St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News

June 30
2019

13th 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
Father Sam's Message

The question posed in this Sunday’s readings is, are we living out our call to be authentic Disciples of Christ on the Lord’s terms, or on our own terms? In the Gospel, the people Jesus called made excuses to delay following Him. It seems they were saying to our Lord that they would only follow on the conditions they setup. We hear, “And to another He [Jesus] said, ‘Follow me.’ But he replied, ‘Lord, let me go first and bury my father.’ But He [Jesus] answered him, ‘Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’ And another said, ‘I will follow You, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home.’” These responses to Jesus’ invitation show that some called to serve setup pre-conditions to follow Him on their own terms. We can often put conditions, or limits, on God’s call, establishing our own terms of what it means to be His disciple. Putting any of our own conditions on God’s invitation to serve in His Kingdom disqualifies us from being trustworthy disciples. To be His true disciple, we must follow Him totally and without conditions. Our Lord Jesus tells us, “no one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.” Committing ourselves to follow Jesus is what our Lord means when He says, setting our “hand to the plow.” Not looking to “what is left behind” means dropping any of our own plans for when and how we will serve in His Kingdom.

Although many of us were baptized as babies, we at some point need to make an intentional and conscious commitment to respond fully and unconditionally to the call to follow Christ, to serve as authentic members of the “Kingdom of God.” Our whole lives, how we think and act, are all about following Christ, remaining faithful to Him. In the invitation to follow our Lord, we are called to trust His Holy Will completely in our lives, and to do so means not setting pre-conditions to becoming His disciples. St. Paul warns us, in our 2nd reading, that the “flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; these are opposed to each other.” As committed disciples, we continually fight against the “flesh,” which desires to “looks to what was left behind,” returning to our “old” lives, including returning to selfish ambitions, self-centered attitudes, or sinful habits. But, since we now “live by the spirit” and “are guided by the Spirit,” we do not “gratify the desire of the flesh.” Our awareness of this gift of our spiritual lives increases when we keep up the struggle and daily renew our resolve to “fight the good fight” against our worldly desires. One of the most effective weapons in this fight is to always strive with our whole selves, without holding back, to do what God’s asks of us on His terms and to desire the good of others, serving their needs. We are reminded to “serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” An honest practice of our Faith, to “stand firm” in the gift of Faith, through daily prayer, works of charity, obeying the teachings of the Church, and participation in the Sacraments, is how we are real disciples of Christ and will not “submit again to the yoke of slavery.”

By the example of the Virgin Mary, Jesus’ first disciple, let us recommit ourselves to being true followers of Jesus. As such we do not look back “to what was left behind,” but to what is before us, always growing in our relationship with our Lord. In an active practice of the faith, living our call as true disciples of Christ, we seek to more fully know His love for us, more deeply experience His peace, and more fervently share His joy with others.

**Good news on the upgrade of our Church’s front entrance**

I have good news on a building project we have been working on for a long time. This past week, we finally signed a contract with a reputable, local contractor, Plum Construction, to begin the work of renovating the front entrance of the Church within the next 2 weeks. During the construction, we are not going to have access to the Church and will be celebrating all our Masses in the Parish Hall. The Sunday Masses will be upstairs and daily Masses will be celebrated downstairs in Room 3.

As a reminder, the objective of the project is to make it easier to enter our beautiful church by eliminating the large front step at the door of the church. The plan is to add concrete (slightly graded) to raise the level of the entire area around the front entrance of the Church to the level of the threshold of the door. Raising the level of the concrete also requires enhancements to our current wheelchair ramp to meet the new level and replacing the guard railing in the front of the Church to comply with the standard building code.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, to whom we consecrated our entire parish, we are very hopeful the project will proceed smoothly and will be completed by August 31st. Thank you for your patience during the construction.

*In Christ, Fr. Sam West*
This Week in our Parish

Saturday 6/29 & Sunday 6/30 ~ Second Collection for the Holy Father, “Peter’s Pence”

Monday 7/1 ~ Evening Prayer Service for Bishop Emeritus Stephen Blaire, St. Patrick’s, 6:30 pm

Thursday 7/4 ~ Independence Day Mass, 9:00 am St. Anne’s, Columbia; Parade in Columbia 12:00; Parish Office closed

Saturday 7/6 ~ Altar Duty: Marcia Watts Carmella Peller

Saturday 7/6 ~ Youth Retreat, Pinecrest Lake

Saturday 7/6 & Sunday 7/7 ~ All weekend Masses are in the Parish Hall

Starting Wednesday July 3
All Masses at St. Patrick’s will be in the Parish Hall

Daily Masses - downstairs, Rm. 3
Weekend Masses - upstairs
Wednesday evening Adoration - downstairs, Rm. 3
Reconciliation - downstairs, Rm. 2

July 4th in Columbia!
9:00 am Mass at St. Anne’s Church
12:00 pm Parade in Columbia
Be a part of the group carrying the banner for St. Anne’s!

★ Kids ~ decorate your bike or wagon.
★ Teens and adults ~ put on your favorite red, white, and blue duds or Old West costume.
★ Costumed doggies and cats are welcome too, on a leash, please.
★ Meet at 11:45 am in front of the Fallon House Theater to line up for the parade.
Call Marcia Watts, 533-3662 for more information.

