St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News
... in Our Parish

March 24 2019
The Third Sunday of Lent

God called out to Moses from the burning bush and said, “Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from you feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”

Exodus 3:4-5

“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
Joy of being forgiven:  
Joy of following God’s Plan

In his memoirs, Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Indian nation, humbly and frankly acknowledges that when he was 15, he stole a little piece of gold from his brother. A few days later, he felt very guilty and decided to come clean by confessing to his father. So he took a paper, wrote down his fault, sincerely asked his father for forgiveness and promised never to repeat the offence. Taking that note to the bedroom of his father, the young Gandhi found him ill in bed. Very timidly, he handed the note to his father without saying a word. His father sat up in bed and began reading the note. As he read it, the senior Gandhi was so deeply moved by the honesty, sincerity and courage of his son that tears began to stream from his eyes. This so touched the son that he burst into tears as well. Instinctively, both father and son wrapped their arms around each other and wordlessly shared their mutual admiration and joy. This notable experience made such an impact on Gandhi that years later he would say, “Only the person who has experienced this kind of forgiving love can know what it is.” This is precisely what happened when the repentant prodigal son returned home. Such is God’s merciful forgiveness and benevolent love for all who resolutely turn over a new leaf, especially during this Lenten season. (Rev. James Valladares in “Your Words O Lord Are Spirit and They Are Life”)

This is the same message we listened to last Monday through Thursday from Rev. Fr. Bart. The Merciful God is waiting for our return to His love, patiently. In the third Week of Lent, we are called to a raising up and returning to the Loving Father, who is waiting for us eagerly. “I will leave this place and go to my Father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.” (Lk.15:18)

On the 19th of March, we remembered St. Joseph. He is the just man who, even without understanding, carried out God’s plan. On the 25th of March, we are remembering Mother Mary on the Feast of the Annunciation. When I think of Mary and Joseph, I remember the story of an ant.

Brenda was a young, yet fearful woman who once joined her friends in rock climbing. Although scared, she put on the gear, took a hold on the rope and started up the face of that steep rock cliff. As she climbed higher, the safety rope snapped against Brenda’s eye and knocked out her contact lens!

Down went the contact lens ...and down went also her clarity in vision ...and her hopes!! Of course, she looked and looked and looked, hoping it had landed somewhere close... but it just wasn’t there.

She was desperate and began to get upset, so she prayed to the Lord to help her to find it. When she managed to get to the top, she sat down, despondent, with the rest of the party, waiting for the rest of them to make it up the face of the cliff. She looked out across range after range of mountains, thinking of that Bible verse that says, “The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth.”

She thought, “Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me.” Finally, they walked down the trail to the bottom. At the bottom, there was a new party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, “Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?”

Well, that was startling enough, but how was it that the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock carrying it! A miracle? An unbelievable story? Well...anyway, later, when Brenda told her father, who was a cartoonist, this incredible story, he drew a picture of an ant lugging and carrying that contact lens with the words: “Lord, I don’t know why You want me to carry this thing! I can’t eat it, and it’s awfully heavy...But if this is what You want me to do, I’ll carry it for You.” Wow! Those are amazing words, aren’t they?

Lent: a time to follow God’s plan even if we do not understand; a time to make oneself holy, establishing a good relationship with God and with our brothers and sisters…. “Become perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect”

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

**Sunday 3/24** ~ Meet & Greet: Knights of Columbus

**Thursday 3/28** ~ Religious Study 4:00 - 5:30, OLMC

**Thursday 3/28** ~ Youth Group 6:30 pm Steinmetz

**Friday 3/29** ~ Stations of the Cross, 5:00 pm OLMC

6:00 pm, St. Patrick’s

**Saturday 3/30** ~ Altar Duty: Eleanor Lauterio

**Sunday 3/31** ~ Meet & Greet: Altar Society

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**The Sacrament of Baptism**

We joyfully welcome

**Mathias Casillas**

Baptized March 16, 2019

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Our new Religious Study continues on

**Thursday, March 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.

For more information and to sign up, please contact Warren Belisle at 962-4309 or email: bellale@msn.com

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**Stations of the Cross**

are prayed every Friday evening during Lent, and followed by a Lenten soup supper.

Please join us for this beloved tradition as we come together to remember His sacrifice on the Cross, followed by a communal time of fellowship in Christ.

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Big Oak Flat ~ 5:00 pm**

St. Patrick’s, Sonora ~ 6:00 pm

Special **Daytime** Stations of the Cross and Reconciliation

**Friday, April 5 10:00 am ~ St. Patrick’s, Sonora**

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**2019 Lenten Penance Service Schedule**

**Wednesday, April 3**

6:30 pm

St. Patrick’s

**Monday, April 8**

4:00 pm

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

**Friday, April 12**

10:00 am

St. Patrick’s

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**Why do we sing during Mass?**

The song of the angels, “Holy, Holy, Holy,” resounds from our lips at every Mass. There was a widespread belief in the first religions of the world that God stirred creation into being by a word, a song, a musical note. Music and a sense of God’s presence have always been inseparable. In the liturgy, your voice is invited into this song as the priest names the reasons for our praise. “Heaven and earth are full of your glory,” and we are not passive onlookers, but participants in this glory. Catholic prayer no longer assigns this angelic hymn to a choir, but gives it to you to sing. Even if your voice is thought to be suitable only for a well-insulated shower stall, you are called into this song.

