

# 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.



## **December 6/7, 2025— Second Sunday of Advent**

### **Modern-Day John the Baptists**

Have you ever wondered what John the Baptist might look and act like if he were to appear today? Each of us has probably encountered someone in our lives who prepared a way that the Lord could use to come into our presence. We often think of people like Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who certainly prepared the way for the Lord as she ministered to the poorest of the poor in the streets of India. We also think of the saints who throughout the ages have risked their lives to announce the message of salvation that comes through belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Have you ever been John the Baptist for anyone? Have you ever prepared the way of the Lord for someone in your life?

### **Preparing the Way for the Lord**

Each and every week we encounter people at Mass who help prepare the way for the Lord. Our ushers and greeters make us feel welcome and help prepare us to encounter the Lord. When our musicians lead us in the opening song, their talents help prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. When the lectors and priests proclaim God's living word, another way of the Lord is opened before us. When the priest prays the sacred prayers of the Mass, the way is prepared for the sacramental presence of Christ to enter our hearts. We believe that the Lord Jesus is the shoot that sprouted from the stump of Jesse, the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. Perhaps each of us can become a present-day John the Baptist by continuing to make the ground fertile for the sprouting and growth of the Lord Jesus in ever new and surprising ways.

Thank you to all our ministries for Preparing the Way.



**Sunday, December 6/7, 2025**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Reading I:** *Isaiah 11:1-10*—The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb.

**Responsorial:** *Psalm 72*—Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

**Reading II:** *Romans 15:4-9*—God, the source of patience, enables us to live in harmony.

**Gospel:** *Matthew 3:1-12*—Prepare the way of the Lord!

## Choose Light



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 This 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—DECEMBER 6–14

Sat	6	4:00	†Magda Shelton (Stacy Hill Thomas)
Sun	7	10:00	†Harriet Draper
Mon	8		No Mass—Pray a Rosary
Tue	9	8:00	†John Brosnan (Iz)
Wed	10	8:00	†Harry Arbios
		10:30	O.G. For the People of the Parish
Thur	11	8:00	†Mafalda Bertuccio
Fri	12	8:00	†Gina Catelani
Sat	13	4:00	†Bob Waska (Frances Waska)
Sun	14	10:00	†Dana Unruh (Mary Stone)

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.

### Funeral Masses at Star of the Valley

Tuesday, December 9, 10:00 a.m.: Magda Shelton

### Listen Up, As Mary Did

Mary is the Queen of Heaven and preeminent among the saints. She holds the singular distinction of being at the same time both virgin and mother. Owing to her giving birth to the Son of God, she holds the exalted title Mother of God. Yet it is none of these things that make her blessed. Jesus ramps up Mary’s blessedness a notch by recognizing that she’s blessed because she hears the word of God and does it. That means we can join Mary in joy and fulfillment by doing the same.

### December 8—Immaculate Conception of the BVM

Since the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on a Monday this year, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated. The faithful, however, are encouraged to attend Mass on that day. This was decided by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States of America.

The parish office will be closed Monday, December 8.

#### This Weekend — December 6–7

	4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
<b>EMs:</b>	Jan Rosshirt	Barbara Spotleson
<b>Lector:</b>	Ted Rosshirt	Karen Schraga
<b>Server:</b>	Connie Montague	Fritz Spotleson
<b>Greeters:</b>	Bob Chapman Pat Chapman	Tim Burkhard Paula Scull
<b>Ushers:</b>	Ed Montague Bev Shelhart	Steve Hipson Clarence Younger

#### Next Weekend — December 13–14

	4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
	Micki Sabourin	Christina Wadsworth
	Connie Pearson	Bowman Olds
	Dennis Sabourin	John Dolan
	Livie Brant Marie Crimaldi	Ron Manning Judy Monroe
	Judy Rodgers Bev Shelhart	John Knight Clarence Younger



## PARISH EVENTS—DECEMBER 7-14

Sunday, **December 7**, Donut Sunday—Msgr. Fahey

Parish Center

Monday, **December 8**, **Office Closed** for the Immaculate Conception of the BVM

Monday, **December 8**, No Mass—The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not a Holy Day of Obligation this Year

Thursday, **December 11**, 2:00 Advent Service—Church

Thursday, **December 11**, 3:00 Christmas Party—Msgr. Fahey Parish Center

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### Weekly Collection Report

Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30	Weekly Goal
\$3,591	\$4,015	\$4,053	\$5,365

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

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### Second Collection December 13-14

Next weekend, the second collection will be for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**.

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#### 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](http://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.

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#### The Second Week of Advent—Peace

Peace is more than just the absence of war; it's a spiritual state defined as the "tranquility of order" which stems from a life lived in accordance with God's will and love. This inner peace

is a gift from God that can exist even amid external turmoil, and it's cultivated through prayer, aligning one's will with God's, and actively working to be a peacemaker in the world through actions like forgiveness and caring for the marginalized.