The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bishop Emeritus Stephen E. Blaire
December 22, 1941 - June 18, 2019

Please join us for a special Evening Prayer Service for Bishop Stephen Blaire, on Monday, July 1 at 6:30 pm at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church.
Other Funeral Services at Our Lady of Fatima, and at the Cathedral of the Annunciation are listed below.

Funeral services are as follows:
July 1 – Our Lady of Fatima, Modesto
Reception of Body 2:00 pm ~ Visitation until 8:00 pm
July 2 – Cathedral of the Annunciation
Reception of Body 2:00 pm ~ Visitation until 6:30 pm
Vigil 7:00 p.m.
July 3 – Cathedral of the Annunciation
Funeral Liturgy 11:00 am
Internment at San Joaquin Cemetery

Attn: All Teens!
Youth Group Retreat at Pinecrest Lake
Saturday, July 6
Parents - we need some volunteer drivers.
If you are willing to drive teens to the retreat, please call or text Angela Cordes, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, at 760-399-0438.

Encounter
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Worship and Praise Music
Monday evenings 6:30-7:45 pm
Parish Hall, Rm. 3 (July-August)
St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, Sonora
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al Biedrzycki</td>
<td>A. J. Holmes</td>
<td>Jackie Boling</td>
<td>Bill Kiesling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jalen Bozzo</td>
<td>Kristine Kitamura</td>
<td>Mary Brown</td>
<td>Cindy Merritt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Davison</td>
<td>Juan Pulido</td>
<td>Bernie Frost</td>
<td>Clay Sweeney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Hall</td>
<td>Dan Ward</td>
<td>Jean Hanson</td>
<td>Mitch &amp; Trish Woods</td>
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To add or remove a name from this list, please contact the Parish Office at 209-532-7139.

Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Tuesday, July 16
5:00 pm Mass
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Big Oak Flat

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary in her role as Patroness of the Carmelite Order. She leads us to a new realization that all human beings belong to the family of God. When such a conviction grows, there is hope that the human race can find its way to peace.

Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, and Ushers:

The 3rd Quarter (July - August - September) 2019 Ministry Mass Schedules are ready to be picked up. You will find them in the basket in the vestibule after Mass, alphabetical by last name. They are also available on our website.

Joyful Noise
A Praise and Worship Adoration Night
St. Katharine Drexel Parish Center
Martell (Jackson) CA
Friday July 12, 6:30 pm

Worship Leader . . . . .
Scott Vasconcellos
Speaker . . . . . Joshua Hollcraft,
Youth Coordinator
Free event!
Donations accepted

Sanctus Cup
Catholic Young Adults
Local Event
Saturday July 13,
4:00 - 8:30 pm

St. Stanislaus Catholic School
1416 Maze Blvd., Modesto CA
Follow us at: facebook/sanctuscup,
www.sanctuscup.com

The Power of Prayer

St. Patrick’s prayer chain shares names of those needing prayer for health or other healing. Our community is dedicated to asking the Lord and His Blessed Mother to hear our prayers for one another. The list of people comprising our prayer chain is being revised. If you are already listed on the Prayer Chain or want to join, please contact Debby Cushman at (209) 533-2756.

Feast of St. Anne and St. Joachim
The Feast Day is July 26th, but we will celebrate with a Special Mass on Saturday, July 27th
St. Anne’s Catholic Church
Columbia, CA
Mass at 9:00 am
Bishop Myron J. Cotta, 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. Sign-up sheets to bring food for the Potluck will be located in the Parish Hall after Masses on July 13 and 20.

For more information, please call the Parish Office at 209-532-7139.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday July 1 ~ Sunday July 7
Monday: Gn 18:16-33; Ps 103:1b-4, 8-11; Mt 8:18-22
Tuesday: Gn 19:15-29; Ps 26:2-3, 9-12; Mt 8:23-27
Wednesday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 117:1bc-2; Jn 20:24-29
Thursday: Gn 22:1b-19; Ps 115:1-6, 8-9; Mt 9:1-8 or, for Independence Day, any readings from Mass “For a Country or City”, nos. 882-886
Friday: Gn 23:1-4, 19, 24:1-8, 62-67; Ps 106:1b-5; Mt 9:9-13
Saturday: Gn 27:1-5, 15-29; Ps 135:1b-6; Mt 9:14-17

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday June 30 ~ Saturday July 6
Sunday: Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Junipero Serra; Canada Day
Wednesday: St. Thomas
Thursday: Independence Day
Friday: St. Elizabeth of Portugal; St. Anthony Zaccaria; First Friday
Saturday: St. Maria Goretti; Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

Fourth of July

Weekly Offerings

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal</th>
<th>6-16-19 Week 24 Participation 25%</th>
<th>6-23-19 Week 25 Participation 26%</th>
<th>June Totals to date</th>
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<tr>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$4,627</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Offerings</td>
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<td>St. Pat’s</td>
<td>$6,080</td>
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<td>OLMC</td>
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<td>$1,485</td>
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<td>E-giving</td>
<td>$638</td>
<td>$503</td>
<td>$3,030</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$7,572</td>
<td>$6,615</td>
<td>$37,027</td>
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LAST YEAR

|                   | $4,627                            | $5,654                            | $27,994             |
|                   | $1,280                            | $1,485                            | $6,003              |
|                   | $638                              | $503                              | $3,030              |
|                   | $7,572                            | $6,615                            | $37,027             |

Maintenance Offering

|                   | $82                               | $62                               | $1,265              |
|                   | $20                               | $0                                | $150                |
|                   | $143                              | $82                               | $1,415              |

Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!