

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 16, 2021 – The Ascension of the Lord

Grandmother's Deck of Cards

My grandmother had a deep, lasting impact on the lives of her grandchildren. She was our first close relative to die. I will never forget her funeral when each of her adult grandchildren walked up to her casket and slipped a small symbol beneath the folds of the lining of the coffin. For me, it was a playing card from the deck she always used to create a magical fan, formed by bending the deck of cards back and forth. Each time I perform this same "trick" to my own nieces and nephews, the presence of my grandmother is unmistakable.

Christ's Enduring Presence for all Times

I have always imagined that the Lord's followers were very deflated when he ascended into heaven before their eyes. This was the man who had completely changed their lives. This was the man whom they had abandoned, yet who brought them the Easter peace of reconciliation and forgiveness. It could have all ended in that place where Jesus ascended. We all know it did not. Jesus left his followers gifts that would always and forever make his presence known to them. And these gifts are at our disposal to this day. Every time we gather to celebrate the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, we know the presence of the Lord. Symbols, like my grandmother's one playing card, have tremendous power to evoke presence. Christ's presence inspires us to take his final words to his followers seriously. It is in Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit that we continue to make the gospel message known to those we meet. Today is not a day to celebrate the departure of Christ from this world. It is a day to celebrate His enduring presence.



Sunday, May 16, 2021

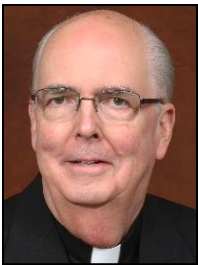
Scripture Readings

Reading I: Acts 1:1-11—Jesus tells the disciples that they will be witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial: Psalm 47—God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Reading II: Ephesians 1:17-23—God seated Jesus at his right hand in the heavens.

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20—The Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven.



The Ascension of the Lord

The Ascension of the Lord is both an ending and a beginning. It brings the earthly life of Jesus to an end. He returns to the Father. It also signifies the beginning of the life of the Church.

As he ascends to his Father, Jesus leaves instructions for the members of the Church. *You have to step into my*

shoes and continue my work. Teach others all that I have taught you. Preach me, my message and my mission to all nations until the end of the age. Spread my Gospel.

Jesus continues. *I know. You are probably saying to yourselves; I don't think I can fill shoes that big. You are saying to yourselves, 'He is perfect, we are not. We can't love as fully and freely. We can't forgive as readily. We don't respond to the Father's will as faithfully. We can't care for people with the same passion. We can't*

see, touch, hear or respond to the cry of the poor as Jesus did.' However, I'm not asking perfection of you. I'm just asking you to continue my work with a generous love for me and my people. You are the only people I can count on to finish my work.

You will have all the help you need.

- ✚ I will be with you always.
- ✚ My Spirit will be with you.
- ✚ You are the Church.
- ✚ You have each other.
- ✚ You have many gifts.

A Story—Unfinished Business

Here is a story of Puccini, the great Italian writer of such classic operas as “Madame Butterfly” and “La Boheme.” It seems when Puccini was fairly young, he contracted cancer, and so he decided to spend his last days writing his final opera, Turandot, which is one of his most polished pieces. When his friends and disciples would say to him, “You are ailing; take it easy and rest,” he would always respond “I’m going to do as much as I can on my great masterwork and it’s up to you, my friends, to finish it if I don’t.” Well, Puccini died before the opera was completed.

Now his friends had a choice. They could forever mourn their friend and return to life as usual—or they could build on his melody and complete what he started. They chose the latter. And so, in 1926 at the famous

La Scala Opera House in Milan, Italy, Puccini’s opera was played for the first time, conducted by the famed conductor Arturo Toscanini.

When it came to the part in the opera where the master had stopped writing because he died, Toscanini stopped everything, turned around with his eyes welling up with tears, and said to the large audience, “This is where the master ends.” And he wept. But then, after a few moments, he lifted up his head, smiled broadly, and said, “And this is where his friends began.” Then he finished conducting the opera.

Conclusion

Let’s not just stand around looking up at the sky like the Apostles, waiting for the Lord’s return. We have work to do. We have to finish the Lord’s work. There are people out there who still have not met Jesus and people who want to get to know him better. There are people out there who still have not heard the Gospel and people who still do not know how to live it. We have much work to do.

Follow Along with Monsignor’s YouTube Mass for May 16, 2021

Included with this bulletin you will find Mass Responses & Prayers for the **May 16** Sunday Mass. Print them out by opening the **2021-05-16 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, Bianca Bailie, Marcy Fox, and Jennifer Willwerth. The ministers assigned for **May 23** are: Kar Hofmann, Blanche Kaiser, Martin Kilgariff, and Marge Lamb.

