St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News

The Lord said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”
2 Corinthians 12:9

July 8, 2018
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“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 Second Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, we hear the great Apostle to the Gentiles make a humbling admission about himself. He reveals he is suffering from what he calls “a thorn in the flesh.” We are not sure exactly what St. Paul means by this phrase. But immediately following this phrase, he says, “an angel of Satan” was allowed “to beat” him. So the suffering Paul undergoes could be spiritual in nature, and we know it is allowed by God. Whatever he is suffering, whether it is physical, spiritual, or emotional pain, we can assume his distress is bad enough to “beg” the Lord “three times” to take it from him. God’s response to Paul is, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” Paul understands the response to mean when he experiences any type of suffering – “weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints” – God is able to use that suffering as a way for some good to come about and be made present. God’s power, His Goodness, is revealed through suffering. This is a fundamental principle in the life of a Christian that cannot be repeated enough – the Cross is the way to the Resurrection. Only by the sufferings of Christ, His passion and Death, does the power of God’s Life in His Resurrection become real and present in our world. But for God’s goodness to come out of suffering, the suffering needs to be endured, as Paul says, “for the sake of Christ.” So whatever we suffer, we can do it “for Christ” and offer it to God, the Father, in union with what Christ suffered for us. We want to carefully listen to Paul’s experience of God’s grace and, in every circumstance of suffering we endure, completely trust God. When we are undergoing times of suffering, we recognize God is giving us in that very moment all the grace, the power, we will need to carry us through and bring about His goodness from our suffering. St. Paul writes, “When I am weak, then I am strong.” For us, this means in any of our weaknesses, God will make us strong too if we turn to Him.

Another point this text addresses about human suffering which many of us have is why does an innocent person have to suffer? Whether we like to admit it or not, a lot of what we suffer in this life is the direct result of our own choices or own actions. For example, if we choose not to eat a proper and balanced diet, at some point we will suffer a physical illness as a result of poor diet. We know when we don’t take care of our bodies and engage in behaviors that are harmful to our health, we will get sick.

This same result occurs in our spiritual lives, in our relationship with God. If we neglect “to feed” our souls with the right spiritual food, we will experience spiritual sickness. However, there are many cases among us, in our own community and families, of afflictions of the body and soul which God allows that is not a consequence of anything we did or failed to do. I am thinking of a person who has taken care of themselves all their life – ate right, exercised regularly, did not drink or smoke – but still gets cancer. This one is harder to explain. But seeing what God does for St. Paul gives us some insight into why God allows a person who has not done anything wrong to suffer. At the time he revealed this “thorn in the flesh,” St. Paul was undoubtedly faithful to Christ, always doing what God asked of him. So his suffering is not a result of some sin he did. Paul understands God allowed him to suffer to help him grow in likeness to Christ, to have, as he says, the “power of Christ dwell” in him. Our Good Lord does the same for us. If we are following Jesus, adhering to His commandments, and practicing our Faith, we will still suffer. There is no question about this. What God does for St. Paul and all the saints, we want to see God is doing and will do for us. He allows us to suffer ultimately for our good, to remain humble and grow in holiness, to be more like His Son, Jesus.

Through the intercessions of the Virgin Mary and St. Paul, let us ask the Lord Jesus to continue to give us the “sufficient grace” so we can suffer for the sake of Christ, to bring His good about in our lives, and become more like Him.

In Christ, Fr. Samuel West

Mary’s Garden

It is a Catholic tradition to acknowledge and honor the unselfish and holy life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, particularly in the month of May. In the Middle Ages, missionaries and travelers spread stories across Europe about flowers named after Mary and various times of her life. “Mary’s Gardens” that featured these flowers became popular there, and later the tradition made its way to America. Our YLI planted a garden in 2001 on the west side of the Steinmetz House. It has recently been replanted and can be visited at any time. There are two benches where one can pray or contemplate. Please use the stepping stones so as not to crush the flowers.
This Week in our Parish

Sat 7/7 & Sun 7/8 ~ Parish Services Collection

Sun 7/8 ~ Meet & Greet: YLI

Thurs 7/12 ~ Religious Study at OLMC, 4:00-5:30 pm

Sat 7/14 ~ Altar Duty: Carmen Ortiz, Barbara Sweeney

Sun 7/15 ~ Meet & Greet: Religious Ed and Teens

Bishop Emeritus Stephen E. Blaire requests the pleasure of your company at the Cupcakes, Canapés, and Cocktails Art Event!

