time to connect. In today's Gospel, Jesus calls his followers "friends." If we count ourselves among the follows of Jesus, this means that in baptism we have entered a friendship with Jesus. In order to nurture our friendship with Jesus, we commit ourselves to walking with him through life's joys and disappointments. Most of us have people in our lives with whom we have lost touch. We know the experience of the diminished bond of friendship. Most of us can also admit that we really have only so much time and energy to commit to nurturing one or a few real friendships. How do we nurture our friendship with Jesus?

Nurturing Our Friendship with Jesus

If we believe that Christ is truly present in his word, in the Eucharist, in those who minister to us, and in the gathered assembly of believers, we are assured of finding many opportunities to be present to Jesus. So often, we miss these opportunities and our friendship with Jesus becomes strained. Perhaps today is the day to recommit ourselves to strengthening our friendship with Jesus, who chose us in baptism to be his friend. The root of friendship, of course, is selfless love. Today we are called to bask in the love of God—to feel God's loving presence through the experience of worship and the company of those dedicated to sharing in God's love. Let us rejoice in the love shown to us by God.



Sunday, May 9, 2021

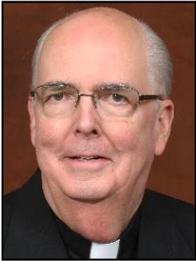
Scripture Readings

Reading I: Acts 10:25-26, 34-34, 44-48—The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles also.

Responsorial: Psalm 98—The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Reading II: 1 John 4:7-10—God is love.

Gospel: John 15:9-17—No one has greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.



Sixth Sunday of Easter

Jesus calls us friends because we love one another as He loves us. He loves us so much that He laid down his life for you and me, his friends.

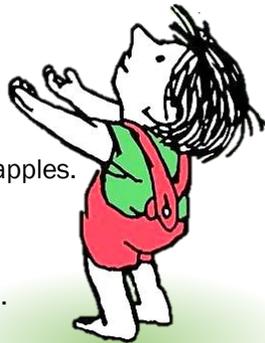
He asks us to do the same for one another, to lay down our lives for each other. We may be called to do that as martyrs for our faith. We may be

called to do that while protecting the life of another. But normally we do that day by day, in so many ways, as we give of ourselves for the sake of other people.

A Story—The Giving Tree

by Shel Silverstein

Once there was a tree...
and she loved a little boy.
And every day the boy would come
and he would gather her leaves
and make them into crowns
and play king of the forest.
He would climb up her trunk
and swing from her branches and eat apples.
And they would play hide-and-go-seek.
And when he was tired,
he would sleep in her shade.
And the boy loved the tree... very much.
And the tree was happy.



But time went by.
And the boy grew older.
And the tree was often alone.
Then one day the boy came to the tree
and the tree said, “Come, Boy, come and climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and eat apples and play in my shade and be happy.”
“I am too big to climb and play,” said the boy.
“I want to buy things and have fun. I want some money.”
“I’m sorry,” said the tree, “but I have no money. I have only leaves and apples.
Take my apples, Boy, and sell them in the city.
Then you will have money and you will be happy.”
And so the boy climbed up the tree
and gathered her apples and carried them away.
And the tree was happy.

But the boy stayed away for a long time...
and the tree was sad.
And then one day the boy came back
and the tree shook with joy

and she said, “Come, Boy, climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and be happy.”
“I am too busy to climb trees,” said the boy.
“I want a house to keep me warm,” he said.
“I want a wife and I want children, and so I need a house. Can you give me a house?”
“I have no house,” said the tree.
“The forest is my house, but you may cut off my branches and build a house. Then you will be happy.”
And so the boy cut off her branches and carried them away to build his house.
And the tree was happy.

But the boy stayed away for a long time.
And when he came back, the tree was so happy she could hardly speak.
“Come, Boy,” she whispered, “come and play.”
“I am too old and sad to play,” said the boy.
“I want a boat that will take me far away from here. Can you give me a boat?”
“Cut down my trunk and make a boat,” said the tree.
“Then you can sail away... and be happy.”
And so the boy cut down her trunk and made a boat and sailed away.
And the tree was happy... but not really.

And after a long time, the boy came back again.
“I am sorry, Boy,” said the tree, “but I have nothing left to give you— My apples are gone.”
“My teeth are too weak for apples,” said the boy.
“My branches are gone,” said the tree.
“You cannot swing on them.”
“I am too old to swing on branches,” said the boy.
“My trunk is gone,” said the tree.
“You cannot climb—”
“I am too tired to climb,” said the boy.
“I am sorry,” sighed the tree.
“I wish that I could give you something... but I have nothing left.
I am just an old stump.
I am sorry...”
“I don’t need very much now,” said the boy.
“Just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired.”
“Well,” said the tree, straightening herself up as much as she could,
“well, an old stump is good for sitting and resting.
Come, Boy, sit down. Sit down and rest.”
And the boy did.
And the tree was happy.