Thank You to Frances Waska—SOV Librarian

Thank you, Frances, for keeping our library organized during shelter-in-place. Even though the library has been closed, we have continued receiving book donations that Frances has gone through and used to update our library collection. The library will reopen when the Parish Center opens in June.

And now, something fun from Frances:

When I find myself walking through the valley of the shadow of death, I remind myself not to trust Google Maps again. —*Author Unknown*



Church Reopening Plan

The parish’s Reopening Committee is finalizing the planning and preparation details for reopening according to current state and local guidelines. Stay tuned!

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.

Also pray for those who have died.

Sunday's Mass Intention

The intention for this weekend's Mass is for the soul of **Bob Waska** (requested by Frances Waska.) The intention for next Sunday's, May 23rd Mass is for the soul of **Sarah Firpo** (requested by Isabel Frimmersdorf.)

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 call the office during weekday office hours to volunteer and get more information.



Our Pastor Needs A New Roof

We are grateful that SOV parishioners are showing their strength and generosity in support of our pastor's wellbeing.

If you haven't already done so, you have until May 31, 2021, to contribute to this special campaign.

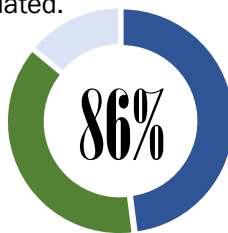
Please make your check payable to Star of the Valley Parish, write "Roof" on the memo line, drop your donation into the locked mailbox at the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center, or mail it to Star of the Valley, 495 White Oak Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409.

If we exceed our goal of \$26,000, all additional donations will be retained in our Parish Repair and Maintenance fund for future needs. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Your support in any amount is appreciated. We can help our pastor stay warm, safe and dry in his home—without using an umbrella.

Goal \$26,000

- 48% / \$12,400 Donations Received
- 38% / \$10,000 Matching Gift
- 14% / \$3,600 Remaining



For Your Gifts of Time, Treasure, & Talent

Thank you for serving others in the name of our Lord. Know that everything you do for others you do for Him. Thank you for offering your time so generously for those who need your talents. May He bless you for every act of kindness you have done and reward you for your love and service to others. We appreciate all that you do and for the difference you have made in serving the Lord our God so faithfully. May He bless you abundantly. Amen.



Zooming with Father Leslie

Join us on Zoom this week, **Wednesday, May 19 at 11:30 a.m.** to discuss the 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.

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

The Ascension of the Lord

"Jesus said to his disciples: 'Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.'" (Mark 16:15)

As we celebrate the Ascension, we read the end of the Gospel of Mark. Before he takes leave of them, Jesus calls his disciples to go into the whole world and proclaim his truth to every person. Being his final words to them before he ascends into heaven in glory, we know just how important these words are.

St. Francis of Assisi is known for saying "Preach the gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words." In these words, he reminds us that preaching the gospel is not just formally teaching about Jesus. What is most powerful is the preaching that we do with the example of our lives. People notice this first before anything else, and are often more impacted by it. We preach the gospel when we accompany those who are suffering. We preach the gospel when we support the social outreach efforts of our parish. Indeed, God has blessed us with many ways in which we can preach the gospel with our lives.

Let us consider the gifts that God has given to us with which we can truly proclaim the gospel to every one we encounter. May God embolden us as we are sent forth to preach the gospel, especially with our lives.

—Jim Messa

Holy Day of Obligation—The Ascension of the Lord

Fr. Chris Alar explains the importance of the feast of the Ascension of Jesus. Click on [Ascension](#) (8:18)

Eight Gifts That Do Not Cost a Cent

- 1. The gift of listening:** But you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.
- 2. The gift of affection:** Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.
- 3. The gift of laughter:** Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."
- 4. The gift of a written note:** A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.
- 5. The gift of a compliment:** A simple and sincere, "You look great in red," "You did a super job," or "That was

a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

- 6. The gift of a favor:** Every day go out of your way to do something kind.
 - 7. The gift of solitude:** There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.
 - 8. The gift of a cheerful disposition:** The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone; really, it's not hard to say "Hello" or "Thank You."
- Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear. They share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

From the "Life Guardian,"
newsletter of Birthright International

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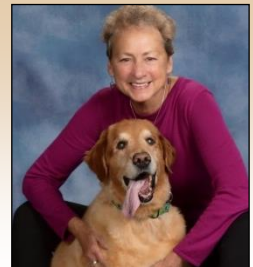
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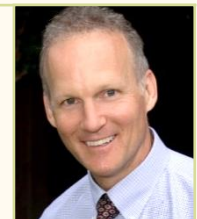
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