St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News

... in Our Parish

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 19, 2018

WHOEVER EATS MY FLESH
AND DRINKS MY BLOOD HAS ETERNAL LIFE,
AND I WILL RAISE THEM ON THE LAST DAY.

John 6:54

“The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.”

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
In this week’s Gospel, we have come to what I would call the climax of our Lord Jesus’ “Bread of Life discourse” in the Gospel of John chapter 6. Every time we receive the Holy Eucharist, we truly receive Jesus, who is, as He Himself tells us in the Gospel, the “living bread that came down from heaven” and the “Bread of Life!” As Catholics, we are so, so blessed to really have Jesus with us! Our Lord Jesus tells us, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.” What our Lord is saying is if we DO NOT eat His Body and drink His Blood then we cannot share in His life, He who IS life and the source of all life. So, to have His life, Eternal Life, we need to eat Him and drink Him. I guess one could say Jesus is only speaking figurative language. When He talks about eating His “flesh” and drinking His “blood,” He is merely referring symbolically to being united to Him in a very close and mystical way, for example through believing in Him. But from what the Evangelist John writes as an eyewitness of this event, Jesus’ audience, “the Jews,” must have taken Jesus at His word. We know that they were greatly scandalized and horrified at what they heard. These disciples must have taken what Jesus was saying literally. That is why we will hear in next week’s Gospel many of them stopped following Him and “returned to their former way of life.” It is often pointed out our Lord Jesus did not try to prevent these appalled and shocked disciples from leaving by attempting to clarify their understanding of what they heard. You would think that if He was only speaking symbolically about eating His flesh and drinking His blood, Jesus would have said this plainly so as not to lose them as disciples. But He did not do this; Jesus simply turns to His apostles, the “Twelve,” to ask if they also wanted to leave Him. We can only conclude, based on how the scene plays out, Jesus meant that we must literally eat His flesh and drink His Blood!

Take a moment and think how does Jesus expect us to do such an incredible act of really eating and drinking Him? This is precisely why He gave us the Sacrament of the Eucharist – so we can really eat His Flesh and drink His Blood! We must remember when we receive the Eucharist, a consecrated Host, we are eating what only looks, smells, and tastes like bread, but it is NOT bread. By using Jesus’ words and gestures from the night of the Last Supper, a validly ordained Catholic priest, who in that very instant is standing in the person of Christ (persona Christi), through the power of the Holy Spirit, changes the bread and wine substantially – changes what they are. “Transubstantiation” is the term the Church uses to describe this miracle that takes place at every valid Mass. It means what appears to the senses (look, feel, smell, taste) remains the same but the essence of what it is changes entirely – from simple bread made with wheat into God Himself! So truly, every consecrated Host and even every part of a consecrated Host is entirely the Risen Lord Jesus, His Body, His Blood, His Soul, and His Divinity! Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Eucharist, we pray each time we receive Holy Communion to know and believe the miraculous gift of truly eating Jesus’ flesh and drinking His blood!

The members of the Body of Christ, the Church, are heartbroken and grieving, once again, at the news this past week of truly evil acts perpetrated on innocent children by men who were ordained priests and the Church leadership, bishops, who have covered up these horrible crimes for way too long. The details from a grand jury report on Catholic clerical sexual abuse spanning over a 70-year period in six dioceses in Pennsylvania is horrendous and shocking. I was very deeply shaken and felt like weeping after reading a few news articles on it. It is just so, so sad and tragic. Anytime I hear of sexual abuse of children, I can’t help but think of one of our Lord’s harshest warnings recorded in Matthew’s Gospel chapter 18 verse 6: “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.” We grieve at the unspeakable suffering these children endured. We need to pray and offer penance for all survivors of clerical sexual abuse, begging Almighty God they will find healing in our Lord Jesus’ infinite love for them. When we hear of evils committed by men who are priests or hear about how bishops turned a blind eye neglecting their sacred duty to protect their flocks, it is tempting to give into anger, even utter rage. We can easily allow ourselves to become disheartened and greatly discouraged. I have had these feelings and temptations myself. I can understand why, at such news, some of our fellow Catholics have sadly chosen to stop practicing their Faith or left the Church altogether. Although we are angry and may have a strong desire to retaliate, we do not want evil committed by fellow members of the Body of Christ to lead us away or keep us from knowing and experiencing God’s love. This is a time we must draw even closer to Him, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We need Jesus more than ever! No matter the depth of depravity and evil some men who are ordained priests have done does not change the fact that only through a priest – ordained by a bishop whom he himself was ordained by validly ordained bishops – can the miracle of the Eucharist happen. To have the Eucharist always, we must continuously pray for more priestly vocations, and we must pray for priests to be truly holy, to be always like Jesus.

