

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

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, 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

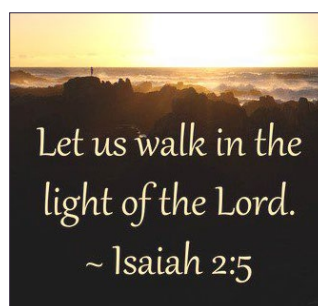
For appointment, email or leave a message in the office for Anointing of the Sick by a Priest when someone is hospitalized or homebound.

Ministry to the Sick & Homebound

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



November 29/30, 2025— First Sunday of Advent



The Gospel from Matthew is part of Jesus' last address to his disciples before his passion. Throughout the discourse, Jesus speaks of what will happen in the future, at the end of the age. Today's reading opens and closes with reference to the coming (parousia) of the Son of Man,

an end-time event when God will manifest ultimate salvific power. Although the parousia of the Son of Man is certain, when it will happen is unknown. Therefore, Jesus' disciples must always be prepared and vigilant.

In order to instruct his disciples on the necessity of being ever alert, Jesus makes a graphic comparison between the flood in the days of Noah and the coming of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, and marrying, oblivious of the flood that was about to come and carry them away.

Similarly, when the Son of Man comes, as people continue ordinary activities such as grinding at the mill, one will be taken away while another will be left. In another analogy, Jesus tells of the master of a house who would stay awake if he knew when a thief would come to break into his house. Both analogies emphasize the suddenness and unknown time of a startling event.

Each of the readings on this First Sunday of Advent have a twofold focus. As they look to the future, whether described as day to come or parousia, they are also instructing people how to live in the present: walk in the light of the Lord; put on the Lord Jesus Christ; stay awake and be prepared.



Sunday, November 29/30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent

Reading I: *Isaiah 2:1-5*—All the peoples shall stream toward the Lord's house.

Responsorial: *Psalms 122*—Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Reading II: *Romans 13:11-14*—It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light.

Gospel: *Matthew 24:37-44*—Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect.

Choose Light—Date Correction



Sr. Joann
Heinritz

All are invited to start the Christmas season with an inspiring Advent prayer service led by Sister Joann Heinritz, a sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and our own parishioner, Marcy Fox.

Sister and Marcy will focus on the theme of "Choose Light" for the prayer service which will be in our church, starting at 2:00 p.m. on **Thursday, December 11**. Afterward, at 3:00 we will continue at our Monsignor Fahey Parish Center to celebrate Christmas with a musical program, a trivia game, and an old-fashioned Christmas Carol sing-along, with Christmas cookies and apple cider. Please bring the family, friends and neighbors. Sponsored by Star of the Valley Women's Circle.



Marcy Fox



Donut Sunday Next Week!

Thanks to Mike Apicella, Donut Sunday on **December 7th** will be in memory of his late wife, Agnes Apicella. Come to the Monsignor Fahey Parish Center before and after the 10:00 a.m. Sunday

Mass to enjoy some juice, coffee, muffins or donuts, and visit with fellow parishioners. Be sure to check out the parish's first-class, fire-side library (a hidden treasure) while you are there. If you would like to sponsor a future Donut Sunday to celebrate, honor, or in memory of someone, contact Drew Hofmann at 707-539-2706.

MASS INTENTIONS—NOVEMBER 29–DECEMBER 7

Sat	29	4:00	†Phil Marvier
Sun	30	10:00	†Al Maggini (Judy Monroe)
Mon	1		No Mass—Pray a Rosary
Tue	2	8:00	†Fr. José R. González
Wed	3	8:00	†Ava Guerrero (Judy Monroe)
		10:30	O.G. For the People of the Parish
Thur	4	8:00	†Dick Kingsbury (Debbie Saros)
Fri	5	8:00	†Eileen Morris (Linda & Ken Begelman)
Sat	6	4:00	†Magda Shelton (Stacy Hill Thomas)
Sun	7	10:00	†Harriet Draper

Please keep the sick and those in need in your prayers: Dr. Mike Apicella, Jeremy Aytes, Gail Barrett, Jim Bricker, David Charlton II, Patty Corgan, Robert Curtis, Lola Danielli, Bob Esposito, Lisa Munoz Flores, Marcy Fox, Rosemary Haver, Alan & Cheryl Hennessy, Dr. Leonard Klay, Gloria Márquez, Millie McKay, Richard Muzio, Karen O'Malley, Lauri Paolinetti, Carol Pascoe, David Reuser, Ben Rodgers, Sr., Susan Smith, Bob Spaulding, Baby Vincent, Marilyn Warman, and Dolores Zeni.

