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](http://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 Second Sunday of Lent, we hear of the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ in this week’s Gospel. We are given a very tiny peek into our Lord’s Divine nature in this supernatural, amazing event. “His face changed in appearance and his clothes became dazzling white.” Besides confirming Jesus is God, this supernatural scene also reminds us we too are to be “transfigured” or changed so as to share in Christ’s Divine nature. In the Second Reading, St. Paul confirms our supernatural destiny is to be transfigured into God’s image. He writes, “He will change our lowly body to conform with His glorified body by the power that enables Him also to bring all things into subjection to Himself.” In His infinite mercy for us, our Lord Jesus, the second person of the Most Holy Trinity, became one of us, taking on our human nature. In doing so, He raises us into the inner life of God. St. Irenaeus of the second century writes, “For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God.” Simply stated, Jesus became human so we can become divine. If we remain faithful to our call as His children to share fully in His divine life, then, according to St. Paul, “our citizenship is in heaven.” However, if a person chooses to separate himself or herself from God by committing a serious sin, rather than being a child of God, the person becomes, as St. Paul writes, one of the “enemies of the Christ.” “Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their ’shame’ and “their minds are occupied with earthly things.” Therefore, those who obstinately remain separate from God cannot fulfill their heavenly destiny but tragically their “end is destruction.” In our baptism, we have been made sharers in Jesus’ Divine Life through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Remaining faithful to our baptismal call, we are raised above the corruption of the earthly life to share in the immortality and glory of the heavenly life.

In this scene before our Lord reveals His divine nature to his closest friends, Peter, James, and John, they first go “up the mountain to pray.” We see it is in prayer that we can more clearly see Jesus’ divine nature. In addition to experiencing Jesus’ divinity, prayer can help us also see and experience our own divine adoption. Spending time in prayer “transfigures” us into the image of God. There is a form of special prayer called Eucharistic Adoration, which involves making visible or “exposing” a consecrated Host so we can see our Lord. Similar to when He was in human flesh during His earthly ministry, our Lord’s divine nature is veiled or hidden in the Holy Eucharist; what looks like bread, a simple host, is the veil of His divinity. If we spend time with Jesus when He looks like bread, we may experience a moment, a glimpse, of His divinity like the Apostles had on the mountain when Peter says, “Master, it is good that we are here.”

Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is an opportunity for us to experience His transfiguration, His Divine nature, and also to allow Him to “transfigure” us, to change, by the power of His grace, into the divine image. Quiet time in prayer and adoration before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament helps us grow in a greater awareness and experience of His real Presence in the Eucharist. The more we see and experience Jesus in the Eucharist, the more we will see Him in ourselves, our own hearts, and more readily see Him in others, especially in those who are poor and sick. Here at St. Patrick’s, we have Eucharistic Adoration Monday through Friday starting at 6:30 am and ending immediately before the 8 am Mass. Also, our Lord Jesus is exposed in the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday evenings during Confessions from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. During this Lenten Season, I encourage you to come spend some quiet time with our Lord. Come and see Him and allow His Mercy to transfigure you!

Come to our Lenten Mission!
Monday, March 18th – Thursday, March 21st at 6:30 pm

Starting tomorrow (Monday, March 18th) we are having a Lenten mission for four evenings preached by Fr. Bart Hutcherson, O.P., a Dominican. The mission begins at 6:30 in the evening each evening and lasts for about 45 minutes. Fr. Bart will be leading us in a meditation on God’s Mercy as revealed in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. It has been three years since our last mission, and I would like to be able to offer them more frequently. Attendance helps us know if there is a need for these types of spiritual growth events in the future. I encourage all of you to come (even to just one or two evenings) to be supported in your Lenten journey and grow in an understanding of God’s mercy and forgiveness.

Through the intercession of our patron St. Patrick, whose feast we joyfully celebrate this Sunday, and the maternal protection of our Blessed Mother, we ask the Lord during this Holy season of Lent for the all the grace we need to see His divine nature more clearly, especially in the Holy Eucharist, and experience the gift we have received to share in His divinity as a child of God.

*In Christ, Fr. Samuel West*
March 17, 2019

**This Week in our Parish**

**Sunday 3/17**  ~  No Meet & Greet

**Sunday 3/17**  ~  St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon, 
12:30 pm Parish Hall 
Pastoral Council Elections

**Monday 3/18**  ~  Parish Mission begins

**Thursday 3/21**  ~  Religious Study begins OLMC

**Thursday 3/21**  ~  Youth Group 6:30 pm Steinmetz

**Friday 3/22**  ~  Stations of the Cross, 5:00 pm OLMC 
6:00 pm, St. Patrick’s

**Saturday 3/23**  ~  Altar Duty: Barbara Kay 
Rose Kutsch

**Sunday 3/24**  ~  Meet & Greet: Knights of Columbus

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A new Religious Study begins on **Thursday, March 21** at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Big Oak Flat. 

**“Fulfilled - Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism”**

This study will explore how in the Old Testament, God began laying a foundation for the beautiful traditions of the Catholic Faith. Classes are from 4:00-5:30 pm on Thursdays, in the OLMC Parish House. 

Please come to watch and discuss the material presented in the video and in the handout. An optional book ($11) by Sonja Corbitt is available.

Please sign up for this class as soon as possible, so you can receive your Session 1 handout.

For more information and to sign up, please contact Warren Belisle at 962-4309 or email: bellale@msn.com

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**Stations of the Cross**

and Lenten Soup Suppers are held every Friday evening during Lent. 

