

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.



August 15/16, 2026 – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



O Woman, Great Is Your Faith!

Jesus was preaching to all the nations during His ministry here on earth. He did not discriminate against anybody regardless of their tribe. He preached the Good News of the Kingdom of Heaven extensively in the regions of Tyre and Sidon where He often visited.

You should not get confused by the statement from Jesus that, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." Jesus did not actually want to demean the people of Tyre and Sidon that they are inferior to the people of Israel, but He wanted to critically test the faith of the woman. He wanted to know if the woman really believed that He was the Son of God. If the woman did not have the faith, she would have retorted back and defended herself and her people. She actually rose above that perceived insult by Jesus and stuck to her faith and believed that Jesus would heal her daughter.



Sunday, August 15/16, 2026
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Readings

Reading I: *Isaiah 56:1, 6-7*—The Lord brings foreigners into his house of prayer.

Responsorial: *Psalm 67*—O God, let

all the nations praise you!

Reading II: *Romans 11:13-15, 29-32*—The call of God is irrevocable.

Gospel: *Matthew 15:21-28*—Great is the faith of the Canaanite woman.

Reflection

The Gospel for today is the account of the persistent Canaanite woman. Like all of the “hard” Gospel stories, it packs a spiritual punch.

God’s salvific purposes are for the whole world. Israel was chosen so that it would be a vehicle for the salvation of all. Therefore, Jesus’s primary mission is indeed to his fellow Jews, but throughout the Gospels, there are hints that his ministry has a wider purpose.

When Jesus enters a pagan territory, a Canaanite woman calls out, “Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon.” She represents the longing of the world for the justice, the mercy, and the love of God. She senses correctly where this is to be found. She embodies the hunger of lost humanity.

Jesus’s responses move from silence, to an indirect rebuke, to an outright insult. And rolling with the punches, the woman responds with faith that pleases the Lord. Is Jesus testing the woman in order that she might know just how great her faith is? That was St. Augustine’s explanation for why God sometimes says no to repeated prayer. And this is why perseverance in prayer is so strongly recommended in the great tradition.

—Bishop Barron

Saint Augustine’s Persistence in Prayer

Saint Augustine’s persistence in prayer is twofold: it reflects his own theological teachings on unceasing desire and the lifelong, relentless prayers of his mother, St. Monica, who prayed for decades for his conversion.

Rather than mere words, Augustine framed persistence in prayer as the continuous, longing focus of the heart toward God.

MASS INTENTIONS—AUGUST 15–23

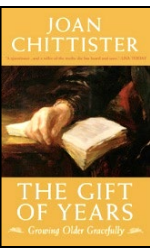
Sat	15	4:00	† Bob Waska (Frances Waska)
Sun	16	10:00	†† Dr. & Mrs. Michael Brendan Flanagan (Mike Flanagan)
Mon	17		No Mass—Pray a Rosary
Tue	18	8:00	† Pat Marabella (Len Marabella)
Wed	19	8:00	† Joseph Chiappellone (Mike Flanagan)
		10:30	O.G.—For the People of the Parish
Thur	20	8:00	† Tom Flanagan (Mike Flanagan)
Fri	21	8:00	† Edward O’Conner (Mike Flanagan)
Sat	22	4:00	† Gerard Emmett Mansell (Teresa Mansell Ely)
Sun	23	10:00	† Martin Kilgariff (Carole Kilgariff)

Please keep the sick and those in need in your prayers: Jeremy Aytes, Gail Barrett, Irene Beagle, Fran Benton, Lisa Bragg, Jim Bricker, David Charlton II, Bambi Clark, Shirley Collins, Bob & Wendy Curtis, Michael Curtis, Lola Danielli, Bob Esposito, Lisa Munoz Flores, Marcy Fox, John Glaser, Mike Hanlon, Rosemary Haver, Alan & Cheryl Hennessy, Gloria Márquez, Millie McKay, Margot Olds, Karen O’Malley, Carol Pascoe, Sarah Petrini, David Reuser, Vincent, Marilyn Warman, and Dolores Zeni.

Also pray for those who have died: Pat Sack.

Scheduling Mass Intentions at Star of the Valley

Contact the parish office and leave a message with the answering service or email sov@sonic.net and let us know the name(s) for whom the Mass is intended, whether they are deceased or not, and date preference, if any. Suggested donation for the priest’s stipend is \$10 per Mass and may be dropped into the locked mailbox near the main entry doors of the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center, or mailed to the office at 495 White Oak Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409. Please write “Stipend” plus the date(s) of the Mass(es) on the check or envelope.



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 Chapters 4 and 5, Wednesday, **August 19**, 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Quiet Room at the church.



	This Weekend — August 15-16		Next Weekend — August 22-23	
	4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
EMs:	Tim McCammon	Judy Monroe	Jan Rosshirt	Kar Hofmann
Lector:	Connie Pearson	Mike Flanagan	Ted Rosshirt	John Knight
Server:	Bev Shelhart	Jim Warman	Sr. Joanne Abrams	Drew Hofmann
Greeters:	Cathy Hardy Pete Hardy	Mary Bell Ron Manning	Tom Basile Josie Peluso	Cathy Hardy Peter Hardy
Ushers:	Ed Montague Kathleen Beirne Tom Beirne	Clarence Younger Steve Hipson John Knight	Tim McCammon Tom Basile Michael Sotak	Tim Cummings John McCarthy Rick Ragan

PARISH EVENTS—AUGUST 15-23

Wednesday, **August 19**—10:00 **Spiritual Book Club**—
Quiet Room

Thursday, **August 20**—1:30 **Finance Council Meeting**—
Zoom

Weekly Collection Report

July 26	August 2	August 9	Weekly Goal
\$13,886*	\$5,431	\$5,578	\$5,365

Note: The amounts consist of First collections, Parish Repair & Maintenance (*including a grant of \$10,000 from a parishioner), and Holy Day gifts received during the weekend and preceding week.