#### Key aspects of peace

- **Tranquility of order:** The Catholic Church teaches that true peace is "the tranquility of order," as defined by St. Augustine. This means peace is an internal state achieved when one's life is directed toward God and ordered by virtue and love.
- **Not merely the absence of conflict:** The peace that Christ gives is different from the peace the world offers, which is often dependent on circumstances. Peace from Jesus is an inner state that can be maintained even during suffering or conflict because it is rooted in faith, not external conditions.
- **A gift from God:** Peace is seen as a divine gift that one receives and cultivates through prayer, faith, and a relationship with God. It is a peace that can be experienced when one entrusts all circumstances to the Lord.

- **A call to peacemaking:** Catholics are called to be peacemakers in their own lives and in the world. This involves inner work like disarming negative attitudes, practicing forgiveness, and showing care for those on the margins of society.
  - **The "Sign of Peace" in Mass:** The exchange of peace during the liturgy is a prayer for the unity and peace of the Church and a physical representation of this spiritual reality. It is meant to be a sincere moment of fraternal love and unity, a foretaste of Christ's peace.
  - **Achieved through spiritual disciplines:** Practices such as prayer, fasting, and converting one's heart toward peace are essential Christian tools for achieving peace. Sacramental objects and practices, such as using holy water or St. Benedict medals, can also aid in seeking a calmer disposition.
  - **Forgiveness and reconciliation:** A key part of building peace is practicing forgiveness toward those who have offended you. This aligns with the idea of reconciliation and is central to the "Sign of Peace" exchanged in the Mass.
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### Nick's Pantry

Thank you to everyone who donated cereal to Nick's Pantry—your generosity is greatly appreciated.



#### New This Year at Nick's Pantry for Christmas

Thanks to your donations to our Neighbor-to-Neighbor collections and funds raised at our recent pancake breakfast, this year's Star of the Valley Parish Christmas program

is providing our regular Nick's pantry food guests a Christmas dinner and a \$100 Safeway gift card.

Invitations were mailed out to our guest families, offering them a frozen turkey, and all the fixings, including boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, canned green beans, jellied cranberry sauce, and chicken broth.

Thank you to Peter Hardy, our Neighbor-to-Neighbor program lead, for doing all the shopping and bagging.

Nick's pantry was extra busy this year with more than the usual visitors due to the month-long SNAP program shutdown. We were happy to be able to also help the extra people needing food during that time.

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### Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Immaculate Conception of Mary is one of only two dogmas proclaimed infallibly by a pope. Today, honor our Blessed Mother and thank God for her preservation from sin so that she might bring Christ into the world.

### Holiness Is About More Than Clean Living

Older Catholics might smile as they recall the imagery for sin that they learned in the mid-20th century. Sin-free meant a clean soul. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception refers to Mary as free from "all *stain* of original sin." Rather than emphasize Mary's clean soul, today many contemporary theologians choose to emphasize Mary's active faithfulness over a lifetime. That's something each one of us can aspire to.



### Thank You Men's Club!

The Pastoral Council, in the name of all Star of the Valley Parishioners, thanks our Men's Club for their many years of service, and for their work on fundraising events which greatly benefitted the parish. We appreciate the efforts of each member—present and past—their spouses, and all men and women parishioners who have worked alongside them supporting our parish in each activity. Volunteers have always made our parish thrive.


The Star of the Valley Men's Club has existed since 1983, and has an extensive history of service.

The ministries they have helped organize and participated in include: Parish Big Event, Samaritans, Security, Camp Recreation Golf Outings and Dinners, Bingo Dinners, Donut Sundays, Holiday Dinner Events, Speaker Meetings, Baseball Game Outings, Super Bowl Parties, Annual Parish BBQ/Welcome Dinner, Pancake Breakfasts, Nick's Pantry, Christmas Giveaways, Neighbor-to-Neighbor support of Catholic Charities' Homeless Centers, Bar Service for Funeral Receptions, Event Set Ups, Sound and Video Projections, and others.

The Men's Club leaders of these ministries over the past more than ten years include: Dr. Mike Apicella, Pat Barclay, Tom Beirne, Mike Hanlon, Peter Hardy, Drew Hofmann, Martin Kilgariff, Phil Marvier, Mike O'Callaghan, Dennis Sabourin, Fritz Spotleson, and Jim Warman. You have worked tirelessly for our parish and wider community, and made a huge difference in the social life of parishioners, along with bringing in important funds for the parish.

Thank you also, to Peter and Cathy Hardy and all helpers, who will continue the management of Neighbor-to-Neighbor activities and Nick's Pantry, and for cooking for monthly Bingo games; to Drew and Kar Hofmann, for continuing our Donut Sundays; and to Jim Warman who has served seven terms as Men's Club President during the last 12 years.


After giving your time and talents in faithful service for so long, and during your "retirement years" at that, you have gone above and beyond the call of duty. We sincerely hope you enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation.



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