

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.



December 13/14, 2025— Third Sunday of Advent

God's Favor

Jesus was deep into his work when John the Baptist was imprisoned for speaking truth to power. John's disciples were immersed in their own lives when his imprisonment was visited upon them. They didn't have the luxury of hindsight, and they were visibly shaken by John's imprisonment and certain fate. They came to Jesus to ask John's question and their own, "Are you the one?"

As evidence of his identity, Jesus recites the signs of God's favor. The words he uses echo those of Isaiah. These are the very words from the first reading, and they are fresh in our minds. Jesus does not give us abstractions or high-sounding ideas. He does not speak of a God who reigns in highest heaven. He speaks of a God who acts on our behalf. John's disciples can see that God's power plays itself out in compassion. We are invited to see this, too. Not only that, we are invited to be the instrument of God's compassion, just as Jesus was.

God's Work

Jesus also takes time to sing the praises of John, this principled man who does not change with the wind. Jesus reiterates that there is no greater person born of woman than John the Baptist. His was the privilege of heralding the coming of the Savior. But greater than this, Jesus pointedly adds, is John's participation in the reign of God.

Our role is not to announce the coming of the Lord, but to receive the Lord whom John heralded. If the earth is to bud forth a Savior in our time, it will have to be through our healing mission that is his work. For John, this work cost him his life. We have the vocation of continuing this costly work. (*God's Work continued next page.*)



Sunday, December 13/14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

Reading I: *Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10*—The desert will bloom.

Responsorial: *Psalms 146*—Lord, come and save us.

Reading II: *James 5:7-10*—Be patient

like a farmer waiting for spring.

Gospel: *Matthew 11:2-11*—In prison, John received word of the coming of Christ.

(God's Work continued) Especially during this season, we are asked to recall our commitment to healing, reconciliation, and peacemaking. This is a rejoicing Sunday because we can see and taste Christmas. This is a season of joyful anticipation as we consciously look for ways to be active, effective members of the reign of God.

Gaudete Sunday

On Gaudete Sunday we rejoice, for we know that the Lord is near. With eyes of faith, we can sense his presence even as we prepare for the celebration of his coming to us as a newborn infant. With eyes of faith, we can see his coming as well as the prophet Isaiah or the New Testament prophet John the Baptist, who each prepared his people for God's transformative presence. With eyes of faith, let us glory in Jesus' presence right here, right now: in God's word, in the Eucharist, and in those around us.

The Third Week of Advent—Joy

Joy is a deep, lasting gift from God, rooted in hope and relationship with Christ, distinct from fleeting happiness; its key aspects include finding strength in suffering through faith in the Resurrection, practicing gratitude, serving others (charity), living sacraments, and trusting God's presence, all fueled by the Holy Spirit. It's an inner peace and strength, a foretaste of heaven, that allows one to face reality and share God's love.

Core Principles

- **Gift of the Holy Spirit:** Not a human emotion, but a divine grace filling the heart with lasting peace and strength, especially in trials.
- **Hope in Resurrection:** Comes from knowing Christ conquered sin and death, promising eternal life, making suffering bearable.
- **Beyond Happiness:** Different from temporary happiness; it's an abiding inner state, a deep-seated peace and balance. *(Joy continued in next column.)*

MASS INTENTIONS—DECEMBER 13–21

Sat	13	4:00	† Bob Waska (Frances Waska)
Sun	14	10:00	† Dana Unruh (Mary Stone)
Mon	15		No Mass—Pray a Rosary
Tue	16	8:00	† Agnes Apicella (Mike Apicella)
Wed	17	8:00	† Lincoln R. McCarthy (Maria McCarthy)
		10:30	O.G. For the People of the Parish
Thur	18	8:00	† Frank Seghesio & Intention of Elvera Seghesio (Dianne Seghesio)
Fri	19	8:00	Intention of Tony & Vicki Serva (Dianne Seghesio)
Sat	20	4:00	† RJ Brant (Livia Brant)
Sun	21	10:00	† Eileen Morris (Mary Kennedy)

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: Msgr. John Brenkle and Gayle Brinker.

Joy Continued

Practices & Expressions

- **Gratitude:** Focusing on blessings, not problems, fosters a joyful heart.
- **Service to Others (Charity):** Acting with love for God and neighbor (feeding, clothing, visiting) brings surprising joy.
- **Sacraments & Prayer:** Daily prayer, Mass, and frequent Reconciliation (Confession) unburden the soul and deepen connection.
- **Embracing Faith:** Accepting Church teaching, trusting God's providence, and aiming for heaven.

