St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News
. . . in Our Parish

Second Sunday of Easter
(Or of Divine Mercy)
April 8, 2018

Jesus said to Thomas,
“Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”
John 20:29

“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 Joseph's Message

We often hear this term “correctly celebrating” among many people who are involved with organizing Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations in their parishes and in their dioceses. Although it would be difficult to pinpoint exactly what a “correct” celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday would look like, we know that from Vatican documents and from what Jesus Himself asked for, that there are many guidelines to form a very good idea of what it should contain. First of all, because Pope John Paul II said that he had fulfilled the will of Christ by instituting this Feast of Divine Mercy, we should look at what Christ said about the celebration of this Feast of Mercy.

Jesus gave the instructions for the feast to Saint Faustina and she faithfully recorded them in her diary. Jesus said that “the Feast of Mercy was a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners” (Diary 699). Jesus said “On the day of My feast, the Feast of Mercy, you will go through the whole world and bring fainting souls to the spring of My mercy. I shall heal and strengthen them” (Diary 206). Notice that Jesus was trying to get us to “go” out. The focus should always be put on evangelizing poor sinners.

Jesus said that the loss of each soul plunges Him into mortal sadness (Diary 1397). If we don’t do our very best to “go” out and evangelize poor sinners, inviting them to the feast, then we are not really helping Jesus with His deepest desire to save these poor sinners.

How about all of those Easter-only Catholics? Are we making sure that they get invited to come to Mass on the following Sunday? Are we encouraging them to go to Confession, if they haven’t gone already, to prepare for the feast? Are we reaching out to all of the other lukewarm and fallen-away Catholics that haven’t been to Mass in a long time by newspaper ads, radio and TV ads, door to door evangelization, the internet, and any other types of media?

If Jesus said that the Feast of Mercy would one day be the last hope of salvation, don’t you think that we should do the very best to reach out to the whole world before it’s too late? We need to get serious about the salvation of our families, neighbors, friends, and actually all souls, including everyone that lives within our parish or diocesan territorial borders.

What does the Vatican have to say about a “correct” celebration? This can be found in the decree for the special Plenary Indulgence for Divine Mercy Sunday. The last paragraph is entitled “Duty of priests: inform parishioners, hear confessions, lead prayers”. These duties of priests are further clarified in the paragraph, but generally instruct priests to tell souls about the special plenary indulgence, to be generous in hearing confessions, and to lead the recitation of the indulgence prayers after all of the Masses and other liturgies on that day.

If priests follow these simple duties faithfully, they will find that many souls will return to the practice of their faith. Priests will recognize the incredible graces that are available on Divine Mercy Sunday. They will be energized and encouraged in their priesthood from the very good confessions that they are hearing and they will no longer shy away from talking about the feast.

We need to recognize that this Feast of Mercy is God’s great gift to humanity in preparation for the Second Coming of Jesus. We need to recognize that this Feast of Mercy is a modern-day Feast of Atonement, just like in the Old Testament. We need to recognize that this Feast of Mercy is an annual preparation for the Judgment, just like the Feast of Atonement was.

The readings for this Octave Sunday of Easter did not change when Divine Mercy Sunday was instituted. They were already perfect for a Feast of Mercy. Providently, the Gospel is always the same for this day, (John 20:19-31) is about the institution of the Sacrament of Confession and about trusting in Jesus. And the Responsorial Psalm is always about the Lord’s mercy.

Jesus surely knew what He was doing when He also requested that the Image of Divine Mercy be solemnly blessed and venerated on that day. The two rays of light, one red, the other, pale like water, represent the Sacraments of Communion and Confession, the two requirements to receive the plenary indulgence. What better way to reinforce the day’s Gospel account of the institution of Confession when Jesus breathes on the Apostles the power to forgive sins?

We can’t forget the words “Jesus, I trust in You” on the image that helps us to remember to trust in Jesus, as recalled in the Gospel incident with St. Thomas finally seeing Jesus. The image is of the Resurrected Christ walking into the Upper Room, showing the Apostles His wounds and bestowing on them the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive sins. The image perfectly portrays every point that we are trying to get our parishioners to understand.