In Christ, Fr. Samuel West
This Week in our Parish

**August 19, 2018**

| Sunday 8/19 ~ Meet & Greet: Religious Ed |
| Tuesday 8/21 ~ RCIA Inquiry period continues, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, St. Patrick’s Parish Hall Rm. 1 |
| Wednesday 8/22 ~ Grieving with Great Hope Workshop, 6:00-8:00 pm Parish Hall |
| Saturday 8/25 ~ Altar Duty: Barbara Kay, Rose Kutsch |
| Sunday 8/26 ~ Meet & Greet: Knights of Columbus |

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### The Sacrament of Baptism

We joyfully welcome **Anahi Lopez**

Baptized August 11, 2018

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### Congratulations

**Ib and Joan Madsen!**

50th Wedding Anniversary

Married August 21, 1968

“Love is the beauty of the soul”

(St. Augustine)

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### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

† Are you, or is someone you know, interested in becoming Catholic?

† Are you an adult who was baptized Catholic, but still needs the Sacraments of Penance, Holy Eucharist, and/or Confirmation?

† Learn more about the Catholic Faith during the RCIA Inquiry Period. The sessions are held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Parish Hall, Rm 1.

For more information, please contact Linda Knapp:

925-231-5849
lindasmiles2001@yahoo.com
Or call the Parish Office 209-532-7139

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### OLMC Parish Services

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Services is an organization within the parish which provides assistance to our community. We are guided by the wisdom of the Spirit to follow our Catholic tradition of caring for those in need by providing for the physical and financial needs of our parishioners and the community. The phone number to call to request assistance or information is 209 532-7139 Ext 111 and is on the front page of the church bulletin. Our Core Group monitors this phone number.

Parish Services picks up the food donated each week at Mass and delivers it to the EV Free Church who distributes it to people in need in the Groveland – Big Oak Flat area. Thank you to those of you who donate food at Mass.

We could use one or two more volunteers on our Core Group. If you would like more information, please call the number above. If you would be available to prepare food for sick or funerals, light home repairs, light yard work or social visits, please fill out a form which is available at the Parish Service box at the back of the church and put it in the box.

Thank you for your past support.

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### Feed the Hungry

Christmas in August?

While cleaning out your closets, attics, and garages, remember our Christmas Fair! You can bring donations to the office now, no need to wait! We’d love to have household items, crafts, religious items, Christmas decorations, etc. (no clothing, please). We especially need jewelry right now! Please donate clean, sellable items. If you have any questions, or would like to help with this year’s Christmas Fair, please call Teresa @209-206-1062. Our first planning meeting will be in September.

It's time to begin collecting baskets to be made up for sale at the Christmas Fair. If you have any good size baskets you'd like to contribute, please drop them off at the office or call Debby Cushman at 533-2756.

St. Patrick’s Parish Christmas Fair
Saturday, December 1st, 2018
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

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

- Catherine Bentz
- Al Biedrzycki
- Phil Fish
- Vern & Jo Froehlich
- Ed Hall
- Shirley Hamblin
- A. J. Holmes
- Bill & Rolene Kiesling
- Kristine Kitamura
- Joan Macauley
- Joseph Murtagh
- Juan Pinela
- Bob Porcella
- Juan Pulido
- Mike Schirmer
- Dolores Schlichtmann
- Clay Sweeney
- Mitch Woods
- Jean Wobbe

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

At One with the Spirit Ministry is pleased to announce:
A pilgrimage to The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and other Holy Places and Cathedrals in and around Mexico City, including the beautiful city of Puebla, Mexico.

- January 30 - February 4, 2019
- $2,199 from San Francisco
- Spiritual Director: Fr. Samuel West
- Group Coordinators: Juddy Kendall & Dolores Schlichtmann

For more information, please visit www.pilgrimages.com/stpatrickchurch
Detailed flyers are available in the vestibule.

Is the Lord Calling You?
Each year He calls forth those He has chosen to formally pass on our faith to the next generation. It is the responsibility of parents, accepted at the baptism of their child, to instruct them, but the responsibility of the church to assist parents in that role.

