On behalf of St. Patrick’s Parish, I joyfully welcome you. Our hope is all who come to St. Patrick’s will know the love of Christ. By God’s mercy, and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our patron St. Patrick, you will truly encounter the risen Lord and experience the Joy of the Gospel.

If you would like more information about our parish, please visit our website at www.StPatsSonora.org. If you are new to the area, we encourage you to request a new member packet. I would like to meet all of you. I am available for appointments. Please call me at (209) 532-7139 ext. 112 or email frsam@stpatssonora.org. God bless.

In Christ, Fr. Sam West, Pastor
On this Feast of the Epiphany, the Church joyfully celebrates the manifestation of our Savior and Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus, to the nations. In the Gospel, we hear of the Magi who came “from the east” searching for the newborn King. These mysterious figures were guided by the light of a star to the place where Jesus was with His virgin mother, Mary, and foster-father, Joseph. Like the star that led the Magi to Jesus, God also provides signs for us to find our Lord Jesus. A big sign pointing to Jesus’ Presence is the Church’s teaching on the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Love. The Church is the “star” for us today guiding us to experience God’s love for us in a real encounter with our Lord Jesus.

At New Year’s, many people make resolutions to improve their bodies, their minds, their personal relationships, etc. I am encouraging us to make one of our resolutions to more earnestly work on our personal relationship with Jesus. To do this, we resolve to be more aware of His Presence among us, particularly in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The truth of the Church’s teaching on the Eucharist could be thought of as the “light” of a star which leads to a real encounter with Jesus Christ in what looks like bread and wine but is not bread and wine. With the help of the “chief priests and the scribes of the people” assembled by King Herod, the Magi were able to know the place where the Child was to be born from prophecies of the Old Testament – “Bethlehem of Judea.” Similarly, God has revealed to us both in Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition the precise directions we need to find Jesus truly present in the Eucharist.

In addition to study of the Church’s teaching and the numerous writings of the Saints on the subject of the Eucharist, here are some practical suggestions to have a more profound experience of Jesus’ Real Presence at Mass and in the Sacrament of the Eucharist:

1. **Read and spend time reflecting on the Scripture Readings for the upcoming Sunday Mass.**

There are many resources on the Internet to get the readings for the Mass. Besides the Scripture references of the readings for the upcoming Mass listed in our weekly Bulletin, the Bishops of the United States have a website – www.usccb.org – where the readings can be accessed easily. On the bishops’ home page, there is a small calendar titled “Daily Readings” on the right side of the screen. Simply click on the day and the readings appear! Also, you could use a monthly publication like *Magnificat* (website: us.magnificat.net) or the *Word Among Us* (website: wau.org).

2. **Quiet time before and after Mass.**

We can have a personal “epiphany,” being aware of God’s loving Presence, when we experience God. It is difficult to recognize God, hearing Him, with all the noise and distractions in our busy lives. So we should take time being still and quiet if we want a real encounter with God. St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “The fruit of silence is prayer.” A short period of time of silence to be ready to encounter and worship God should be done before Mass. After receiving Holy Communion, we also need some quiet time to reflect on God’s love for us, hearing Him, and feeling Him truly in us, holding us.

3. **When coming into the Church building, really think and be aware of Whose house we are entering.**

The Almighty, All-loving, All-merciful God of the whole universe, the One who creates all things, made you, and holds all things in being, is truly present in the tabernacle – an enclosure, or “box,” with a golden door directly behind the altar. Like the Magi prostrated when they saw the Christ Child, we want to genuflect to show our reverence for Jesus, Who is present. If we are not able to genuflect, then we would want to at least bow toward the tabernacle. Also, we want to remember, while in the Church, to remain in a worshipful, reverent disposition, avoiding unnecessary talk and staying attentive to Jesus in the tabernacle.

4. **Spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.**

When our church in Sonora is open (Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 4 pm), you are invited to come and spend some quiet time with Jesus Who is present in the tabernacle. We also have special times when Jesus is “exposed” in what is called a “monstrance” that is placed on the altar. This beautiful devotion is called Eucharistic Adoration. Every morning before the 8 am weekday Mass at St. Patrick’s, we have a time of quiet Adoration. Also, we have Adoration on Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, while we hear Confessions. In addition, we have Adoration all day, from 9 am to 5 pm, on the First Friday of each month.
Like the “wise men,” we can really find and adore our Lord Jesus at every Mass or in time of Eucharistic Adoration. The light of the truth of the teaching of the Church never fails to guide us to our newborn King. Once we meet Him like the Magi did, we want to adore Him, giving Him our own gifts – our praise, our thanksgiving, our time, our energy, our talent, our attention, etc. – our whole self. We do this to show Jesus how much we really need Him and want to show our love for Him.