We are born to sing - just listen to a baby testing the full range of newly-discovered vocal abilities! Soon we get shushed and hushed into quiet, and given lots of messages that our voices are unwanted, and that we need to raise our hands in order to be heard. All of that is overturned in liturgy, the place where God waits to hear us come alive in the song of all creation. In heaven, everyone’s in the choir; why not start practicing now?

--James Field, *Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.*
Please Pray for the Sick in our Parish, and their family members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Josephine Barbarini</th>
<th>Judi Maguire</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al Biedrzycki</td>
<td>Lois Marzocchi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Brown</td>
<td>Cindy Merritt</td>
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<td>Joseph Cognetti</td>
<td>Michelle Mullen</td>
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<td>Katrina Garcia</td>
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<td>Ed Hall</td>
<td>Clay Sweeney</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. J. Holmes</td>
<td>Roy Volpetti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill &amp; Rolene Kiesling</td>
<td>Mitchell &amp; Trish Woods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristine Kitamura</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.

During this Lenten season, you can commit an act of loving service by donating food to the St. Patrick’s Food Pantry. Any contribution of food is welcome, but what the Pantry needs most right now is: cereal (cold and hot), canned fruit (pull-top lids preferred on canned items), peanut butter, jelly/jam, and crackers (individual sleeves preferred). You can put the items in the large basket inside the Church during Mass, drop them off in the Parish Office, or call Sandy Tannahouser @ 532-3899.

Grieving with Great HOPE is a five-week grief support workshop series that offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. If you have lost a spouse, a child, a grandchild, a parent, another family member or a friend, you are encouraged to attend. Presenters will include Cathi Ruiz and Martha Golay as well as John and Sandy O’Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry, a Catholic bereavement apostolate. Contact Steve and Martha Golay for registration details and registration form at 209-588-2935 or email golaymartha@yahoo.com

Thursdays, May 9 – June 6, 6-7:30p.m.  
St. Patrick Catholic Church ~ 127 Jackson Street, Sonora

There is a $15 fee for the workshop. This will be collected at the first meeting.

Advanced registration by April 30, 2019

We are pleased to announce the results of our recent elections. Here are the elected members to the 2019 Pastoral Council:

Ron Cordes
Mary Cordes
Dina Pinocchio
Richard Roe
Christina Welch (2nd Term)

Their 2-year term begins in June 2019 and will end in June 2021.

Fr. Sam and our entire parish family are so grateful to our outgoing Pastoral Council members. We sincerely thank them for their dedicated ministry to our Parish.

Wendell Cushman
Charlene Dambacher
Denise Nicolini
Jim Woosley

The movie “Unplanned” is the story of Abby Johnson, once a clinic director at Planned Parenthood, then through a profound spiritual experience became a pro-life activist. This movie is coming to the Sonora Regal Theater on March 28 for a preview viewing. Please call the theater at 588-2840 to voice your interest and support in subsequent viewings of this movie. Parents, please be advised this movie is rated R.

Forty Days for Life continues this Monday, March 25. 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. Please choose your hour, and sign up in the Parish Office. For more information, please call Joan Madsen at 533-3429.
March 24, 2019

Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date

Wednesday 4/3 ~ Lenten Penance Service
6:30 pm, St. Patrick’s

Friday 4/5 ~ Daytime Stations of the Cross
followed by Reconciliation, 10:00 am, St. Patrick’s

Monday 4/8 ~ Penance Service 4:00 pm, OLMC

Thursday 4/11 ~ Chrism Mass, Stockton Cathedral

Friday 4/12 ~ Daytime Penance Service
10:00 am, St. Patrick’s

Thursday 4/18 ~ Holy Thursday
Masses at 4:00 pm OLMC; 7:00 pm St. Patrick’s

Friday 4/19 ~ Good Friday: Noon St. Pat’s, 3:00 pm
OLMC; 6:00 pm Stations and Veneration St. Pat’s

Saturday 4/20 ~ Easter Vigil, 8:00 pm St. Patrick’s

Sunday 4/21 ~ Easter Sunday, Masses at 7:00 &
9:00 am, OLMC; Masses at 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 am
St. Pat’s, 1:00 pm St. Anne’s

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday March 25 ~ Sunday March 31

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

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9;
Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20;
Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17;
Mt 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21;
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

(Year A) 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6;
Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday March 24 ~ Saturday March 30

Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent; First Scrutiny
Monday: Annunciation of the Lord
Friday: Abstinence

Do you know that oftentimes a root has split a rock, when allowed to remain in it? Give no allowance to the seed of evil, seeing that it will break up your faith.

--St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Weekly Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal</th>
<th>3-10-19</th>
<th>3-17-19</th>
<th>March Totals to Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<td>General Offerings</td>
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<td>St. Pat’s</td>
<td>$6,149</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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| LAST YEAR  | $7,803  | $6,406  |                     |

| Maintenance Offering |         |         |                     |
| St. Pat’s  | $55     | $65     | $1,208              |
| OLMC       | $0      | $10     | $130                |
| Total      | $55     | $75     | $1,338              |

Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!