

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 is taking all calls until further notice.

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—**Closed**
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

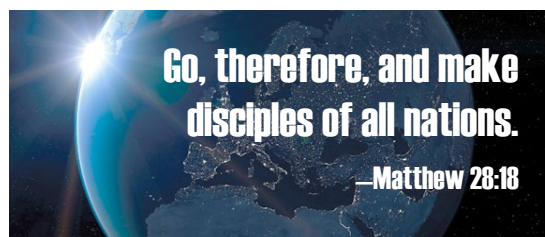
For appointment, email or leave a message in the office for Anointing of the Sick by a Priest when someone is hospitalized or homebound.

Ministry to the Sick & Homebound

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



May 16/17, 2026 – Ascension of the Lord



Share the Hope

The readings for today's celebration of the Ascension

of the Lord once again remind us that as Christians we are people of hope. In the second reading Saint Paul eloquently exhorts the Ephesians to enlighten their hearts so that they will know the hope and glory that come from being people who place their trust in the Lord Jesus.

In the story of the Ascension, recounted in the first reading, the Lord Jesus assures the disciples that the Holy Spirit's power will come upon them. Finally, in the Gospel, the Lord lets the disciples know that their mission is to spread the hope of the gospel to all the nations. This wonderful feast keeps our eyes focused on the hope in which we were grounded on the day of our baptism.

This Isn't Goodbye

After listening to the nightly news, a friend recently (and understandably) gasped: "We need Jesus!" Most believers would agree. Which is perhaps why the Ascension doesn't feel like an event we're much inclined to celebrate. Jesus departs; this sounds like a terrible idea from every standpoint except the truth—because Jesus promises to send us his Spirit as an indwelling presence. If we still feel like orphans, remember Jesus' words: "I am with you always." See Jesus all around: in word and sacrament, in the assembly of faith, in the disadvantaged sister and brother.



Sunday, May 16/17, 2026

Ascension of the Lord

Scripture Readings

Reading I: Acts 1:1-11—Lord Jesus ascends into a cloud.

Responsorial: Psalm 47—God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

trumpets for the Lord.

Reading II: Ephesians 1:17-23—Christ is the head of the church; where he is we are called to follow.

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20—Jesus commands us to go and baptize.

Ascension Sunday

How often have we wished that Jesus would come down from heaven and do something about the terrible things going on in the world today? Such a thought fundamentally misunderstands two lessons from today's readings. First of all, Jesus is already with us. As he promised his disciples, he is with us always, only not in the flesh any longer. Secondly, solving all the world's problems is not why Jesus came in the first place. He did not solve all the world's problems in 30 AD either. He did not bring peace between nations or harmony between peoples. He did not bring miracle cures that could wipe out diseases or disabilities. He did not bring prosperity and happiness to the whole world. No, he joined us in our human condition to share our suffering, redeem us from our sins, and lead us to eternal life with God. What he accomplished transcends the problems of every age, no matter how serious they are. It is up to us, with the Lord's help, to do what we can to solve the world's problems, if only a little at a time.

Consume Media with Care

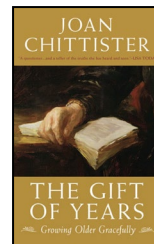
He couldn't have foreseen the technological advances the 21st century would bring. Yet in 1967, Pope Paul VI appreciated the need for a World Communications Day. He established the Sunday before Pentecost as an annual reflection on the opportunities and challenges of presenting the gospel message to a global society. The press, movies, radio, and television all commanded great attention in his generation. The internet and cell phones exponentially increase the range today. What are we saying and absorbing through all this media? Be a discerning steward of words and images. Especially now, in the age of AI (Artificial Intelligence).