We need teachers who can bring God’s message of love to students of a variety of ages.
If you would like to join us on Wednesday evenings OR Sunday mornings and help with the faith formation of our young people, please contact the Parish Office or Kathy Casas, Director of Religious Ed, @ 532-7139 or 770-5987.

Cupboard Organizers Unite!
Thursday, August 30th will be a day to meet others who love to sort, organize, and clean out cupboards!

It’s that time again when the classrooms in the Hall and the Steinmetz House need to be made ready for a new year of Religious Ed. Extra hands are needed to do this! We will start after the 8:00 am Mass and end by noon. Join us for a few laughs and blessings, as we make ready the rooms for our precious children’s education.

Just show up or contact Kathy Casas @ 770-5987.

Religious Education Classes Begin...

Kindergarten and First Grade
Sundays 10:15 through 11:00 Family Mass
Includes Liturgy of the Word for Children
Begins Sunday, September 16th
Downstairs in the Parish Hall

2nd Grade through Confirmation
Begins Wednesday, September 12th
6:30-7:30 pm - Parish Hall

PRE-REGISTRATION is helpful!
Forms are in the church vestibule, hall, and office.
Baptismal certificates are necessary unless baptized at St. Patrick’s.

Please return the forms to the Parish Office or mail to:
St. Patrick’s Church
116 W. Bradford St.
Sonora, CA 95370

YLI Patricia #79
Baked Potato Bar Luncheon/ Bunco Games

Saturday, Sept 15
St. Patrick’s Parish Hall
Doors open at 11:30 am
All Adults welcome!
$15 per person

Advance tickets or reservations suggested
For more information, call Vicki @ 532-6010

Let’s play Bunco
You’re Invited!
For regularly scheduled meetings, please check the Master Calendar at www.stpatssonora.org. If you have calendar requests or need to make changes to your current calendared items, please email ron@stpatssonora.org.

**Regularly Scheduled Meetings**

- **Saturday**
  - 5:00 pm Jack McCoy
  - Jillian Anya, Healing

- **Sunday**
  - 7:30 am Tony Pallante
  - Jess Santana
  - 9:00 am Tete Arellano
  - Deceased members of the YLI
  - 11:00 am Dolores Schlichtmann, Healing
  - Gamboa Family
  - Happy Birthday(s)!
  - 5:00 pm Lupe Diaz
  - Alicia Sanchez

*We say the rosary after each 8:00 am weekday Mass.*

**Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date**

- **Wednesday 9/5** ~ 2018 Christmas Fair planning committee meeting, Parish Hall 5:30 pm
- **Thursday 9/6** ~ OLMC: New religious study begins!
  - The Prophets: Messengers of God’s Mercy
  - OLMC Parish House, 4:00 - 5:30 pm
- **Wednesday 9/12** ~ Religious Ed Classes begin
  - 2nd Grade - Confirmation, 6:30-7:30 pm Parish Hall
- **Saturday 9/15** ~ YLI Potato Bar Luncheon and Bunco, 11:30 am, St. Patrick’s Parish Hall
- **Sunday 9/16** ~ Religious Ed Classes begin K - 1st
  - 10:15-11:00 am, downstairs Parish Hall
- **Tuesday 9/18** ~ Pastoral Council Meeting, 6:30 pm Room #6, Parish Hall

For regularly scheduled meetings, please check the Master Calendar at www.stpatssonora.org. If you have calendar requests or need to make changes to your current calendared items, please email ron@stpatssonora.org.

**Readings for the Week**

**Monday August 20 ~ Sunday August 26**

**Monday:**
- Ez 24:15-27; Dt 32:18-21; Mt 19:16-22

**Tuesday:**
- Ez 28:1-10; Dt 32:26-28, 30, 35cd-36ab; Mt 19:23-30

**Wednesday:**
- Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 20:1-16

**Thursday:**
- Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14

**Friday:**
- Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51

**Saturday:**
- Ez 43:1-7a; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 23:1-12

**Sunday:**
- Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ps 34:2-3, 16-21; Eph 5:21-32 [2a, 25-32]; Jn 6:60-69

**Saints and Special Observances**

**Sunday August 19 ~ Saturday August 25**

**Sunday:**
- Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Monday:**
- St. Bernard

**Tuesday:**
- St. Pius X

**Wednesday:**
- The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Thursday:**
- St. Rose of Lima

**Friday:**
- St. Bartholomew

**Saturday:**
- St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz; Blessed Virgin Mary

**Weekly Goal** $10,000

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Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!

**St. Rose of Lima**

*Without the burden of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gift of grace increases as the struggles increase.*