Please join us for this wonderful tradition as we come together as a community to remember His sacrifice on the Cross, followed by a beautiful time of fellowship in Christ.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Big Oak Flat ~ 5:00 pm 
St. Patrick’s, Sonora ~ 6:00 pm

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All are encouraged to attend our Parish Mission for Lent.

**March 18-21 (Mon - Thur) 6:30 pm**

St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, Sonora 
Presented by Fr. Bart Hutcherson

**Monday "A Man Had 2 Sons"** - We will explore the parable of the *Prodigal Son*, the nature of relationship in our religious tradition, and how our actions, good and evil, affect our relationships with God and with each other.

**Tuesday "Tending the Swine"** - We will explore the nature of sin and contrition as the beginning of Conversion.

**Wednesday "I am not Worthy"** - We will explore the nature of forgiveness, mercy, and "The God who is waiting for us."

**Thursday "The Good Son"** - We will wrap up by returning to the theme of relationships and explore how God's mercy extends to us when we behave like the Older Son in the Story.

Each talk will last 45 minutes to 1 hour.

**Fr. Bart Hutcherson, O.P.** is a Dominican Friar and priest of the Province of the Holy Name of Jesus in the Western USA. Ordained in 1997, he has spent most of his priesthood in university and parish ministry. Now, as an Itinerant Preacher, he uses story-telling, teaching, retreats, and pilgrimages to share the Gospel with others. His retreats and missions are rooted deeply in his love for the Word of God and a deeply Catholic understanding of Sacred Scripture. He currently resides at St. Albert’s Priory in Oakland, CA. You can learn more about Fr. Bart and his Preaching Ministry at www.FrBart.com.

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**Important Dates for RCIA**

Sun, March 17: Penitential Rite for Candidates

Sun, March 24: 1st Scrutiny

Sun, March 31: 2nd Scrutiny

Sun, April 7: 3rd Scrutiny

All rites will take place during the 11:00 am Mass
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

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

Josephine Barbarini  Judi Maguire
Al Biedrzycki       Lois Marzocchi
Joseph Cognetti    Cindy Merritt
Katrina Garcia     Michelle Mullen
Bill Gookin        Gary Pizl
Ed Hall            Juan Pulido
A. J. Holmes       Clay Sweeney
Bill & Rolene Kiesling Roy Volpetti
Kristine Kitamura  Mitch & Trish Woods

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

Please support the St. Patrick’s Food Pantry - we are running desperately low! During this Lenten season, you can commit an act of loving service by donating food to those in need. Any contribution of food is welcome BUT what the Pantry needs most right now is: cereal (cold and hot), canned fruit (pull-top lids preferred on canned items), peanut butter, jelly/jam, and crackers. You can put the items in the large basket inside the Church during Mass, drop them off in the Parish Office, or call Sandy Tannhauser @ 532-3899.

Join us for a special event in honor of our Patron St. Patrick’s Day
Traditional Irish Luncheon
Sunday, March 17th
Following the 11:00 am Mass
Please bring a dessert to share.

Pastoral Council Elections will be held during the Luncheon.

Youth Group Fundraiser!
Our teens will be selling yummy homemade pretzels as a fundraiser after the Teen Mass on Sunday, March 17 and before our St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon. Be sure to get your pretzel and help support our young people!

INTO YOUR HANDS, O LORD, we commend the souls of
Janice Klaas
Timothy Gallagher
Carlos Hernandez
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Food Pantry

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. This phone number is monitored by our Core Group.

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. We have made cash donations to the Baptist Church, the Seventh Day Adventist Church and the EV Free Church for their food distribution programs.

We could use a few more volunteers on our Core Group. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, please call the number above and a member will return your call.

If you would be available to prepare food for the sick or for funerals, do 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.

Forty Days for Life continues this Monday, March 18. We will stand on the corner of Mono Way and Greenley every Monday in Lent, from 8-9:00 am to 6:00 pm. All participants are asked to stand for one hour. Please choose your hour, and sign up in the Parish Office. For more information, please call Joan Madsen at 209-533-3429.
Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date

Wednesday 4/3 ~ Lenten Penance Service 6:30 pm, St. Patrick’s

Friday 4/5 ~ Daytime Stations of the Cross 10:00 am, St. Patrick’s

*Please note Date Change*

Monday 4/8 ~ Lenten Penance Service 4:00 pm, OLMC

Thursday 4/11 ~ Chrism Mass, Stockton Cathedral

Friday 4/12 ~ Daytime Penance Service 10:00 am, St. Patrick’s

Thursday 4/18 ~ Holy Thursday

Friday 4/19 ~ Good Friday

Saturday 4/20 ~ Easter Vigil

Sunday 4/21 ~ Easter Sunday

Saturday 5/11 ~ Mother Lode Round-Up Parade

Sunday 5/12 ~ Mother’s Day

Wednesday 5/15 ~ Confirmation Mass, 6:00 pm

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday March 18 ~ Sunday March 24

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9 (Year A) Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday March 17 ~ Saturday March 23

Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent; St. Patrick’s Day

Monday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Tuesday: St. Joseph

Wednesday: Spring begins; Purim (Jewish observance) begins at sundown

Friday: Abstinence

Saturday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

Weekly Offerings

Weekly Goal $10,000

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Ash Wednesday: St. Pat’s $1,722, OLMC $354
Black and Indian Missions: $631
Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!