So what would a “correct” celebration look like? Let’s start with a good resolution to do the very best that we can to help Jesus save every soul possible. Let’s do everything within our power to alleviate the pain and sorrow that He experiences when souls are lost. Let’s focus on reaching out to poor sinners, those Easter-only and fallen-away Catholics, the “fainting souls” and invite them to the Feast of Mercy. Let’s use every form of media possible. Let’s go door to door. Let’s tell everyone about the great gift that is available on Divine Mercy Sunday! Focus all of your energy on helping Jesus to save souls. You won’t go wrong.

(For more information, go to www.DivineMercySunday.com)

In Christ, Fr. Joseph Lawrence
This Week in our Parish

Sat & Sun, 4/7 & 4/8 ~ Parish Services Collection

Sun 4/8 ~ Meet & Greet: YLI

Sun 4/8 ~ Divine Mercy Sunday, see schedule

Wed 4/11 ~ Financial Peace University, 6:00 pm
St. Patrick’s Parish Hall, Rm. 4

Wed 4/11 ~ Teens! Steinmetz House 6:00 pm

Wed 4/11 ~ OLMC Religious Study, 4:00 pm
Parish House, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Big Oak Flat

Sat 4/14 ~ Altar Duty: Sandy Pallante

Sat 4/14 ~ YLI Luncheon & Bunco, 11:30 am
Parish Hall, St. Patrick’s

Sun 4/15 ~ First Holy Communion, 11:00 am Mass

Sun 4/15 ~ Meet & Greet: Religious Ed

---

Next Session

Wednesday, April 11th
OLMC Religious Study:
The Bible and the Virgin Mary

We will be meeting at the OLMC Parish House Great Room from 4:00 - 5:30 pm on the following
Wednesdays: April 11, April 25
For more information, please contact:
Warren Belisle @209-962-4394

Spiritual Growth ~ "Queen of Heaven: Mary's Battle for Souls"

This series gives us the intriguing story of Mary, this gentle and perfect mother, and her battle for our souls with Lucifer, the fallen angel. It also delves into the deeper meaning of her annunciation, her sorrows and her “dark night of the soul.” We learn why she is our Queen, and the Mother of our Church.

This series will run for four weeks, finishing right around Mother’s Day. What better way to honor our Blessed Mother!

For more information, please contact Cynthia Dragun @209-984-5726. Email: atonewiththespirit@gmail.com

---

Divine Mercy Sunday ~ April 8, 2018

Pope John Paul II declared the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy was given to St. Faustina by Jesus. He told her to have the Novena of Divine Mercy prayed starting on Good Friday and culminating on Divine Mercy Sunday.

At St. Patrick’s on Divine Mercy Sunday, we begin at 1:45 pm with a DVD and refreshments in the Parish Hall: English in rooms 4/5 and Spanish in room 1. We will then go to the church at 3:00 pm to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in song with alternating English and Spanish verses followed by a benediction.

For further information please contact:
Cecilia Woosley@536-4020 or Deb Cushman@533-2756.

YLI Patricia #79
Join us for a fun afternoon!
Saturday April 14, 2018
Tostada Bar Luncheon & Bunco!

St. Patrick’s Parish Hall
127 W. Jackson St., Sonora CA
Doors open at 11:30 am - $15 per person
All adults welcome
Advance tickets or reservations suggested
For more information, please call Vicki @532-6010

Spiritual Growth ~ "Queen of Heaven: Mary's Battle for Souls"