In this new year ahead, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our Patron St. Patrick, let us continue to seek and find our Lord Jesus truly present in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

*In Christ, Fr. Samuel West*

---

**This Week in our Parish**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday &amp; Sunday, 1/5 &amp; 1/6</td>
<td>Parish Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 1/6</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet: Ministers to the Sick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 1/6</td>
<td>Youth Group Meets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 pm Steinmetz House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 1/7</td>
<td>Altar &amp; Rosary Society Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 1/9</td>
<td>Bible Study OLMC, 4:00 - 5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 1/12</td>
<td>Altar Duty:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 1/13</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet: YLI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 1/13</td>
<td>Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Respect Life News**

Deadline is January 18 to register for the Bus to San Francisco! $20 per person

We have some good news about the 15th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco! We will be able to join parishioners from St. Patrick’s in Angels Camp and take a bus to San Francisco. The bus will pick us up at 8:30 am in the lower Save Mart parking lot on January 26th, and we will arrive in San Francisco at 12:30. After the Walk, the bus will first go to St. Patrick’s in Angels Camp, arriving there at 7:00, and then will return us to the lower Save Mart parking lot in Sonora at 8:00 pm. The cost is only $20.00.

The deadline for registration for the bus is **January 18th**. Please come to the Parish Office, fill out a registration form, and make your check out to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church Sonora. Please bring a bag lunch and snacks to share. Water will be provided.

Please consider joining the 50,000 Christians at this powerful event, as we all stand up for the most vulnerable and for the mothers who carry these precious lives. Together, we will give a voice to those who have no voice.

For more info, please call Joan Madsen at 533-3429.

---

**Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**

Sunday, January 13
12:00 pm in the Parish Hall
Please bring a dessert to share.
We thank the many generous and devoted volunteers at St. Patrick’s Parish!
“Volunteers do not have more time, they just have more heart“.
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

Please Pray for the Sick in our Parish,
and their family members.

Diane Abdelnour           Kristine Kitamura
Rich Abdelnour, Jr.        Judi McGuire
Catherine Bentz            Cindy Merritt
Al Biedrzycki              Joseph Murtagh
Jackie Bolling              Juan Pinela
Jan Buck                   Juan Pulido
Vern & Jo Froehlich        Mike Schirmer
Bill Gookin                Clay Sweeney
Ed Hall                    Roy Volpetti
A. J. Holmes               Judy & Kerry Wilder
Donald C. Kellogg          Mitch & Trish Woods
Bill & Rolene Kiesling

To add or remove a name from this list or the prayer chain, please contact Sandy Pallante at 532-7625.

Benefit Concert for Matthew 25
“Forrest Sings For Supper”

Forrest Marion, parishioner at All Saints in Twain Harte and a senior at Summerville High School, has chosen to present a concert for his Senior Project. All monies raised will go to St. Patrick’s Matthew 25 program.

Friday, January 25th
Silent Auction 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Concert 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
St. Patrick’s Parish Hall
Tickets: $25 pre-sale, $30 at the door

Tickets available at St. Patrick’s Parish Office in Sonora, and at All Saints Parish Office in Twain Harte.

Featured performer: Forrest Marion, vocalist
Guest performers: Jazz@8 vocal group, pianist Robert Combs, flutist Sandra Betti

If you would like to share the gift of warmth with those in need, our Project Warmth coat rack is located in the Parish Hall. Please bring any new or gently used coats, jackets, scarves, beanies, gloves, or any other winter wear and place them on or near the coat rack. Anyone in need of warm winter clothing is free to take an item from the coat rack.

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

Project Warmth

St. Anne’s

INTO YOUR HANDS, O LORD,
we commend the soul of
Therese Van Tuyl
May her soul and the souls of all
the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date
Tuesday 1/15 ~ Pastoral Council Meeting, 6:30 pm
Parish Hall, Rm. 6
Friday 1/25 ~ Benefit Concert for Matthew 25
Saturday 1/26 ~ Walk for Life West Coast
Saturday 1/26 & Sunday 1/27 ~ Second Collection for The Church in Latin America
Wednesday 3/6 ~ Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
Thursday 4/11 ~ Chrism Mass, Cathedral of the Annunciation, Stockton
Wednesday 5/15 ~ Confirmation Mass, 6:00 pm

The Wise Still Seek Him

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday January 7 ~ Sunday January 13
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 -- 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 -- 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 67 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30;
Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday January 6 ~ Saturday January 12
Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord;
Blessing of the Home;
National Migration Week
Monday: St. Raymond of Penyafort;
Julian Calendar Christmas

Weekly Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2018</th>
<th>Week 2019</th>
<th>December Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Week 2018</th>
<th>Week 2019</th>
<th>December Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Pat’s</td>
<td>$5,592</td>
<td>$9,507</td>
<td>$36,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLMC</td>
<td>$1,213</td>
<td>$1,815</td>
<td>$6,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-giving</td>
<td>$638</td>
<td>$658</td>
<td>$4,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$7,443</td>
<td>$11,980</td>
<td>$47,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAST YEAR</td>
<td>$7,737</td>
<td>$12,861</td>
<td>$44,494</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maintenance Offering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Week 2018</th>
<th>Week 2019</th>
<th>December Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Pat’s</td>
<td>$62</td>
<td>$555</td>
<td>$1,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLMC</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$62</td>
<td>$555</td>
<td>$1,792</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Christmas: St. Pat’s $10,111; OLMC $1,68
Participation 30%
Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!