St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News

... in Our Parish

First Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2018

Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.
Luke 21:36

“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

Staff
Fr. Sam West, Pastor
Fr. Joseph Lawrence, Parochial Vicar
Mike Kubasek, Deacon
Ron Ivey, Business Manager
Marie Dahlstrand, Coordinator of Liturgy
Sandra Betti, Music Director
Kathy Casas, Religious Education
Angela Cordes, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Gail Andrus, Receptionist
Jan DePaoli, Administrative Asst.
Emergency Intercessions “8”

Contact Us
Office: 116 W. Bradford St., Sonora, California 95370
Hours: Mon-Thurs: 8:30-4:00
Fridays: Closed
Phone: 209-532-7139
FAX: 209-817-8879
Web: www.StPatsSonora.org
Email: StPats@StPatsSonora.org
Bulletin: GoodNews@StPatsSonora.org
Parish Services:
Sonora: 209-532-7139 Ext. 107
Big Oak Flat: 209-532-7139 Ext. 111

Volume 7, Number 48
In Advent, we prepare for the joy of receiving our Lord Jesus at Christmas. Since this liturgical season is about getting ready to rejoice in our Lord’s birth, it is important to grasp what is meant when we speak of “joy.” To understand what joy is, we first need to remember God created us with what we call “passions,” which are the emotions we experience to move us toward what is good and to avoid what is evil. The four “principle passions” we have in us – desire, fear, sorrow, joy – are motivated by what we love. Desire is wanting what we love, fear is not able to have or losing what we love, sorrow is the absence of what we love, and joy is having what we love. St. Augustine says, "love yearning for the beloved object, is desire; and, having and enjoying it, is joy” (The City of God, book 14). We can think of joy as “resting” in what is good, what is loved. Since we are made to love God, we experience the fullness of joy when we share in the ultimate Good, when we are possessed by God or, better yet, when we rest in God, who is Love.

Christmas is the joyous celebration of God coming to us, experiencing real joy by being in God’s presence and resting in Him. Preparing for this joy God wants for us begins first with the awareness of God’s love for us, knowing He fulfills His promise to save us in Jesus. In the Gospel for our first Sunday in Advent, Jesus warns, “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness.” Real joy cannot be experienced if we engage in superficial, fleeting sensual pleasures such as “carousing and drunkenness.” Sinful behavior actually blinds and obstructs us from experiencing true joy. If we are “drowsy” because of sin or distracted by “anxieties of daily life,” we are not aware of God’s love; we then distrust Him of salvation in Jesus Christ. If we are not ready to trust God’s love, we lose out on the joy of His presence. Over the next four weeks of Advent, I am encouraging you to look forward to the joy God wants for you, the joy that only can be yours when you know God’s love and trust He fulfills His promise to save you from present evil in Jesus Christ. One of the best ways to know God’s love is experiencing His Mercy through the forgiveness of our sins in the Sacrament of Confession. As a reminder, every Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., we offer this Sacrament of healing at St. Patrick’s in Sonora. In addition, this year we are having two special Advent Reconciliation services: one in the morning on December 18th starting at 10:00 am and another on December 19th in the evening at 6:30 p.m.

Prior to His return in glory, Jesus warns, “there will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves.” Our Lord goes on to say these horrifying events will cause “people to die of fright.” After the description of all this turmoil and chaos, Jesus says to us, His chosen, “When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” Our Lord is telling us to anticipate His return with trust and confidence, to eagerly look forward to His coming, because when we are with Him, possessed by Him, we will have joy. So our true joy does not depend on what events are happening around us, whether good or evil. The joy only Jesus can give us is contingent on what is happening in us, in our hearts. If our hearts are “awake” and desiring to receive Jesus when He comes, we will experience joy, even in the midst of trouble and tribulation. We don’t just passively await Jesus’ coming; we are actively seeking His presence. When people look forward to what they know will be a joyous experience – a wedding, a birth of a child, etc. – they actively think about what it will be like. They prepare and plan for it. This is what we are doing in Advent; preparing and planning for what it is like to meet God and experiencing the joy of resting in Him. To help us to be ready for the joy God wants for us in Jesus, we will have a special prayer service on Saturday, December 15th at 11:00 a.m. at our Church in Sonora. I urge all of you to attend this opportunity to be prepared to be renewed in God’s joy.

Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, we pray God gives us the grace to know His love for us and be ready to receive our only true joy, Jesus Christ, and rest in Him always.

In Christ, Fr. Sam West

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advent Reconciliation Services</th>
<th>St. Patrick’s Parish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>St. Patrick’s Church</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday December 5th, 6:30 pm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>(Spanish)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday December 18th, 10:00 am</td>
<td>Wednesday December 19th, 6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Mt. Carmel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday December 21st, 4:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**This Week in our Parish**

**Saturday 12/1 & Sunday 12/2 ~ Parish Services**
This is a special Parish Services Collection for the victims of the Camp Fire in Paradise, CA.

**Sunday 12/2 ~ Meet & Greet: Ministers to the Sick**

**Sunday 12/2 ~ Youth Group meets, 6:15 pm**
upstairs in the Steinmetz House

**Monday 12/3 ~ Altar & Rosary Society Meeting and Luncheon, 11:30 am Parish Hall Rm. 4**

**Wednesday 12/5 ~ Servicio Penitencial de Adviento, 6:30 pm (Advent Penance Service, Spanish)**

**Thursday 12/6 ~ No 8:00 am Daily Mass due to St. Patrick’s Staff retreat**

**Friday 12/7 ~ Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass, 4:00 pm OLMC**

**Saturday 12/8 ~ Altar Duty: Marge Clennon**

**Saturday 12/8 ~ Immaculate Conception 10:00 am Mass, St. Patrick’s**

**Sunday 12/9 ~ Meet & Greet: YLI**

**Sunday 12/9 ~ Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe St. Patrick’s, 3:00 pm**

Our Parish Services collection this weekend is for the victims of the Camp Fire in and around Paradise, CA. So many homes, businesses, and lives have been lost in this horrific wildfire. Please give generously.

**La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**
La fiesta de nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, en la Iglesia Católica de San Patricio, se celebrará el domingo 9 de diciembre con una misa a las 3:00 p.m. Después de la misa, habrá un potluck y fiesta en el salón de la parroquia. Habrá mariachi, comida y camaradería. Todos son bienvenidos – por favor, traiga un platillo para compartir.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sunday, December 9
Mass at 3:00 PM
Potluck and Mariachi will follow in the Parish Hall! Everyone is welcome - please bring a dish to share.

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
"That the most Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege from Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, was kept free of every stain of original sin." Pope Pius IX, "Ineffabilis Deus (December 8, 1854).

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Vigil Mass on Friday, December 7 ~ 4:00 pm
St. Patrick’s
Mass on Saturday, December 8 ~ 10:00 am

**St. Patrick’s Altar & Rosary Society**

will hold their regular meeting on **Monday December 3rd**, in the Parish Hall, Room 4. It will be a potluck luncheon, and all the ladies from the Parish are invited to attend. If you would like to become a member, please contact President Marge Nath at 209-532-2229. Arrival time is 11:30, and lunch will be at 12:00 noon. There will also be nominations for officers for 2019 at this meeting. In addition, please bring a non-perishable food item for the food pantry at the Parish.

All Teens and parents of Teens:
Our Youth Group is meeting every Sunday evening, at 6:30 pm upstairs in the Steinmetz House. Please join as we seek to empower young people to embrace our faith and live as strong disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today.
Please Pray for the Sick in our Parish, and their family members.