Benefiting the Education of the Seminarians of the Stockton Diocese

The Bishop’s treasured collection of paintings, sculpture, carvings, and icons will be up for bid in this silent auction. Cocktails, wine, and sweet and savory hors d’oeuvres will be served.

Date: Thursday July 26th, 2018
Time: 5:30 to 7:30 pm
Place: Guadalupe Hall
Church of the Presentation
1515 W. Benjamin Holt Drive
Stockton, CA
$25 per person

Please make checks payable to Diocese of Stockton
Send checks to:
Bishop’s Art Event
777 North Pershing Ave.
Suite 1A
Stockton, CA 95203
For more information, please call Fabienne Johnson at 209-612-7539.

Feast of St. Anne and St. Joachim

The Feast Day is July 26th, but we will celebrate with a special Mass on Saturday, July 28th
St. Anne’s Catholic Church
Columbia, CA
Mass at 9:00 am
Bishop Emeritus Stephen Blaire, presiding

The Knights of Columbus Color Guard, in full regalia, will be in attendance at the Mass.

A reception will follow at Angelo’s Hall in Columbia State Park, with a potluck brunch. For more information, please call the Parish Office at 532-7139.

St. Patrick’s Pastoral Council Update - July 2018

The Pastoral Council thanks parishioners who have given their time and effort over the last year in the act of advising Fr. Sam on pastoral matters.

Current Council members are: Leon Casa, Wendell Cushman, Charlene Dambacher, Raquel Diaz, Nathan Graveline, Denise Nicolini, Bill Ruiz, Tina Welch and Jim Woosley. Names and faces will be posted soon for you to use as contacts and as conduits for your thoughts, concerns, and advice.

The Council supports Fr. Sam in moving the Parish toward achieving Saint Patrick’s Pastoral Goals:
† The Parish as a Welcoming Community
† Becoming Stewards of Our Parish
† Providing Spiritual Growth Opportunities
† Caring for the Parish Community
† Communication as a Core Value

All interested persons are welcome to attend the next Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 18th at 6:30 pm in room #6 of the Parish Hall in Sonora.

Because of the blessings God has bestowed on our nation and the power it possesses, the United States bears a special responsibility in its stewardship of God’s creation to shape responses that serve the entire human family.”

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gus Allegri</th>
<th>Jeanne Kiely</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tete Arellano</td>
<td>Bill &amp; Rolene Kiesling</td>
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<td>Catherine Bentz</td>
<td>Kristine Kitamura</td>
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<td>Al Biedrzycki</td>
<td>Lois Marzocchi</td>
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<td>Beverly Brainard</td>
<td>Dorothy McCargar</td>
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<td>Carolyn Bruning</td>
<td>Joseph Murtagh</td>
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<td>Jan Buck</td>
<td>Pat Newton</td>
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<td>Phil Fish</td>
<td>Barbara North</td>
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<td>Vern &amp; Jo Froehlich</td>
<td>Lee O’Shaughnessy</td>
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<td>Mitch &amp; Patti Gerner</td>
<td>Joseph Perez</td>
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<td>Susan Goodspeed</td>
<td>Juan Pinela</td>
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<td>Bill Gookin</td>
<td>Juan Pulido</td>
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<td>Ed Hall</td>
<td>Jackie Sample</td>
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<td>Cecilia Hallock</td>
<td>Mike Schirmer</td>
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<td>Joan Holland</td>
<td>Clay Sweeney</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. J. Holmes</td>
<td>Jean Wobbe</td>
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To add or remove a name from this list or the prayer chain, please contact Sandy Pallante at 532-7625.

Sonora Men's Fellowship is now accepting registrations for the 2018 Catholic Men's Fellowship Fall Retreat - “The Magnificent Seven: Men of Virtue.”

The Seven Virtues Perfect our Seven Principles
- Prudence - Justice - Fortitude - Temperance
- Faith - Hope - Charity

“Virtues are gifts from God that lead us to live in a close relationship with Him. Virtues are like habits. They need to be practiced; they can be lost if they are neglected.”

Stephen Valgos, Catholic Evangelist and teacher, will lead our Retreat and share his wisdom of the teachings of the Church leading us to a better understanding of how “The Seven Virtues Perfect our Seven Principles,” and tip the scales of the moral life toward good and away from evil. Fr. Mike Lacey, former Pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, San Lorenzo, CA will celebrate Mass for our Retreat.

Accept this invitation to join other men for a weekend of reflective spirituality. Get away from the pressures and activities of daily life for a refreshing weekend of renewal. Regain, deepen and strengthen your spiritual perspective.

