

# 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

## Contact Numbers

Parish Office Phone: 707-539-6262

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, Administrative Assistant

## Welcome New Parishioners

Please sign the Newcomers Register  
next to the side door in the back of the Church.

## Mass Times

Weekday Masses: Tuesday-Friday **8:00 a.m.**

Oakmont Gardens: Wednesday **10:30 a.m.**

Sunday Masses:

Saturday **4:00 p.m. Vigil**, Sunday **10:00 a.m.**

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday from **3:00-3:30 p.m.** and by appointment.

## Anointing of the Sick

For appointment, email or leave a message in the office  
for Anointing of the Sick by a Priest  
when someone is hospitalized or homebound.

## Ministry to the Sick & Homebound

Call the office to arrange visits by a  
Eucharistic Minister for Holy Communion  
when someone is homebound.



And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

**December 22, 2024—4th Sunday of Advent**

## “Blessed Is the Fruit of Your Womb”

Luke’s infancy narratives are carefully written to reveal that the child Jesus who was born in Bethlehem is truly the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah of the Jews, and the Savior of all people. In today’s Gospel Elizabeth proclaims the good news to Mary, and to us, that Mary’s child is divine. She says, “Blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” As Luke tells it, John the Baptist recognized Jesus before either of them had been born, and announced Jesus’ identity as the anointed Son of God through Elizabeth’s words.

The first and second readings for this Sunday highlight Jesus’ identity as Savior of all people. In Micah we hear that “his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth” and in Hebrews we are reminded that his death was an offering “for all.”

## Real Presence

We may never fully grasp God’s real presence in the human form of the infant Jesus. Just so, we may never fully grasp the real presence of God in the humble form of the Eucharist. The one who came down from heaven and became human at Christmas comes down from heaven at every Eucharist and offers us his body and blood so that all might be consecrated—that is, share in his divine life. As we sing the Lamb of God litany and receive Communion this week, may we welcome the Son of God and Savior of all people, the Messiah and Lamb of God. May we recognize him not only in the infant Jesus and in the Eucharist, but in all of our sisters and brothers.

In every Eucharist the Incarnation continues.



**Sunday, December 21-22, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Reading I:** *Micah 5:1-4a*—He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 80*—Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**Reading II:** *Hebrews 10:5-10*—We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Gospel:** *Luke 1:39-45*—Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled.



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the “Angel’s Candle,” symbolizes peace. It reminds

us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

**SOV Christmas Giveaway Program—This Year**

Our Christmas Giveaway Program was successful thanks to the volunteers who planned, prepared, set up, and greeted our guests.

Thanks to your generous donations to our Neighbor-to-Neighbor program, 137 families received a \$100 Safeway gift card, and 33 children from our Nick’s Pantry families received a \$15 Target gift card.

On the team were: Virginia Fuentes, Pat Hendricks, Kathy Lollock, Kathy McKeon, Leila O’Callaghan, Tom Redmond, and Cristina Wadsworth. Behind the scenes were Dorothy Murray from St. Mark’s Lutheran Church who made special deliveries, Peter Hardy, and Sharon and Anna from our parish office.



**Our Christmas Elves**

pictured left to right: Kathy Lollock, Pat Hendricks, Tom Redmond, Kathy McKeon, and Cristina Wadsworth.

**MASS INTENTIONS—DECEMBER 21–29**

- Sat 21 4:00 †Agnes Apicella (Mike Apicella)
- Sun 22 10:00 †John Stulgis (Kathy McKeon)
- Mon 23 No Mass—Pray a Rosary
- Tue 24 8:00 No Mass Christmas Eve morning
- 4:00 †Pat Marabella (Len Marabella)
- Wed 25 10:00 **For the People of the Parish**
- 10:30 No Mass at Oakmont Gardens
- Thurs 26 8:00 †Tom Cuneo (Joey Cuneo)
- Fri 27 8:00 †Anthony Apicella (Mike Apicella)
- Sat 28 4:00 †Bob Flores (Lisa Munoz Flores)
- Sun 29 10:00 †Gary Imm (Tim & Barbara Burkhard)

Please keep the sick and those in need in your prayers: Barbara Ahluwalia, Gail Barrett, Jane Borr, Lisa Bragg, David Charlton II, Michae I Curtis, Lola Danielli, Lisa Munoz Flores, Marcy Fox, Rosemary Haver, Hoyt Family, Millie McKay, Karen O’Malley, Caro I Pascoe, Pricilla Peralejo, Magda Shelton, Tom Sosnowski, Bob Spaulding, Lisa Sullivan, Baby Vincent, Marilyn Warman, Adrian Wells, and Dolores Zeni.

