

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 20/21, 2025 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

THEY SHALL NAME HIM EMMANUEL

Into Our Homes

Over the course of the past year, we have been nourished at the table of God's word and feasted on the Gospel of Saint Luke. We have listened to parables, been summoned to take up our crosses and follow Christ, and been schooled in the way of discipleship. Since the beginning of Advent, the Church has turned our attention to Matthew's Gospel. Today Matthew opens the doors of Saint Joseph's house, as well as his dreams, and tells the story of the events leading up to Jesus' birth. The final line of today's Gospel is worth noting: "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." Today is a day to consider our devotion to and appreciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in our faith lives. Today is a day for us to take her into our homes.

Preparing a Place for Christ's Birth

Mary stands as a reminder that nothing is impossible with God. This young woman's life was thrown into confusion when the angel announced that she, although a virgin, would be the mother of God's Son. She is the one to whom we can look when our lives are thrown into confusion. She gave herself over to the power of God. This did not mean that she would live her life free from fear and pain. We all know the rest of the story—how she would watch her son suffer and die. Mary is a source of comfort for all who have lost children. We can look to her for comfort in times of grief and pain. How fitting that we focus on the Virgin Mary on this final Sunday of Advent. When we open the doors of our hearts and welcome Mary into our lives, what we really do is prepare a place where the Lord is born to us again.



Sunday, December 20/21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading I: *Isaiah 7:10-14*—The virgin shall be with child.

Responsorial: *Psalms 24*—Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Reading II: *Romans 1:1-7*—Jesus is the son of David and the Son of God.

Gospel: *Matthew 1:18-24*—Joseph, son of David, have no fear about taking Mary as your wife.

The Fourth Week of Advent—Love

The fourth week of Advent focuses on **Love**, representing God's ultimate gift of His Son, Jesus, to humanity, fulfilling His promise and demonstrating unconditional love. It ties together the themes of Hope, Peace, and Joy, encouraging believers to reflect on God's love for them and to share that love with others through acts of kindness, compassion, and service, preparing their hearts for Christ's arrival. It's symbolized by lighting the fourth Advent candle, often purple, sometimes called the "Angel's Candle," recalling the angels' message of peace and goodwill, uniting hope, peace, and joy into the central theme of God's boundless love.

Key Meanings of Advent Week 4:

- **God's Greatest Gift:** Jesus' birth is seen as God's supreme act of love for the world (John 3:16).
- **Transformation:** This love calls us to change, opening our hearts to receive and embody divine love.
- **A Call to Action:** It prompts us to love God and love others, especially the marginalized, through acts of compassion.

Symbolism:

- **Candle:** The fourth candle, often purple, is lit, joining the candles for hope, peace, and joy.
- **Central Candle:** A white Christ Candle, representing Jesus, is often lit on Christmas Eve, symbolizing the pure light of God entering the world.

Reflection & Prayer:

- Meditate on God's unconditional love and how to extend that love to your family, community, and world.

Catholic Men's Conference—Save the Date

The Santa Rosa Diocese Men's Conference will be **March 20-21, 2026** at St. Eugene's Cathedral. A time for increased purpose, challenge, and fraternity. For more information and registration: www.srcatholicmen.org. See the flyer on the bulletin board.

MASS INTENTIONS—DECEMBER 20–28

Sat	20	4:00	† RJ Brant (Livie Brant)
Sun	21	10:00	† Eileen Morris (Mary Kennedy)
Mon	22		No Mass—Pray a Rosary
Tue	23	8:00	† Ava Guerrero (Sam Guerrero)
Wed	24	8:00	No Mass
		10:30	No Mass at Oakmont Gardens
		4:00	† Bill Schuster (Cheryl Schuster)
Thur	25	8:00	No Mass
		10:00	For the People of the Parish
Fri	26	8:00	† Mary Alice Hanson (Bob & Dolores Zeni)
Sat	27	4:00	† Larry Saros (Debbie Saros)
Sun	28	10:00	† Kathleen Renfer (Diane D'Ambrogia)

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.

Funeral Mass at Star of the Valley

Saturday, **December 27**, 11:00 a.m.: Bernadette Jean Mulligan.

NEWS OUTSIDE THE PARISH

Caritas Christi

You're invited to listen to a new video series on YouTube featuring Dr. Nina Heereman, Professor of Sacred Scripture at St. Patrick's Seminary. In this new series, entitled *Caritas Christi*, Dr. Heereman will offer weekly reflections on the Sunday Mass readings.

Enrich your knowledge of Scripture and deepen your faith by joining Dr. Heereman each week throughout the liturgical year which began Sunday, November 30th, the First Sunday of Advent. Episodes will be posted to the YouTube channel every Wednesday.

For the First Sunday of Advent go to:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=NK-h8h2UtBs

God's Family Tree is inserted in this weekend's bulletin as a gift from the parish office.