Also pray for those who have died: Fr. José R. González, and all from our parish who died this year.



Thanksgiving Drive to Help the Unsheltered Sleeping Bags, Coats, Blankets, Rolling Suitcases Are Needed

In his first Apostolic Exhortation, Pope Leo XIV places the poor at the heart of the Catholic Church's teachings, asking all believers to care for the poorest in society. To respond to the Pope's Exhortation, the Star of the Valley Pastoral Council is sponsoring a drive to help Catholic Charities reach out to the poor, many of whom are living on our streets.

We are asking for new or gently used blankets, sleeping bags (not cotton, but nylon and polyester), warm coats, and especially roller bags or rolling suitcases. Please drop off your items on, and no sooner than Saturday, **December 6** in front of the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Volunteers will be here to help with the drop off, and a Catholic Charities truck will remove the items that afternoon.

Due to a lack of storage space, we can't accept any other items at this time, nor on any other day at the Parish Center. Thank you for your generosity.

This Weekend — November 29–30

	4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
EMs:	Blanche Kaiser	Cristina Wadsworth
Lector:	Bob Zeni	Len Marabella
Server:	Mary Kay Riccioni	John Dolan
Greeters:	Livie Brant Marie Crimaldi	Tim Burkhard Marietta Mancuso
Ushers:	Bev Shelhart Michael Sotak	Tim Burkhard Clarence Younger

Next Weekend — December 6–7

	4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
	Jan Rosshirt	Barbara Spotleson
	Ted Rosshirt	Karen Schraga
	Connie Montague	Fritz Spotleson
	Bob Chapman Pat Chapman	Tim Burkhard Paula Scull
	Ed Montague Bev Shelhart	Steve Hipson Clarence Younger



PARISH EVENTS—NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 7

Saturday, December 6, 9:00-1:00 Winter Coat Drive—

Msgr. Fahey Parish Center

Sunday, December 7, Donut Sunday—Msgr. Fahey

Parish Center

Weekly Collection Report

Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Weekly Goal
\$5,274	\$3,591	\$4,015	\$5,365

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

Second Collection This Weekend

The second collection this weekend is for **Christmas Flowers** to decorate the church.



Electronic Giving

If you would like to support our parish through online giving, please scan this QR code or go to our website's **Donate Here** page: giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/starofthevalleychurch. If you

have questions or need help, please call Anna in the parish office M, T, Th, F at 707-539-6262.



The First Week of Advent—Hope

Hope is a theological virtue by which one **desires the kingdom of heaven and eternal life**, relying on **Christ's promises** and the **grace of the Holy Spirit** for help. It is a confident, but not guaranteed, expectation of

receiving future goods, specifically eternal life, and the means to attain it. It's not a naive optimism, but a steadfast, virtue-based trust in God's faithfulness, even amidst suffering.

- **A theological virtue:** Hope is considered a theological virtue because its object is God, and it is infused into the soul by God alone.
- **Desire for eternal life:** It is the desire for "the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness".
- **Trust in God's promises:** It involves trusting in God's promises and relying on the help of the Holy Spirit, not on one's own strength.
- **The source is God:** Christian hope is rooted in the belief that because Christ died and rose again, defeat and death are not final. God's love, poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, assures us that hope will not disappoint.
- **An anchor:** It is described as a "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul," providing stability and a goal for life.
- **A response to adversity:** Hope is a virtue that helps believers to endure suffering, as "suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope" (Romans 5:3–5).
- **A sin to be avoided:** One sins against hope through despairing or by being despondent.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR RESULTS

Thank you to all the Pastoral Council members, raffle prize donors, and volunteers for making our parish's second annual Holiday Craft Fair a resounding success. We tripled the proceeds benefitting the parish this year. We had 22 vendors who sold a wonderful variety of merchandise. There was excellent attendance throughout the craft fair, and the vendors were very satisfied with their sales.