Also pray for those who have died: Margo Chicoine and Martin Kilgariff.

**SOV Christmas Giveaway Program—Next Year**

Do you have a heart for the poor?

Would you like to make a lot of people happy for Christmas?

Leila O’Callaghan is retiring this year from being in charge of Star of the Valley’s Neighbor-to-Neighbor Christmas Giveaway program. We are looking for someone new to take over next year. Please let the parish office know if you would like more information about the Christmas Giveaway program.



**The Fifth Candle**

The white candle, symbolizing Love, is placed in the middle of the Advent wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the “Christ Candle” and represents the life of

Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior. The flame of this candle reminds us that He is the light of the world and that if we follow Him, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

May the light of Christmas fill your hearts all year long.

	<b>This Weekend — Dec. 21-22</b>		<b>Christmas Vigil/Day, Dec. 24–25</b>		<b>Next Weekend — Dec. 28-29</b>	
	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>EMs:</b>	Linda Luceti	Marge Lamb	Blanche Kaiser	Liz Garcia	Dennis Sabourin	Kar Hofmann
<b>Lector:</b>	Gail Passalacqua	John Knight	Judy Rodgers	Mike Hanlon	Connie Pearson	Bob Zeni
<b>Server:</b>	Connie Montague	Drew Hofmann	Mary Kay Riccioni	Jim Warman	Micki Sabourin	Drew Hofmann
<b>Greeters:</b>	Marie Crimaldi Kathy McKeon	Mary Bell Kathy McKeon			Livie Brant Lisa Munoz Flores	Sue Cummings Tim Cummings
<b>Ushers:</b>	Kathleen Beirne Tom Beirne	C. Younger TBD	Dennis Sabourin Micki Sabourin	Tim Burkhard Tim Cummings	Kathleen Beirne Tom Beirne	Rick Ragan TBD

## PARISH EVENTS—DECEMBER 21–28

Tuesday, **December 24**, 4:00 Christmas Vigil Mass—Church

Wednesday, **December 25**, 10:00 Christmas Mass—Church

Wednesday, **December 25**, Parish Office Closed

Thursday, **December 26**, Parish Office Closed

### Weekly Collection Report

Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Weekly Goal
\$5,168	<b>\$8,887</b>	<b>\$7,759</b>	\$5,365

**Note:** The amounts consist of First collections, Parish Repair & Maintenance, and **Christmas** gifts received during the weekend and preceding week.

### Ushers Needed to Help with Collections

We have a shortage that you can help fill.

Any registered parishioner interested in the important ministry of Ushers, and wanting to serve at Saturday, Sunday, or weekday holiday Masses, please contact the parish office at 707-539-6262 during the week.

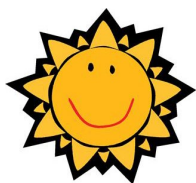
### Electronic Giving



If you would like to support our parish through electronic giving, please scan the QR code or go to our website's

**Donate Here** page:

[giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/starofthevalleychurch](http://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/starofthevalleychurch).



### Need a Little Sunshine?

The Women's Circle has a Sunshine Committee that would like to send a card to anyone who needs prayer or a little sunshine in their life due to illness or loss of a loved one. Please call any

of our Sunshine Ladies: Terry Cutler at 707-280-9995; Paula Scull at 760-809-2760; Carole Kilgariff at 415-370-2083; or Janet Rosshirt at 707-293-4256.



### Dedicate a Donut Sunday

If you would like to sponsor a future Donut Sunday at Star of the Valley, to honor a special occasion or to celebrate the memory of someone, please contact Drew Hofmann at 707-539-2706.

