St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News

... in Our Parish

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 24, 2019

Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap.

Luke 6:38

“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**

In our second reading this week, St. Paul tells us, “The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man, from heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one” (1 Cor. 15:47-49). The “first man” St. Paul is referring to is Adam, the man God created “out of the dust of the ground” (Gn. 2:7), and the “man from heaven” is our Lord Jesus. Paul reminds us we are in two distinct, but not completely separate, realities at the same time – the physical and the spiritual. Of the nature of the human person, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, “in his own nature he unites the spiritual and material worlds” (#355). We are in both the physical realm, through our bodies, and in the spiritual, which we experience through our souls. God has given us, in cooperation with our parents, both our bodies and our souls to animate our bodies. In our rebirth in baptism, we received the “life-giving spirit” of the “last Adam,” the Risen Christ. Although we are first made from the physical, we now are called to live spiritually to share in God’s divine life, being His children. Since we have received the life of Christ, “the image of the heavenly one,” we must consciously and actively live in this spiritual life to reach our potential for eternal happiness.

In the Gospel, our Lord Jesus continues His Sermon on the Plain in Luke’s Gospel. He teaches us how to live the spiritual life, the life of God, we have been so graciously given. Our Lord tells us to do things like “love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you.” This is how our Lord Jesus lived in His earthly ministry. If we want to live His life, we imitate Him. We cannot expect to have the joy God wants for us unless we are faithfully living the life of Christ. In living the spiritual life, Christ’s life in us, we can then rise above the limits, frustrations, and obstacles we will face in the physical reality. All the problems and sufferings of our earthly life seem small compared to the life of God and His infinite love for us.

Who better than the Blessed Mother to help us live Christ’s life in us more fully? This upcoming Lent, starting in less than two weeks, we are offering our parishioners the opportunity to entrust ourselves to her motherly care and protection. Each day of the 46 days of the Lenten Season, you are encouraged to devote a little time to prepare for Mary’s Mantle Consecration, which will take place on Holy Saturday (April 20th). The preparation includes prayer, fasting, and short devotional readings and is done on your own. In this consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are committing ourselves to respond more faithfully to God’s life in us with the help of our mother, Mary. Like we came into the physical world through our mothers, we come into a deeper experience of the life of Christ through our Blessed Mother. When consecrating ourselves to Our Lady, we are consecrating ourselves to Jesus through Mary. As Pope John Paul II explained, “Consecrating ourselves to Mary means accepting her help to offer ourselves and the whole of mankind to Him who is holy, infinitely holy; it means accepting her help—by having recourse to her motherly heart, which beneath the cross was opened to love for every human being, for the whole world—in order to offer the world, the individual human being, mankind as a whole, and all the nations to him who is infinitely holy” (May 13, 1982). The act of a consecration is a way to intentionally and thoughtfully make holy our daily lives, to set ourselves aside for God. Lent is a time we confront the limits of our physical life (sin and death) to reach the unlimited potential of our heavenly life in the Resurrection. The mantle is the cloak which we see Mary wearing in her miraculous image of our Lady of Guadalupe, and it represents us placing ourselves under her maternal protection. She will lead us to more fully realize, appreciate, and live the life of her Divine Son. We then can more readily live here on earth as God’s children and “be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” We will be able to follow our Lord Jesus and obey His words to “stop judging,” “stop condemning,” and “forgive” others. With God’s grace, His life in us, we will love more as God loves and not just love those who love us. Jesus says, “Even sinners love those who love them.” We can truly love all people, including “love your enemies and do good to them.” Through Mary’s guidance, we hope to live this life of Christ and always reflect “the image of the heavenly one.”

If you want to participate in the Mary’s Mantle Consecration, you can contact our Coordinator, Dolores Schlichtmann. She can be reached by email at Dolores@mlode.com or phone (209) 768-1947.