Conclusion

The Lord’s teaching is simple, but demanding. Remain in my love. Love one another as I love you. Be willing to lay down your lives, give yourselves away for one another. Then, the Lord’s joy will be in you and your joy will be complete.

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, Jacqua Miller, Liz Mullins, Lea Nelson, John O'Neill, 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.

Eternal rest for: Steven Bybee, and Louis Pappin.

Sunday's Mass Intention

The intention for this weekend's Mass is for the soul of **Ruben Torres** (requested by Maria Hopper.) The intention for next Sunday's, May 16th Mass is for the soul of **Bob Waska** (requested by Frances Waska.)

Follow Along with Monsignor's YouTube Mass for May 9, 2021

Included with this bulletin you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **May 9** Sunday Mass. Print them out by opening the **2021-05-09 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.

The ministers assigned for **this Sunday** are: Sr. Joanne Abrams, Ted Sullivan, Cristina Wadsworth, and Bob Zeni. The ministers assigned for **May 16** are: Sr. Joanne Abrams, Bianca Bailie, Marcy Fox, and Jennifer Willwerth.

Calling All Men & Women

Star of the Valley Parish needs volunteers to join the Usher Ministry and serve at future Masses by helping take up the collections. Please, prayerfully consider this important ministry.



Our Pastor Needs A New Roof

We are off to a great start! We encourage parishioners to support this worthwhile project so we meet or exceed our goal of \$26,000. SOV Strong

parishioners have shown that they can always be counted on for their support.

You have until **May 31, 2021**, to have your donation to this project doubled.

Please make your check payable to Star of the Valley Parish, write "Roof" on the memo line, drop your donation into the locked mailbox at the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center, or mail it to Star of the Valley, 495 White Oak Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409.

All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Your support in any amount is appreciated.

During the month of May, the Catholic Church honors Mary, holy mother of Jesus, as "the Queen of May."



Zooming with Father Leslie

Join us on Zoom in two weeks, **Wednesday, May 19 at 11:30 a.m.** to discuss Pentecost Sunday, May 23, Mass readings: Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; and John 20:19-23.

Send your request for the Zoom meeting link to Marcy Fox at

marcyfox@gmail.com.



Church Reopening Plan

The parish's Reopening Committee is making progress on finalizing the planning and preparation details necessary for starting a temporarily altered weekend Mass schedule in June. Please keep them and the parish in prayer.

Floral Committee News

Sadly, we bid Dennis Ciecko, our talented floral designer, goodbye on May 20. Dennis and his wife Marilyn sold their home in Wild Oak and will be moving to Fairfield. During the past 8 years our parishioners have marveled at the exquisite designs Dennis has created to place before the altar for Mass on the weekend. We have all been amazed at his creative arrangements for the major feast days such as Easter and Christmas. He has donated wonderful silk arrangements from his private collection to Star of the Valley Parish. Thank You Dennis for your time and sharing your talent with us.

We now face the challenge of looking for a Floral Committee manager and recruiting workers to the Floral Committee. Remember that many hands make light work. If you would like to help, please call me and I will share with you what our members do to keep the Church beautiful to honor God.

Ruth Fulger
707-537-9185



May Crowning & Mother's Day Flowers

Thanks to Dennis Ciecko for making the floral arrangements for Mother's Day (above) and the May Crowning (left).

True Love

How fitting it is that Mother's Day falls on the Sixth Sunday of Easter when the gospel reading tells us to "Love one another as I love you."

The Catholic Church has espoused the value and attitude of servant leadership, following the example of Jesus, who washed the feet of his disciples the night before he died. We have said in many different ways that, like Jesus, we want to lead by serving. Servant leadership is something that flows from a commitment to self-sacrificial love—to sacrifice oneself for the well-being of others. Self-sacrificial love and servant leadership are not realities that are part of weak people. They can only be lived by people of great inner strength, like Jesus himself possessed.

If there is a group of people in our midst that are

examples of self-sacrificial love and servant leadership, it is the mothers in our community. Mothers constantly are giving of self and serving their children, their spouses, their extended families, their own parents and in-laws, their places of work and their faith community.

Today we pause to say thank you to our mothers for being such wonderful signs and sacraments of Jesus Christ to us and to the world around us.

Happy Mother's Day

... to all moms, grandmothers, aunts, Godmothers and all women who have helped nurture the life of another person. You are a sign of God's love and presence in the world. And to all in the Communion of Saints, in the great banquet that is heaven, we remember you this day and give thanks.

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