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 frbanka@stpatssonora.org. God bless.

In Christ, Fr. Yesobu Banka, Parish Administrator
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

Celebrating Holy Week at Home

American Catholics are facing an unimaginable Holy Week this year. With the suspension of public Masses throughout every diocese in all 50 states, there will be no Palm Sunday in our parishes, no Triduum liturgies, no joyous Easter Sunday Mass. It's almost unthinkable — yet here we are. In our home, our domestic church, we can connect to the liturgical life in simple ways, particularly by setting aside a special place to pray. If you don’t already have one, create a domestic prayer altar in a quiet corner of your home. For example, use a table covered by a simple cloth, and place a crucifix, a candle, a Rosary, the Bible, or other sacred images. Gather there to pray during this week.

Palm Sunday
In commemoration of the Lord’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, branches from the yard could be carried in procession throughout your yard or nearby outdoor space. It doesn’t need to be elaborate. Read Matthew 21:1-11, as might be done at the start of Mass. You can sing or play a hymn praising Christ our Lord and King along the way, such as the traditional “Hosanna to the Son of David.” No need to be quiet about it; when Jesus was told to silence the crowds on the first Palm Sunday, he replied, “I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out!” (Lk 19:40). End your procession at your home altar, where you can reflect upon the passion narrative (Mt 26:14–27:66) or livestream a Mass.

Holy Thursday
At the Last Supper, Jesus washed his apostles’ feet, an act of sacrificial love and service by which he gave meaning to what he would accomplish on the cross the next day. Washing one another’s feet would be a great way for loved ones to recall the Lord’s Holy Thursday mandate to love one another as he has loved us. Begin by reading the evening’s Gospel passage (Jn 13:1-15) and conclude with a simple meal. Bake bread for sharing at dinner; make a ritual of stripping the dinner table of all cloths and decorations after dinner. In commemoration of the Lord’s agony in the garden, it is customary to spend the night in Eucharistic adoration. While attending adoration at a church likely isn’t an option for Catholics this year, there are livestreams of Eucharistic adoration available online. The time adoring Christ, even through the screen, can be spent in quiet meditation, reflection on relevant Gospel passages, recitation of the Rosary or making an act of spiritual communion.

Good Friday
The last several weeks have felt something like Good Friday, a day on which Mass is not celebrated, along with several other sacraments. For the veneration of the cross that takes place at this liturgy, we should choose a crucifix at home by which to honor Christ’s passion and death. Gather together and pray the Stations of the Cross at 3:00 pm. Read the passion narrative from the day (Jn 18:1–19:42), keeping the crucifix as a focal point in the room. It would be good for each person to venerate it with a genuflection or a kiss, according to custom. We say, “Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. Come let us adore.” Good Friday is one of two annual obligatory days of fasting for Catholics. With life so jarringly altered, perhaps our fasting will take on new meaning this year, and perhaps we can increase our fasting for the good of all those suffering and caring for the sick throughout the world. Fasting certainly creates a void within us, so that we may recognize our dependence on God above all else. But it can also be an opportunity to open us up to the needs of others, particularly those who need our prayers during these days.

Holy Saturday
In the morning, read Psalm 64 and break your Good Friday fast solemnly with a simple meal. Holy Saturday is supposed to be a quiet day anyways, so observing times of silence should be a goal in every home. Keep vigil on Saturday night. Gather at your prayer altar, read some of the readings from the Easter Vigil, and pray in thanksgiving. Christ is risen, even in this strange year, alleluia, alleluia! If you have holy water at home, bless yourselves and give thanks for the gift of your baptism. Make special prayer for a new Pentecost — a descent of the Holy Spirit into your family, a renewal of faith, a return to Jesus, and hope for the future.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday April 6 ~ Sunday April 12**

**Monday:**
Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11

**Tuesday:**
Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

**Wednesday:**
Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25

**Thursday:**
Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21

**Friday:**
Is 52:13-53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42

**Saturday:**
(1) Gn 1:1 - 2:2; Ps 104:1-2, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-7, 12-22, 30-35; or Ex 14:15 - 15:1; Ps 16:5, 8-11;
(2) Ex 14:15 - 15:1; Ps 16:5, 8-11; Mt 28:1-10

**Sunday:**
Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 or (at an afternoon or evening Mass) Lk 24:13-35

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday April 5 ~ Saturday April 11**

**Sunday:**
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

**Monday:**
Monday of Holy Week

**Tuesday:**
Tuesday of Holy Week

**Wednesday:**
Wednesday of Holy Week; Passover begins

**Thursday:**
Holy Thursday; Sacred Paschal Triduum

**Friday:**
The Passion of the Lord (Good Friday); Fast and Abstinence

**Saturday:**
The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night; Holy Saturday

**Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Please continue to support your Parish during this crisis. Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!