Second Collection

This weekend's second collection will be for **Diocesan Seminarians**. Please help those who are in formation and studying for the priesthood in our diocese. We need more priests, and they need our support.

Star of the Valley's 2026 Woman of the Year



Awarded to Marcy Fox

We are proud to announce that Marcy Fox has been chosen as Star of the Valley's Woman of the Year. Marcy has been an active parishioner and wonderful example of volunteering for Star of the Valley Parish for nine years.

Marcy is a valued member of the Women's Circle, has served on the Pastoral Council and is a Eucharistic Minister. But Marcy's biggest contribution to our parish is in the area of spiritual education. Using her extensive experience in teaching religion at the senior high school and adult levels, Marcy has organized relevant and popular prayer services for the seasons of Advent and Lent for many years. Parishioners come to these prayer services knowing Marcy will help deepen their appreciation of our church's two important spiritual seasons.

Marcy has led many seminars and classes in world religions for our parishioners and for several neighboring churches. For several years, Marcy has led numerous teaching sessions on religious topics, such as spirituality, prayer and liturgical renewal. Marcy recently held a leadership position in the successful parish seminar on Catholic Social Teachings.

Currently, Marcy is the leader of our parish's spiritual book club. She not only leads wonderful discussions but also educates the members of the book club in the area of spirituality.

Marcy is a welcoming, kind and humble person of strong faith who has an innate ability to bring people together. She is a gifted facilitator, who brings calmness and depth to all she does. Her deeply spiritual nature helps to encourage others in deepening their spiritual journey. Marcy is a highly respected member of our parish who has been a vital part of our parish's spiritual life. Congratulations, Marcy on a well-deserved award.

A person's character and capacity for love are expressed through their eyes and actions.
—Audrey Hepburn

Celebrating Oakmont's Centenarians

Story from Oakmont News, August 8, 2026

by Crissi Langwell, OVA Communications Director

What is the secret to a long life? Medical experts often point to good nutrition, regular activity, strong relationships and a sense of purpose. But there may be no single formula, and Oakmont's centenarians show that a full life can take many different forms.

[Of the] 12 Oakmont residents who have reached or surpassed their 100th birthdays [7 of them are parishioners at Star of the Valley.] Their lives have included military service, meaningful careers, devoted families, lasting friendships and plenty of music, dancing, golf, hiking, volunteering and community involvement. Here is a glimpse into the remarkable lives of some of Oakmont's centenarians...

Angela Saul, who recently turned 100, was raised in Italy before moving back to the US, and has lived in Oakmont since January 2006. She was a member of the original Italian Club, and she took many other classes at Oakmont's facilities. Angela's career included working at St. John Knits in Los Angeles, where she supervised a team creating high-end, Chanel-inspired knit suits and jackets. She credits her longevity to her caring family, friends, neighbors, and Catholic Charities.

Alicia Clay, who is 100 years old and now lives at Oakmont Gardens, is known for her high scores in Wii bowling (she recently got a 179) and is found at most bingo games.

Millie McKay, who is turning 103 in October, has lived in Oakmont for over 30 years. She has been a part of Star of the Valley's Women's Circle, and a member of the church committee with her late husband.

Ann Favilla, who is 101 years old, is a very close friend of Millie's. Ann moved to Oakmont in 2017 after losing her Kenwood home to the fires. Both she and Millie are members of the same book club.

Louise Donahue, who is 101 years old, has lived in Oakmont for 47 years. She and her late husband John were very active in the OVA community, and she's loved by her church family at Star of the Valley Catholic Church...

Elaine Smith, who is 100 years old, moved to Oakmont more than 30 years ago with her late husband Frank. She was a wonderful tap dancer and gifted ballroom dancer, and she also played the banjo and clarinet. She loves to watch golf and girls' college basketball, especially the University of Connecticut team, her hometown university...

And almost ready to join our centenarians is **Rachel Corso**, who turns 100 this December and has lived in Oakmont for about 38 years. She enjoyed playing bocce ball, and she danced in an Oakmont group called The Happy Hoovers, and also with the line dancing group. She is a grandma, great grandma and great-great grandma.

Although their paths have been different, Oakmont's centenarians share long lives shaped by family, friends, activities, [church] and community. Their stories reflect not just years lived, but the experiences and relationships that have filled them.

In Catholic teaching, the value of a woman is rooted in her inherent dignity as created in the image and likeness of God, equal in value to a man, and uniquely exemplified by the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her worth is defined by spiritual equality, a distinct “feminine genius,” and a profound capacity for love, receptivity, and moral influence.

Non-Silent Workshop for Women and Men. Discernment, as a gift to all Christians, begins with a sensitivity to God's activity and communication in our daily lives. This workshop will explore

<https://www.jrclosaltos.org/overnight-weekend-retreats>

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.



- E-mail Address: _____