MASS INTENTIONS—MAY 16–24

Sat 16	4:00	† Bob Waska (Frances Waska)
Sun 17	10:00	† Tom Ryan (Kathy McKeon)
Mon 18		No Mass—Pray a Rosary
Tue 19	8:00	†† John & Peggy Doolittle
Wed 20	8:00	Intention of Anita L. Nicoson (Maria McCarthy)
	10:30	O.G.—For the People of the Parish
Thur 21	8:00	† Lois Schneider
Fri 22	8:00	†† John & Alice Curran
Sat 23	4:00	† Margaret Focha
Sun 24	10:00	† Cathy Doyle Quinn (Kathy McKeon)

Please keep the sick and those in need in your prayers: Dr. Mike Apicella, Jeremy Aytes, Gail Barrett, Irene Beagle, Fran Benton, Lisa Bragg, Jim Bricker, David Charlton II, Bambi Clark, Shirley Collins, Bob & Wendy Curtis, Diane D'Ambrogia, Lola Danielli, Bob Esposito, Lisa Munoz Flores, Marcy Fox, Rosemary Haver, Alan & Cheryl Hennessy, Gloria Márquez, Millie McKay, Richard Muzio, Karen O'Malley, Carol Pascoe, David Reuser, Vincent, Marilyn Warman, and Dolores Zeni.

Also pray for those who have died.



Spiritual Book Club

Men and women are invited to join in a reflection and meditation using the book *Gift of Years* by Sister Joan Chittister. Our discussion will be on the introduction and Chapter 1, Wednesday, **May 20**, 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Quiet Room at the church.

Altar Linens Ministry Needs You

Six volunteer parishioners have been taking turns, one month-at-a-time, laundering and ironing our altar linens. If you would like to help in this ministry, please contact Mardie Hart for further information: 408-313-8862.

Parish Office Update—We Moved, Again

As we wait for plumbing, mechanical, and electrical verifications, and permits to repair the damaged Parish Center, our answering service is taking all calls to 707-539-6262, and forwarding messages to us by email. For more direct communications, please send us an email at sov@sonic.net. It may be a while before we move the office back into our Msgr. Fahey Parish Center.

Thank you for all your prayers for our recovery.

This Weekend — May 16-17

4:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m.

EMs:	Tim McCammon	Cristina Wadsworth
Lector:	Connie Pearson	Karen Schraga
Server:	Sr. Joanne Abrams	Mike Flanagan
Greeters:	Gloria Bowers Mary Mickelsen	Ceal Geurts Kathy McKeon
Ushers:	Ed Montague Bev Shelhart Michael Montez	Clarence Younger Rick Ragan Steve Hipson

Next Weekend — May 23-24

4:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m.

Cathy Hardy	Cristina Wadsworth
Judy Rodgers	Mary Mickelsen
Connie Montague	Jim Warman
Livie Brant Josie Peluso	Sue Cummings Mary Montague
Ed Montague Kathleen Beirne Tom Beirne	Clarence Younger Michael Montez John McCarthy



PARISH EVENTS—MAY 17-23

Wednesday, **May 20**, 10:00 Spiritual Book Club—Church Quiet Room

Thursday, **May 21**, 1:30 Finance Council Meeting—Zoom

Weekly Collection Report

April 26	May 3	May 10	Weekly Goal
\$5,143	\$5,143	\$7,286	\$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

The collection this weekend will be for **Catholic Communications**. The Catholic Communication Campaign helps the Church spread the Gospel message in the U.S. and in developing countries using modern media tools to inform, inspire, and enlighten.

Through websites, social networks, television, radio, and print, the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) helps the Church spread the Gospel message through the media locally and nationally. Half of all donations to the CCC collected in our diocese stay in our diocese to support our local communications needs, such as radio and television programming and diocesan publications like *The Vine*.

Next weekend's second collection will be for **Neighbor-to-Neighbor**. Your donations help us buy Safeway gift cards and food to give to families in need once we get back inside the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center. (The Parish Center is currently closed.)

The Vine—E-News to the Pews

The weekly publication, called *The Vine*, is available for you to receive by email. It is sent each Tuesday from the diocese of Santa Rosa (mail@flocknote.com) and contains news and events from different diocesan departments, schools, and parishes. To sign up, go to <https://srdiocesecomunications.flocknote.com/>



Electronic Giving

If you would like to support our parish through online giving, please scan this QR code or go to our website's online giving page by clicking on [Donate Here](#).

If you have questions or need help, please email Anna in the parish office M, T, Th, F at sov@sonic.net.

60th World Day of Social Communications

Pope Leo XIV has chosen "Preserving human voices and faces" as the theme for the 60th World Day of Social Communications, set to take place on May 17, 2026, the Sunday before Pentecost.

In a communiqué announcing the theme, the Dicastery for Communication—responsible for the World Day—states that "In today's communication ecosystems, technology influences interactions more than ever before—from algorithms curating news feeds to AI authoring entire texts and conversations."