	This Weekend — Dec. 20-21		Christmas Vigil/Day, Dec. 24-25		Next Weekend — Dec. 27-28	
	4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
EM:	Connie Montague	Marge Lamb	Blanche Kaiser	Liz Garcia	Sr. Joanne	Kar Hofmann
Lector:	Bob Zeni	John Knight	Len Marabella	Bowman Olds	Bob Zeni	Mike Hanlon
Server:	Judy Rodgers	Jim Warman	Mary Kay Riccioni	John Dolan	Judy Rodgers	Drew Hofmann
Greeters:	Cathy Hardy Pete Hardy	Sue Cummings Tim Cummings	Spread Love		Marie Crimaldi D. D'Ambrogia	Mardie Hart M. Mancuso
Ushers:	K. Beirne Tom Beirne	John McCarthy C. Younger	Ed Montague Judy Rodgers	Hipson/McCarthy C. Younger	Bev Shelhart Michael Sotak	John McCarthy Rick Ragan

PARISH EVENTS—DECEMBER 21-28

Wednesday, **December 24**, Christmas Eve—

No morning Masses

Wednesday, **December 24**, 4:00 Vigil Mass—Church

Thursday, **December 25**, Parish Office Closed

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

Weekly Collection Report

Nov 30	Dec 7	Dec 14	Weekly Goal
\$4,053	\$6,302*	\$2,839*	\$5,365

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

Second Collections

This weekend, the second collection is 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.

Parish Repair & Maintenance

You can help with our “to do” list which includes:

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

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

Thank you for your generosity.



Choose Light

Thank You For Being the Light

The Star of the Valley Advent reflection and Christmas gathering was a great success with close to 60 people attending. Our own parishioner, Marcy Fox, and Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Joann Heinritz created a beautiful and inspirational Advent reflection centered on the theme of “Choose Light.” They were accompanied by Maryellen Birkland who played the organ.

Sister Joann talked about how light was a powerful image throughout history in all religions and how often light was used in the Old and New Testaments. She emphasized that we must be open to the light, and also work at being the light to those around us. She stated how the bible teaches us that darkness can never overpower light.

Marcy told several stories involving light—how it has changed lives and even history. One story was especially powerful about a young black boy from South Africa who had been taught to always allow white people to pass on the sidewalk while he stepped aside into the street to let them pass. However, one day a white man came towards him who first stepped off the sidewalk and let the young black boy and his mother go first, showing them respectful deference. The young boy turned to his mother and questioned her. His mother said that the man was a Man of God. That young boy responded saying he wanted to grow up to be a Man of God. The young boy was the young Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. The young boy was shown light and he in turn became light for the whole world, and changed a nation.

Following Sister Joann and Marcy's reflection, we all gathered in the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center for a lively and entertaining musical program performed by the “Mello-Tones,” including Mary Ellen Brown on accordion, John Derby on bass ukulele, Bob Chapman on guitar, and Marisa Malvin as vocalist. A highlight of the Christmas program was the Christmas Trivia game, hosted by Joanne Phillips, Marcy Fox's sister. Everyone had a great time trying to answer trivia questions such as “what state has a town call Santa Claus?” (Indiana), or “how many Christmas cards are mailed each year in the United States?” (3.1 billion). We ended our Christmas party with a sing-along of old favorite Christmas carols led by the Mello-Tones.

A huge thank you to Marcy Fox and Sister Joann Heinritz, who spent many hours putting together a thoughtful and inspirational program, to Maryellen Birkland for her organ music, to Joanne Phillips, who hosted the fun and challenging Christmas trivia game, and to the Mello-Tones for their lively musical program. Thank you, too, to all the parishioners, friends and neighbors who came to enjoy the Advent season with us. Lastly, thank you to the Women's Circle for hosting and helping with refreshments, decorations and set-up.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas.

Let your heart be light.

—Judy Garland

Sacred Relics Arrive at St. Francis Solano

St. Francis Solano Parish, 469 3rd St. W in Sonoma, is blessed to announce the arrival of first-class relics of St. Carlo Acutis from Assisi, along with relics from the Cave Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel in Monte Sant'Angelo. These sacred relics, one encouraging deeper love for the Eucharist and the other reminding us of God's protection, are now enshrined for the faithful to visit and venerate. You may visit the relics when you attend for Mass, or you may stop by the parish office for assistance in entering the church. Call 707-996-6759 for more information.



CAMINO DE SONOMA

Join the **St. Sebastian Pilgrimage—January 19**
Walk 14.5 miles along Camino de Sonoma Stage 4 from Sebastopol to Occidental. We begin with 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Sebastian's and conclude around 4:30 p.m. at Saint Philip the Apostle Church. See flyer on bulletin board for more information.

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Walk for Life West Coast—Save the 2026 Date

For 22 years we have been walking, singing, and praying for unborn children.


For 22 years we have been sharing our message that abortion *hurts* women.

For 22 years we have been sharing hope, love, and forgiveness. And our efforts have borne fruit!

How many lives have been saved by the heart-wrenching testimony of our post-abortive women? How many hearts have been changed by *your* peaceful witness to love, life, and hope? How many vocations to marriage, the priesthood, and religious life?

Every pregnancy should be an occasion for hope but, sadly, can also be an occasion for fear. Pregnant women need hope! Young families need hope! Our city, our nation, and our culture need hope!


Join us on Saturday, **January 24, 2026** as we walk for hope, love, and life! We will peaceably protest abortion, walking through San Francisco every year on or near January 22, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the United States Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.




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