St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News
... in Our Parish

Jesus remained in the desert for forty days

February 18, 2018
1st Sunday of Lent

“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
Believe it or not, we are already in the Season of Lent! This is the primary penitential season in the Church’s calendar, reflecting the 40 days our Lord Jesus Christ spent in the desert in fasting and prayer. We hear in the Gospel for this First Sunday in Lent, “The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.”

The desert is an inhospitable, dangerous place and can be seen as a symbol for our lives here in our exile on earth. In addition to “Satan,” there are “temptations” and “wild beasts” against which we have to contend throughout the whole of our earthly pilgrimage. Out of His infinite love for us, our Lord Jesus comes into the “desert” of our lives to suffer with us and lead us to the Promised Land of heaven. Through the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we practice a greater awareness of our Lord Jesus’ sacrifice of Himself for our salvation and greater recognition of complete dependence on His grace. We take this time to honestly evaluate our response to His saving offer and, by humble acts of self-denial, recommit ourselves to follow Him more faithfully. We repent of our sins and turn back to follow Him in His Suffering and Death, so we may share in the glory of His Resurrection.

We consider Lent a time of purification and enlightenment in which we intentionally allow God to purify us from our worldly attachments, including our selfish attitudes, that have stunted our growth in our relationship with Jesus and, by His Grace, we receive the enlightenment we need to continue on the path of salvation. First, we humbly acknowledge our selfish behaviors and attitudes, our sins, asking the Lord for His forgiveness. We then make the resolution to turn back to Him with our whole hearts. We resolve once again to be totally conformed to the image and likeness of Christ and live more faithfully in the way God has planned for our eternal happiness.

In the early Church, when many, if not most, of the people coming into the Church were adults (not infants), there was a long period of preparation for these converts to be ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. Before the new converts received the Sacraments at Easter, the members of the Church would pray and fast for those who were preparing to be reborn in the waters of Baptism, dying to the “old-self” and rising again in the new life of Christ. Today, we still have a long period of preparation and formation called the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (known as “RCIA”) for those adults, or older children and teenagers, who are getting ready for Baptism at the Easter Vigil, which takes place at sunset on the night before Easter Sunday. In fact, we have two individuals in our own parish, Richard and Nicole, preparing to receive new life in Christ in the Sacrament of Baptism, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation, and the reception of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time at the Easter Vigil. Up until now, these two have been referred to as “Catechumens” because they were in a period of instruction in the Catholic Faith called “the Catechumenate.” This Sunday, the First Sunday in Lent, we are performing the “Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election” at the 11 am Mass in which our parish sends Richard and Nicole to be presented to the Bishop in Stockton on Sunday afternoon. Once received by Bishop Blaire, their names are written into the Book of the Elect and they are then called the “Elect.”

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us continue to pray for our dear Elect and our Candidates, those who are already baptized but will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church and preparing for the other Sacraments of Initiation. We also are praying for ourselves that we, like our Lord Jesus, are “led by the Holy Spirit” in this holy season of Lent to be as prepared as possible for the joy of Easter.

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

**Sat 2/17 and Sun 2/18 ~ Bishop’s Ministry Appeal**

**Mon 2/19 ~** President’s Day  
Parish Office Closed

**Wed 2/20 ~** Teens! Steinmetz House 6:30 pm

**Fri 2/23 ~** Stations of the Cross, 6:00 pm

**Sat 2/24 ~** Altar Duty: Pat Eaton

**Sat 2/24 ~** Spiritual Growth “The Silence of our Mother, Mary” presented by Fr. Banka  
9:00 am - 12:00 noon, St. Patrick’s Parish Hall

**Sat 2/24 and Sun 2/25 ~** 2nd Collection, Black and Indian Missions, Catholic Home Missions Appeal

**Sun 2/25 ~** Meet & Greet hosted by Knights of Columbus

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**Please Note:** During this unusually severe flu season, the Diocese of Stockton has recommended that we do not shake hands during the Sign of Peace, nor hold hands when praying the Our Father. Additionally, we will not be distributing the Precious Blood during Communion. Once the flu season begins to pass, we will again distribute Communion under both species.