A Disposition, Not Just Feeling

- **Strength in Struggle:** A core of strength that endures pain, knowing God is present and victory is won.
- **Focus on God:** Giving burdens to Jesus and making one's life an offering to God.
- **A Call to Witness:** Joy leads Catholics to share God's hope, peace, and love with the world through their actions.



This Weekend — December 13–14
4:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.

Next Weekend — December 20–21
4:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.

EMs:	Micki Sabourin	Christina Wadsworth
Lector:	Connie Pearson	Bowman Olds
Server:	Dennis Sabourin	John Dolan
Greeters:	Livia Brant Marie Crimaldi	Ron Manning Judy Monroe
Ushers:	Judy Rodgers Michael Sotak	John McCarthy Clarence Younger

Eva McGinn	Marge Lamb
Bob Zeni	John Knight
Judy Rodgers	Jim Warman
Cathy Hardy Pete Hardy	Sue Cummings Tim Cummings
Kathleen Beirne Tom Beirne	John McCarthy Clarence Younger



PARISH EVENTS—DECEMBER 14-21

Saturday, **December 20**, 2:00 Confessions—Church

Weekly Collection Report

Nov 23	Nov 30	Dec 7	Weekly Goal
\$4,015	\$4,053	\$6,302	\$5,365

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

Second Collections

This weekend, the second collection is for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. Next weekend we will take up a second collection for **Parish Repair and Maintenance**.



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.



Planned Giving

Regardless of your current income, with foresight and planning, you can continue to give to Star of the Valley Parish far into the future. Gifts may be

in the form of cash, property, investments, or a portion of an estate. In many cases there can be significant tax advantages. For more information, pick up a *Heritage Friends* pamphlet and a *Planned Giving Statement of Intent*, or go to our parish website. Talk with your attorney, accountant, or financial advisor to help you determine the type of gift that is right for you and how you might include Star of the Valley Parish in your estate planning.

Welcome to Star of the Valley Catholic Church

If you'd like to register or receive offertory envelopes, have moved, or have other needs, please complete this form and return it to the parish office or offertory basket.



- ☐ New Parishioner
- ☐ New contact info (address, email, phone number)
- ☐ I'm moving; remove my name from the parish list.
- ☐ I need to talk to a priest. Please call me.
- ☐ I have a question. Please contact me.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____



Your Generosity Is Appreciated

Thanks to all of you for making the donation drive for Catholic Charities a great success. We

collected over 20 rolling suitcases, many blankets and warm coats, clothing, and a few sleeping bags. The panel truck transporting the goods to Caritas Center was absolutely packed to its limit.

People in our community are generous and want to help those who are without shelter. You all pitched in supporting so many tasks—collection, organization, loading, coffee, PR, phone tree, signage, and more.

Your work put into action the call of Pope Leo in his first writing, *Dilexi Te—On Love for the Poor*, to prioritize help for those in need. A chilly, foggy, dark and dank morning, was transformed through warm fellowship and committed hearts.

Many thanks to Catholic Charities board members Rev. Dale Flowers, Sue Gallagher and Santiago Ramirez; to Rose Tuaufa for driving the loaded van; and to Pastoral Council members Barbara Gasparini, Len Marabella for spearheading the event, and to volunteers Kathy McKeon, Dennis Sabourin and Paula Scull.



Kathy McKeon, Pat Hendricks, and Paula Scull.



Rose Tuaufa, Len Marabella and Kathy McKeon.

Clothing Donations

If you missed the Catholic Charities donation drive last week and still have clothing items to donate, please drop them off at Resurrection Church, 303 Stony Point Road in Santa Rosa during the week. Especially needed are adult t-shirts, men's jeans, socks and sneakers.

Donations of clothing items are **not** accepted at Star of the Valley **nor** at the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center.

Parish Repair & Maintenance

Thank you for your generosity. Our "to do" list:

- ▶ HVAC for the Library at the Parish Center
- ▶ Overhang wood rot repair at Parish Center

We will have a second collection next weekend, **Dec. 20/21**, for **Parish Repair & Maintenance**.

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, Parish Chef Peter, Cathy Hardy and all helpers, for continuing the management of Neighbor-to-Neighbor activities and Nick's Pantry, and cooking for monthly Bingo games; Treasurer Drew, and Kar Hofmann, for continuing our Donut Sundays; and President Jim Warman who has served seven terms 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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