Come see and hear why "Life is Good!"
A lively Christian Musical Play being presented by THE HILLTOP MUSICAL KIDS
Sponsored by Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church
Performances:
Friday, April 13th 7:00 pm
Saturday, April 14th 2:00 pm
Groveland EV Free Church
19172 Ferretti Rd., Groveland
Admission Free (Donations are gratefully accepted)
Bring the whole family, and your friends!
God’s message is wonderful, especially when delivered by our wonderful children!
**Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leanne Abbe-Alcioti</th>
<th>Fred Kahl</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tete Arellano</td>
<td>Bill &amp; Rolene Kiesling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Bentz</td>
<td>Kristine Kitamura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Biedrzycki</td>
<td>Lois Marzocchi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Bruning</td>
<td>Dorothy McCargar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Buck</td>
<td>Letty Molinari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Corotto</td>
<td>Pat Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vern &amp; Jo Froehlich</td>
<td>Lee O’Shaughnesssy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Gamboa</td>
<td>Tony Pallante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitch &amp; Patti Gerner</td>
<td>Joseph Perez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Gookin</td>
<td>Mike Schirmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Hall</td>
<td>Monica Steele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Holland</td>
<td>Clay &amp; Barbara Sweeney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. J. Holmes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Please join us for these...

First Sacrament Celebrations

**First Holy Communion**
Sunday, April 15th
11:00 mass

**Sacrament of Confirmation**
Celebrated with BISHOP MYRON COTTA
Wednesday, April 18th
6:00 pm

**Triduum 2018**
Our candidates and elect at the Easter Vigil

Hailing of the Oils on Holy Thursday

On behalf of St. Patrick’s Parish, I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to all who helped with our Holy Week celebrations - the Music Ministry, Liturgy Committee, Art & Environment Ministry, the entire RCIA team, all Godparents and Sponsors, our Sacristans, Ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar servers, Lectors and Cantors, our Parish Office Staff, our Deacon Mike Kubasek, and our Associate Pastor, Fr. Joseph Lawrence. We’d like to offer a warm welcome and congratulations to those who received the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

God Bless, Fr. Sam West

(Photos by Kary Hubbard)
**Weekly Offerings**

**Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date**

- **Sunday 4/15** ~ First Communion, 11:00 am Mass
- **Wednesday 4/18** ~ Confirmation Mass 6:00 pm, St. Patrick’s
- **Saturday 4/21** ~ Spiritual Growth Session, “Queen of Heaven,” Parish Hall 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
- **Saturday 4/28 & Sunday 4/29** ~ Second Collection Catholic Home Missions Appeal
- **Sunday 5/13** ~ Mother’s Day
- **Monday 5/28** ~ Memorial Day
- **Sunday 6/24** ~ Parish Picnic! Pinecrest Lake

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

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday April 9 ~ Sunday April 15**

**Monday:** Is 7:10-14 -- 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

**Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15

**Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

**Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

**Friday:** Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

**Saturday:** Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21

**Sunday:** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4:2, 4, 7-9; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday April 8 ~ Saturday April 14**

**Sunday:** Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy); Julian Calendar Easter

**Monday:** The Annunciation of the Lord

**Wednesday:** St. Stanislaus

**Thursday:** Yom Ha-Shoa (Holocaust Remembrance Day)

**Friday:** St. Martin I

**April 12**

HOLocaust RememBRANCE Day

**Weekly Goal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Offerings</th>
<th>3-25-18 Week 12</th>
<th>4-1-18 Week 13</th>
<th>March Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Pat's</td>
<td>$5,448</td>
<td>$12,835</td>
<td>$35,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLMC</td>
<td>$1,049</td>
<td>$1,836</td>
<td>$6,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-giving</td>
<td>$610</td>
<td>$410</td>
<td>$2,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$7,107</td>
<td>$15,081</td>
<td>$43,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAST YEAR</td>
<td>$6,556</td>
<td>$7,783</td>
<td>$37,368</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Maintenance Offerings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Offerings</th>
<th>3-25-18 Week 12</th>
<th>4-1-18 Week 13</th>
<th>March Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Pat's</td>
<td>$590</td>
<td>$742</td>
<td>$2,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLMC</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$590</td>
<td>$817</td>
<td>$2,456</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Holy Thursday:** St. Pat’s $764, OLMC $180

**Good Friday:** St. Pat’s $978, OLMC $230

Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!