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**St. Patrick’s Knights of Columbus,**  
Council #2165, will be having open recruiting during the month of February. Initiation fees for new members are being waived this month. What a great time for new parishioners, who were members in another Council, to transfer to St. Patrick’s! For new members, basic requirements are that you must be a man at least 18 years old and a practicing Catholic in good standing. Meetings occur monthly, for about one hour. We undertake three-four projects per year, effected by the full council.

For more information, please contact Roger Stevens @ 532-0731, George Kosko @ 213-5860, or Ernie Cuzzocreo @ 532-9696.

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**Stations of the Cross**  
and Lenten Soup Suppers are held every Friday evening in Lent.  
Please join us for this wonderful tradition as we 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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**Spiritual Growth**  
**The Silence of Our Mother, Mary**

All are invited to a special presentation by Fr. Yesobu Banka on the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Four Great Marian Dogmas of the Church.

1. Her Immaculate Conception  
2. Her Perpetual Virginity  
3. Her Divine Maternity  
4. Her Glorious Assumption

Saturday, February 24th  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Parish Hall, St. Patrick’s Catholic Church  
Breakfast Potluck  
please bring your favorite baked goods  
For more information, please contact Cynthia Dragun  
Email: atonewiththespirit@gmail.com

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**Ministry Day**

March 3, 2018 ~ 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
St. Mary’s High School  
5648 N. El Dorado St., Stockton

Ministry Day is the Annual Adult Faith Formation Conference of the Diocese of Stockton.

For conference details and to download a registration form, go to http://stocktondiocese.org/diocesan-departments/religious-education/diocesan-ministry-day.  
Contact Kathy Casas @ 770-5987 for more information.
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

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

Leanne Abbe-Alcioti  
Tete Arellano  
Ruben Bacci  
Catherine Bentz  
Al Biedrzycki  
Jan Buck  
Cardiff Family  
Roger Clark  
Jeanne Dugan  
Joe Gamboa  
Mitch & Patti Gerner  
Bill Gookin

Ed Hall  
Joan Holland  
A. J. Holmes  
Fred Kahl  
Bill & Rolene Kiesling  
Kristine Kitamura  
Lois Marzocchi  
Joseph Perez  
Juan Pulido  
Mike Schirmer  
Monica Steele  
Clay Sweeney

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

Spiritual Adoption Program  
Month Two

Your baby is making progress developing all of their external features and internal organs. The brain is functioning at 40 days. The mother can hear the baby’s heartbeat now on an ultrasonic stethoscope. Milk-teeth buds are present at 6½ weeks. And, it has been reported that a two-month old baby can suck his/her thumb. From this moment, your spiritually adopted baby grows and refines their body. But everything he/she needs to survive birth is already present by the end of the eighth week.

We began this program on the Day of Prayer for the Protection of Unborn Children, and will provide monthly updates for nine months, tracking the miraculous development of human life in the womb. This series will continue until October, which is Respect Life Month.

To help stop the anti-life push around the world, the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen encouraged the spiritual adoption of an unborn child. This is done by praying that one particular, but unknown, child’s life be spared abortion and be allowed to continue to live.

Your prayers CAN make a difference between whether a baby will be born...or aborted. Our prayers can also be a form of spiritual support for both of the parents. Please share the love of life given to you by the Lord of all life and join in spiritually adopting a baby.

“Your formed my inmost being; You knit me in my mother’s womb. I praise You, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works! My very self You know. (Psalm 139:13-14)

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: canned tuna or chicken, canned fruit, soup, beans (pull-top lids preferred on canned items), peanut butter, and packages of one-pot meals like Mac & Cheese, Rice a Roni, Skillet Meals, etc. You can put the items in the basket at the back of the Church, drop them off in the Parish Office, or call Sandy Tannhauser @ 532-3899.

40 Days for Life  
Beginning Feb 19, we will be standing on the corner of Greenley and Mono Way from 9 am to sundown every Monday during Lent. There will be sign ups after Mass this weekend, or in the Parish Office during the week. All participants are asked to spend one hour each Monday as we pray for unborn children and the mothers who carry these precious lives. For more information, please call Joan Madsen at 533-3429.