**Bishop’s Ministry Appeal Update**

I would like to thank Mr. Duke York, the chairman of our Parish Finance Council, for the Bishop’s Ministry Appeal (BMA) presentation he did at all the Masses last weekend in Sonora. Last year there were 240 families who contributed. This number represents less than half of the families in our parish. We hope to have a greater participation from our approximately 600 families this year. So I invite every family to contribute to this effort to support the work of our Bishop. To know the message is reaching the families of our parish, I am asking every family to complete a pledge envelope at the Masses this or next Sunday. Although you may have already pledged or made a contribution to the Diocese directly, I am still asking for a pledge envelope to be completed indicating your family has already pledged or contributed. If you are not able or unwilling to give to the BMA this year, letting us know is helpful to complete our campaign. Thank you for your patience and God bless your generosity.

With the help of the Virgin Mary, we pray for the grace to live truly as God’s children. We ask the Lord to help us to live more fully His life in us and, thereby, experience the fruits of the Holy Spirit – peace, joy, and love.

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

Sunday 2/24 ~ Meet & Greet: Knights of Columbus

Wednesday 2/27 ~ Children’s Choir Rehearsal
5:45 pm Parish Hall

Thursday 2/28 ~ Youth Group 6:30 pm Steinmetz

Thursday 2/28 ~ OLMC Religious Study

Saturday 3/2 ~ Altar Duty: Gwen Barendregt

Sunday 3/3 ~ Meet & Greet: Ministers to the Sick

A new Religious Study begins this Thursday, February 28 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

Join St Patrick's Childrens Choir!

Grades 1-6

Kids: join with other young parishioners in a fun and supportive atmosphere as you learn to sing and share your faith through music. Parents: give the gift of music to your children while enhancing their spiritual life in a most happy and joyful way!

The Children’s Choir will sing the opening hymn, the Glory to God, and the closing hymn for the 11:00 Mass on the first Sunday of every month. Once a month we will practice for 45 minutes before Religious Ed classes begin on Wednesday evenings. All practices will take place in the Parish Hall.

Our first rehearsal is this Wednesday Feb 27, at 5:45 pm in the Parish Hall.

For further information, please contact Sandra Betti, Music Director for St. Patrick’s Catholic Church
Email: sandra@stpatssonora.org
Phone: 209-532-7139, ext. 109

Jason Jeffrey
Director of Music Ministries Cathedral of the Annunciation
In Concert!
Classical Piano recital

RESCHEDULED
Sunday March 3 ~ 1:00 pm
Sutter Creek Theater
44 Main St. Sutter Creek, CA
Free Admission!
For more information: www.mlfm.org

Join us in praying a Novena to our Patron Saint, St. Patrick. The Novena begins on March 9, ending on March 17. We will provide a handout you can take home that has the daily prayer and special intention for each day. These will be available on Ash Wednesday. “Glorious St. Patrick, you are honored as one of the greatest evangelizers, and true defenders of our faith.”

YLI
Patricia #79

Come celebrate “Mardi Gras” (Fat Tuesday, also known as Shrove Tuesday), the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season.

Minestrone Soup Luncheon
Tuesday, March 5 ~ 11:30am - 1:00pm
St. Patrick’s Parish Hall
98 W. Jackson Street ~ Sonora, CA
Lunch includes: Minestrone Soup, Bread, Dessert, Coffee or Tea
Cost: $7.00 per person
All proceeds go to our High School Scholarship program.
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>Diane Abdelnour</th>
<th>Bill &amp; Rolene Kiesling</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rich Abdelnour, Jr.</td>
<td>Kristine Kitamura</td>
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<td>Al Biedrzycki</td>
<td>Judi Maguire</td>
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<td>Ingrid Blom</td>
<td>Lois Marzocchi</td>
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<td>Jackie Boling</td>
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<td>Jan Buck</td>
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<td>Bill Gookin</td>
<td>Clay Sweeney</td>
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<td>Ed Hall</td>
<td>Roy Volpetti</td>
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<td>A. J. Holmes</td>
<td>Mitch &amp; Trish Woods</td>
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<td>Donald C. Kellogg</td>
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To add or remove a name from this list or the prayer chain, please contact Sandy Pallante at 532-7625.