Retreat Dates:
- Friday - Sunday ~ August 17 - 19, 2018
Beginning 5:00 pm Friday, concluding at noon on Sunday

Retreat Cost: $185 per person donation for lodging and all meals. We encourage father/son participation, half price for second registration.

To register, visit www.catholicmen.org
Make checks payable to 2018 CMF Fall Retreat
Mail to: 10905 Kelso Ct. Sonora, CA 95370
Retreat Location:
OLD OAK RANCH
15250 Old Oak Ranch Rd.
Sonora, California 95370

Grieving with Great HOPE is a five week grief support workshop series that offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. If you have lost a spouse, a child (including pregnancy loss), a grandchild, a parent, another family member or a friend, you are encouraged to attend. Presenters will include Cathi Ruiz and Martha Golay, as well as John and Sandy O’Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement apostolate.

Wednesdays: August 1, 8, 22, 29, 6-8 pm;
Thursday, August 16, 6-8 pm
St. Patrick’s Catholic Church
127 Jackson Street, Sonora

Contact Steve and Martha Golay for registration details and a registration form at 209-588-2935, or email golaymartha@yahoo.com

There is a $15 fee for the workshop, which will be collected at the first meeting.
Advanced registration by July 27, 2018

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, and more (no clothing, please). 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.
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.

**Mass Intentsions for the Week**

Saturday July 7 ~ Sunday July 15

**Saturday 5:00 pm**
- Ken Franck
- Rose Heller

**Sunday 7:30 am**
- All Parishioners
- Tony Pallante
- Perpetua Enderes

9:00 am
- Oma Geburt

11:00 am
- Betty Mercado
- Pierrette Loiseau

5:00 pm
- Lupe Diaz
- Alicia Sanchez

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

**Monday 8:00 am**
- No Intentions

**Tuesday 8:00 am**
- No Intentions

**Wednesday 8:00 am**
- No Intentions

**Thursday 8:00 am**
- Alicia Diaz
- Sofia Diaz

**Friday 8:00 am**
- Perpetua Enderes

**Saturday 5:00 pm**
- Jack McCoy
- LaVon & Jack Woodcock

**Sunday 7:30 am**
- All Parishioners
- Ken Walton, Healing
- Patricia Phillips

9:00 am
- Hezzy Arellano

11:00 am
- Carl Stephen King
- Vernon Harold Cabral

5:00 pm
- Lupe Diaz
- Alicia Sanchez

**Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date**

**Saturday 7/28 ~** Mass for the Feast of St. Joachim and St. Anne will be celebrated at St. Anne’s in Columbia, 9:00 am; Bishop Emeritus Stephen Blair presiding, Potluck after Mass in Angelo’s Hall, Columbia State Park

**Tuesday 8/14 ~** Vigil Mass for The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 5:00 pm OLMC

**Wednesday 8/15 ~** The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 8:00 am and 6:30 pm Mass St. Patrick’s

**Friday 8/17 - Sunday 8/19 ~** Catholic Men’s Fellowship Fall Retreat, Old Oak Ranch, Sonora

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday July 9 ~ Sunday July 15**

**Monday:**
- Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22; Ps 145:2-9; Mt 9:18-26

**Tuesday:**
- Hos 8:4-7, 11-13; Ps 115:3-10; Mt 9:32-38

**Wednesday:**
- Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Ps 105:2-7; Mt 10:1-7

**Thursday:**
- Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16; Mt 10:7-15

**Friday:**
- Hos 14:2-10; Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-14, 17; Mt 10:16-23

**Saturday:**
- Is 6:1-8; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mt 10:24-33

**Sunday:**
- Am 7:12-15; Ps 85:9-14; Eph 1:3-14 [3-10]; Mk 6:7-13

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday July 8 ~ Saturday July 14**

**Sunday:**
- Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Monday:**
- St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions

**Wednesday:**
- St. Benedict

**Friday:**
- St. Henry

**Saturday:**
- St. Kateri Tekawitha

**Weekend Offerings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal</th>
<th>6-24-18 Week 25</th>
<th>June Totals</th>
<th>7-1-18 Week 26</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Offerings</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Pat’s</td>
<td>$4,705</td>
<td>$21,713</td>
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<td>OLMC</td>
<td>$1,135</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-giving</td>
<td>$467</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$6,307</td>
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<td><strong>LAST YEAR</strong></td>
<td>$6,716</td>
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**Maintenance Offerings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal</th>
<th>6-24-18 Week 25</th>
<th>June Totals</th>
<th>7-1-18 Week 26</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Pat’s</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>$1,188</td>
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<tr>
<td>OLMC</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$10</td>
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Peter’s Pence: St. Pat’s $693, OLMC $185

Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!