Acknowledging that advances in technology offer

"possibilities that were unimaginable just a few years ago," the Dicastery warns that such tools "cannot replace the uniquely human capacities for empathy, ethics, and moral responsibility."

Public communication, it says, "requires human judgment, not just data patterns." Therefore, "the challenge is to ensure that humanity remains the guiding agent. The future of communication must be one where machines serve as tools that connect and facilitate human lives, rather than erode the human voice."

Concerns for the risks associated with AI

This announcement warns of the real risks associated with modern technology: "AI can generate engaging but misleading, manipulative, and harmful information; replicate biases and stereotypes from its training data; and amplify disinformation through simulation of human voices and faces. It can also invade people's privacy and intimacy without their consent."

The Dicastery cautions, "overreliance on AI weakens critical thinking and creative skills, while monopolized control of these systems raises concerns about centralization of power and inequality."

Those concerns highlight the urgency of introducing "Media Literacy" or even "Media and Artificial Intelligence Literacy (MAIL)" into formal systems of education, the statement says.

The Dicastery concludes that "as Catholics, we can and should give our contribution, so that people—especially youth—acquire the capacity of critical thinking, and grow in the freedom of the spirit."

A Pope attentive to these issues

Pope Leo has repeatedly emphasized the importance for the Church of confronting the challenges posed by artificial intelligence and the development of new technologies. In his meeting with the cardinals just days after his election on May 8, the Pope explained that his choice of papal name was inspired by Leo XIII, who, "in his historic Encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution."

"In our own day," he continued, "the Church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice and labor."

Later, in a message to participants in the Second Annual Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Business Governance, Pope Leo emphasized "the benefits or risks of AI must be evaluated precisely according to this superior ethical criterion" of "safeguarding the inviolable dignity of each human person and respecting the cultural and spiritual riches and diversity of the world's peoples."

By Christopher Wells and Isabella de Carvalho, Vatican News

[Full text of the statement from the Dicastery for Communication](#)

Sign on a Maternity Room door: "Push. Push. Push."

NEWS OUTSIDE THE PARISH

Honoring Mary

Our Mother Queen of the Most Holy Rosary

Please join us at the Carmelite House of Prayer, Oakville, CA on Sunday, **May 17**, at 2:00 p.m. Located at 20 Mt. Carmel Drive, off Oakville Grade Road. Oakville is on Hwy 29, between St. Helena and Napa.

All are welcome to join us in honoring Mary as we pray the rosary in procession outside on the monastery grounds (or pray in the chapel for those who prefer not to walk. Following the rosary, there will be a Crowning of Mary with Exposition and Adoration in the chapel. Light refreshments will follow in front of the Monastery.

The Holy Hour at the Cathedral of St. Eugene

Step out of the busyness of the day, kneel before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, and fight for your family and parish in prayer. All are welcome. Friday, **May 22**, 6:30 p.m. Details: <https://soldiersofchrist.info>

From Brokenness to Redemption: A Life-Changing Testimony

Join us for a powerful morning with Patricia Sandoval, an internationally known speaker and co-author of *Transfigured*. She will share her moving testimony of healing, faith, and God's mercy. Saturday, **May 23**, 2026, 9:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Eugene Becker

Center. (Light refreshments will be served.) All are welcome—invite a friend!

Sponsored by the Cathedral of St. Eugene's Women of the Word and the Diocese of Santa Rosa.

Memorial Day Masses in Our Diocese—May 25

- 9:00 a.m. Holy Cross Cemetery, St. Helena
2121 Spring Street
- 10:00 a.m. Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Santa Rosa
2930 Bennett Valley Road
- 10:00 a.m. Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Petaluma
304 Magnolia Drive

RSVPs appreciated at 707-546-6290.

Pope Leo XIV Celebrated His First Anniversary!

Pope Leo XIV became the new pope of the Catholic Church on Thursday, **May 8**, 2025.

Let us continue to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance, strength, and protection for our Holy Father, who said in his opening address, "Evil will not prevail. We are all in the Hands of God."

The successor to Peter is the Church's bridge builder, serving to establish and protect the unity of the Church for which Jesus prayed. He is truly the rock on which the Church is built, the one who strengthens his brother bishops, and the universal shepherd. Let us pray for the Pope, the future of our Church, and for the world.



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