Paula Scull, a member of our Pastoral Council, has worked tirelessly all summer organizing the craft fair. Barbara Gasparini, another Pastoral Council member, assisted Paula throughout the process. Paula solicited the vendors, making sure we had a good variety of merchandise, did a lot of PR work on her own, and followed through with all the prerequisite diocesan requirements.

This year Paula completely revamped the raffle, and it truly paid off. The members of the Pastoral Council were asked to donate items to be raffle prizes. Monsignor Pulskamp donated three fabulous baskets full of wine and gift cards to high-end restaurants.

We also had a handful of parishioners who voluntarily donated items to the raffle, and beautifully decorated the baskets which held them. Parishioners Tim and Barbara Burkhard donated an exquisite Victorian dollhouse that was the highlight of the raffle. At the end, we had 19 wonderful raffle prizes which drew a lot of attention and eager raffle ticket buyers. The raffle itself brought in \$2,377. So, a huge thank you to all who donated to the raffle.

Between the vendor fees, the raffle, and a white elephant table, our second annual craft fair brought us **\$3,446.50** in profit for the parish. Beyond the monetary profit, the craft fair was a wonderful community event.

There were lots of people enjoying each other, seeing old acquaintances, making new friends, learning about and appreciating the creativity of friends and neighbors and just having a great time. You could feel the festive holiday spirit in the Parish Center all day.

Paula had some good helpers on Saturday. Thank you to parishioners Mardie Hart and Esther Dolan, who ran the raffle, and to Carole Kilgariff, Leila O'Callaghan, Mike Hanlon, Peter Hardy, Drew Hofmann, Mike Flanagan and Barbara Gasparini who all helped in a variety of ways. Lastly, a special thank you to Sharon Charlton and Anna Jean, in the office, who were an essential help and support throughout the whole process. ❤️

More Thanks to Many Hands

Thank you to Livie Brant, Lisa Munoz Flores, Lioba Moulton, and Beatrix Buckley for helping with our parish Christmas mailing this past week, and to Maryellen Birkland, Marie Crimaldi, Sue Cummings, Russ Emery, Ruth Fulger, Mary Montague, and Virginia Randall, who helped remove last year's missalettes and put the new ones in the pews to be ready for this weekend, the First Sunday of Advent.

The office staff appreciates your gift of time by helping the parish during this busy season!



SOV 2026 Catholic Calendar

You are welcome to pick up your 2026 calendar now. They are at both entrances of the church, and also on the literature table in the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center.



Become a Peer Support Counselor!

Are you 55 or older and looking for meaningful ways to give back to your community? Do you find joy in deep conversation, holding space, and supporting others through life's ups and downs? You may be a wonderful fit for our Senior Peer Counseling Program.

West County Community Services is now recruiting new volunteers for their next training cycle beginning January 2026. Applications opened in September, and interviews will take place in November 2025.

As a Senior Peer Counselor, you'll offer compassionate, confidential support to other older

adults (55+) who may be facing:

- Isolation or loneliness
- Grief and loss
- Health challenges
- Life transitions and emotional distress

Our 35-hour training program includes:

- Communication & listening skills
- Grief and loss
- Boundaries and ethics
- Aging and mental health
- Supportive tools and resources

Training is held in Santa Rosa and via Zoom. Reach out to us today to express interest or ask questions by calling us at 707-387-4094 or sending an email to Chrissie.obrien@westcountyservices.org.

Good Advice

When we find ourselves in company with quarrelsome, eccentric individuals... we should take refuge in silence, and the wisest plan is not to reply to people whose behavior is so preposterous. —St. Ambrose

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