### Find Hidden Treasures at SOV

Star of the Valley Church has a library in the Monsignor Fahey Parish Center, inside the multi-purpose room also known as the Fireside Room. You're welcome to browse, sit and read, and borrow on an honor system from a variety of books and electronic media.

The library is open on weekdays and has a collection of 1,558 books (including two books written by two of our very own parishioners, Magda Shelton and Marcella Fox) and 189 CDs, and DVDs.

Come on in to our library during the week to check it out.



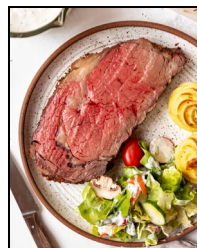
### In Your Winter

\* Your kids are becoming you, but your grandchildren are perfect! \* Going out is good. Coming home is even better! \* Getting old is weird because you're still that same enthusiastic kid trapped in an antique body. \* You forget names, but it's OK, because other people forgot they even knew you. \* You realize you're never going to be really good at anything, especially golf. \* The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore. \* You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep." \* You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch. \* You tend to use more 4 letter words: "what?", "when?" \* Everybody whispers. \* What used to be freckles are now liver spots. \* You have three sizes of clothes in your closet, two of which you will never wear. \* You know, "old" is good in some things—old songs, old movies, and best of all, our dear, old friends!

### Christmas Puns

"Right as rein(deer)." "Your presents is requested." "You sleigh me." "Oh, deer." "Step right up, jingle file!" "But wait—there's myrrh." "Yule be sorry!" "Make it rein."

MEN'S CLUB



All Men Invited

### Thursday, January 16

At the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center

**5:00** Social Hour (Bar Open)

**5:45** Annual business meeting

**6:00** Scrumptious prime rib dinner

#### Menu

Green Salad, Rolls, Roast Prime Rib, Baked Potato, Vegetable, and Dessert

Dinner Cost: **\$25\***

\*Includes Men's Club Membership

**RSVP** by Monday, **January 13**, 2025

**Membership forms are available in the church & by the Men's Club box in the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center.**

Membership dues for 2025 are **\$15**. Call Jim Warman at 707-230-2682 or Drew Hofmann at 949-279-0011, for more information. Membership applications are accepted year-round.

INSTALLATION DINNER

★  
 May  
 Christ  
 come to you  
 this Christmas  
 with the gift of Love,  
 the blessing of Hope,  
 and the promise of Peace.

**A Christmas Wish**

May we break down boundaries, tear down walls, and build on the foundation of goodness inside each of us. May we look past differences, gain understanding, and embrace acceptance. May we reach out to each other rather than resist. May we be better stewards of the earth, protecting, nurturing, and replenishing the beauties of nature. May we practice gratitude for all we have, rather than complain about our needs. May we seek cures for the sick, help for the hungry, and love for the lonely. May we share our talents, give our time, and teach our children. May we hold hope for the future very tenderly in our hearts and do all we can to build for bright tomorrows. And, may we love with our whole hearts, for that's the only way to love.

**Together At Christmas—A Poem & Prayer**

Let Christmas come into our world  
 and bring us warmth and cheer,  
 Bring us Faith in place of doubt  
 and Strength in place of fear,  
 Bring us Hope and bring us Love  
 to guide our hearts forever...  
 Let Christmas come into our world  
 and bring us all together.

**Mercy & Action**

“He has visited and brought redemption to his people.”  
 These are words of mercy and words of action.

Sometimes we wonder where God is. Particularly at Christmas, those who bear great sorrow in their hearts can find themselves heavy with questions and loneliness. Where is God? What does it all mean?

Zechariah’s canticle, however, proclaims that God is mercy and action. Jesus came to share our human condition. He was born, grew up, suffered, was betrayed, was alone, and died. And he rose from death and ascended into heaven where we are now able to follow.

*Jesus, you showed us that what we experience as the human condition does not contain the key to our existence. Only love does. Help us to love even in the midst of disappointment and pain. May we discover the ultimate meaning of our lives.*



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