“Forms are a sacred bond between a mother and her child. It is my honor to stand up for the unborn and pray for their future. Together, we can change the world. Together, we can make a difference. Together, we can save lives.” — Joan Madsen

St. Patrick’s Parish in Sonora will present a nine-week course on financial management. Based on biblical principles and developed by Dave Ramsey, nearly five million people have completed this dynamic course! Take control of your money with practical, humorous, easy-to-follow lessons. Learn in a supportive group environment how to: create a budget that doesn’t feel like a straitjacket, pay off debt with the Debt Snowball, save for the future, and so much more.

For more information and to register, go to www.fpu.com/1059095 or contact Nathan and Annika Graveline at (209) 588-1780.
**Mass for the Intenotions Week**

**Saturday February 17 ~ Sunday February 25**

**Saturday** 5:00 pm  Jack McCoy

   Jack & LaVon Woodcock

**Sunday** 7:30 am  All Parishioners

   Clay & Barbara Sweeney,
   *Happy 67th Wedding Anniversary!*

9:00 am  Deceased members of the YLI

   Josephine Esparza

11:00 am  Josephine Esparza

   Esther Latone

5:00 pm  Lupe Diaz

   Alicia Sanchez

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

**Monday** 8:00 am  Cindy Dakin,  *Healing*

**Tuesday** 8:00 am  Christian Villafana,

   *Happy Birthday!*

**Wednesday** 8:00 am  Susan Riedel

   Marcos Balbuena

**Thursday** 8:00 am  Ken Francek

**Friday** 8:00 am  Dorothy A. Borup

**Saturday** 5:00 pm  Kevin Thomas Kiely

   Bobbie Patania,  *Healing*

**Sunday** 7:30 am  All Parishioners

   David Utecht

   Mark Hutto

9:00 am  Victor Espinosa

   Joseph W. Fernandez

11:00 am  Bob Watts

   Susan Maddox

5:00 pm  Lupe Diaz

   Alicia Sanchez

*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 February 19 ~ Sunday February 25**

**Monday:**  
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15;
Mt 25:31-46

**Tuesday:**  
Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

**Wednesday:**  
Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19;
Lk 11:20-32

**Thursday:**  
1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19

**Friday:**  
Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

**Saturday:**  
Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8;
Mt 5:43-48

**Sunday:**  
Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18;
Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday February 18 ~ Saturday February 24**

**Sunday:**  
First Sunday of Lent; Rite of Election;
Rite of Calling the Candidates to
Continuing Conversion; Rite of Sending

**Monday:**  
President’s Day; Julian Calendar Lent

**Wednesday:**  
St. Peter Damian

**Thursday:**  
Chair of St. Peter the Apostle;
Washington’s Birthday

**Friday:**  
St. Polycarp; Abstinence

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**Weekly Offerings**

**Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date**

**Saturday 3/3 ~** Diocese of Stockton Ministry Day
St. Mary’s High School, Stockton

**Monday 3/5 ~** Altar & Rosary Society Meeting
1:00 pm St. Patrick’s Parish Hall

**Tuesday 3/13 ~** Lenten Penance Service, 6:30 pm
St. Patrick’s Church

**Saturday 3/17 ~** Dynamic Catholic Workshop “Find Your Greatness”, 9:30 - 2:00 pm, St. Patrick’s Ripon
for tickets: www.dynamiccatholic.com/Ripon

**Thursday 3/22 ~** Chrism Mass, Cathedral of the Annunciation, Stockton

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**Weekly Goal**  $10,000

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**General Offerings**

- St. Pat’s $7,333 $5,163 $12,496
- OLMC $1,172 $1,081 $2,253
- E-giving $575 $808 $575

**Total** $9,080 $7,052 $16,132

**LAST YEAR** $7,361 $8,761 $16,122

**Maintenance Offerings**

- St. Pat’s $907 $92 $999
- OLMC $95 $35 $130

**Total** $1,002 $127 $1,129

*Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!*