**Forty Days for Life** begins on Monday, March 11. 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. Christians, entrusted with the word of God, must take a stand. We must speak out. We must do all that we can to protect the innocent, to support their mothers, and to pursue justice. Please choose your hour, and sign up in the Parish Office. For more information, call Joan Madsen at 209-533-3429.

**Mary’s Mantle Consecration**

Make this your best Lent ever!

We encourage all parishioners to participate in our Lenten retreat for spiritual renewal. There are 46 stars in Mary’s Mantle, and this will be a 46-day journey with a daily reading, meditation, and rosary, all in the privacy of your own home. Receive extraordinary graces by joining in communal prayer for one another, and for our Parish. The retreat will begin on Ash Wednesday, and culminate on April 19, Holy Saturday, with a Consecration to our Holy Mother at Mary’s Garden, adjacent to the Steinmetz House. Members of “At One with the Spirit,” our Spiritual Growth Team, will be outside after all Masses to answer any questions and help you register.

**Ash Wednesday Services**

St. Patrick’s:  
† Mass with Distribution of Ashes at 8:00 am & 6:30 pm  
† Distribution of Ashes (no Mass) at 12:00 noon

OLMC:  
† Mass with Distribution of Ashes at 5:00 pm

“Behold, NOW is a very acceptable time; Behold, NOW is the day of salvation.”

2 Corinthians 6:2

**St. Patrick’s Day**

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.

We will be accepting nominations for the Pastoral Council starting next weekend, March 2-3. To serve on the Parish Council you must be 18 or older, baptized Catholic, and active and registered in our Parish. Please pray about who you’d like to nominate, or if you should nominate yourself!

Stations of the Cross and Soup Suppers will begin on March 8, and continue every Friday evening in Lent.

This wonderful tradition and beautiful time of fellowship in Christ does not happen without volunteers. We need people to make soup, to serve, and to clean up. If you can help, please call Linda Knapp @ 925-231-5849 for more information.

Please bring your blessed palms from Palm Sunday last year to Mass this and next weekend. There will be a large basket at the back of both churches (OLMC and St. Patrick’s) for the palms. We will burn the palms on Tuesday March 5, and the ashes will be used for Ash Wednesday services, March 6.
February 24, 2019

**Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date**

**Tuesday 3/5** ~ YLI Minestrone Soup Luncheon
**Wednesday 3/6** ~ Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
**Sunday 3/17** ~ St. Patrick’s Day Dinner and Pastoral Council Elections, 12:00 Parish Hall
**Saturday 4/6** ~ Diocese of Stockton Ministry Day
**Thursday 4/11** ~ Chrism Mass, Cathedral of the Annunciation, Stockton
**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

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday February 25 ~ Sunday March 3**

**Monday:**  Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mk 9:14-29
**Tuesday:**  Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mk 9:30-37
**Wednesday:**  Sir 4:11-19; Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175; Mk 9:38-40
**Thursday:**  Sir 5:1-8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mk 9:41-50
**Friday:**  Sir 6:5-17; Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35; Mk 10:1-12
**Saturday:**  Sir 17:1-15; Ps 103:13-18; Mk 10:13-16
**Sunday:**  Sir 27:4-7; Ps 92:2-3, 13-19; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45

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**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday February 24 ~ Saturday March 2**

**Sunday:**  Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
**Friday:**  World Day of Prayer; First Friday
**Saturday:**  Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

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**Important Dates for RCIA**

**Sun, March 10:** Rite of Sending

**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

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**Weekly Offerings**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal</th>
<th>2-10-19 Participation</th>
<th>2-17-19 Participation</th>
<th>February Totals to date</th>
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<td>$10,000</td>
<td>14%</td>
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**General Offerings**

- St. Pat’s: $3,574 $3,186 $13,104
- OLMC: $838 $663 $2,317
- E-giving: $568 $405 $2,584
- Total: $4,980 $4,254 $18,005

**LAST YEAR**

- $7,052 $6,315 $22,447

**Maintenance Offering**

- St. Pat’s: $113 $80 $941
- OLMC: $5 $10 $100
- Total: $118 $90 $1,041

(Mass attendance has been impacted by heavy snow)

Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!
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