Diane Abdelnour  Kristine Kitamura
Rich Abdelnour, Jr.  Judi McGuire
Catherine Bentz  Cindy Merritt
Al Biedrzycki  Joseph Murtagh
Ken & Jackie Bolling  Juan Pinela
Jan Buck  Juan Pulido
Pat Fernandez  Pat Rut
Vern & Jo Froehlich  Mike Schirmer
Bill Gookin  Clay Sweeney
Ed Hall  Dan Tew
A. J. Holmes  Judy Wilder
Donald C. Kellogg  Mitch & Trish Woods
Bill & Rolene Kiesling

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

Attention all Lectors, EMHC, Altar Servers, and Ushers:
If there are any dates you are NOT available to minister during the 1st Quarter of 2019 (Oct - Nov - Dec), please let Sandra Betti know by Friday, December 14th. Please call 532-7139, ext. 109, or email your information to sandra@stpatssonora.org, or leave a note in the office. Thank you for your ministry!

Mark your calendars!
Day of Reflection for Liturgical Ministers
Tuesday, December 11
10:00 am or 6:30 pm
(you only need to attend one of these sessions)

Advent Prayer Service
Restoring our Joy as Disciples of Jesus Christ
Saturday, December 15th
11:00 am
St. Patrick’s Church

All are invited to a special prayer service to prepare for the fullness of God’s love in the coming of Jesus Christ, our promised savior. Let us make our hearts ready to receive God’s Joy!

The Interfaith Christmas Giving Tree is in place in the Parish Hall, and ready for you to give a Christmas gift wrapped in joy and filled with love. Interfaith helps hundreds of families and homeless in our community each year, providing food, clothing, toys and household goods to those in need. Please visit the Parish Hall and choose your ornament tag from the tree. Purchase your gift and return it to the Parish Office with the ornament tag attached. Do not wrap the gift.

Your love will help our Interfaith homeless, newborn infants, families, preteen and teenage children. I wish that each of you could experience the reaction of our clients when they receive your gift. It is a moment of true thankfulness and appreciation of your generosity.

If you have any questions please call Laurel Utecht, at 532-5033 or email at lu@mlode.com
God bless you for your help in this Advent season!

Adoration and Reconciliation
Every Wednesday, 6:30 pm ~ St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

“The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith and open to making amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease.”

(CCC #289)
Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date

Tuesday 12/11 ~ Day of Reflection for Liturgical Ministers at St. Patrick’s
10:00 am - 12:00 noon OR 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Saturday 12/15 ~ Advent Prayer Service,
11:00 am St. Patrick’s

Tuesday 12/18 ~ Advent Reconciliation Service
10:00 am, St. Patrick’s

Wednesday 12/19 ~ Advent Reconciliation Service
6:30 pm, St. Patrick’s

Friday 12/21 ~ Advent Reconciliation Service,
4:00 pm, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel 2019

Sunday 1/13 ~ Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Saturday 1/26 ~ Walk for Life West Coast

Mass for the Intentions Week

Saturday December 1 ~ Sunday December 9
Saturday 5:00 pm Lizbeth Gutierrez
Sunday 7:30 am Robert Gibson
9:00 am Adolfo Negrete
11:00 am Raul Gamboa
5:00 pm Lupe Diaz
We say the rosary after each 8:00 am weekday Mass.

Saturday 12/1 ~ Sunday December 9
Tuesday 12/11 ~ Day of Reflection for Liturgical Ministers at St. Patrick’s
10:00 am - 12:00 noon OR 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Tuesday 12/18 ~ Advent Reconciliation Service
10:00 am St. Patrick’s

Wednesday 12/19 ~ Advent Reconciliation Service
6:30 pm, St. Patrick’s

Friday 12/21 ~ Advent Reconciliation Service,
4:00 pm, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel 2019

Sunday 1/13 ~ Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
Saturday 1/26 ~ Walk for Life West Coast

Weekly Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal</th>
<th>11-18-18 Week 46 Participation</th>
<th>11-25-18 Week 47 Participation</th>
<th>November Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>$31,882</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. Pat’s</th>
<th>OLMC</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$5,824</td>
<td>$1,149</td>
<td>$7,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4,809</td>
<td>$1,132</td>
<td>$6,774</td>
<td>$31,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$23,740</td>
<td>$4,794</td>
<td>$29,836</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E-giving

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$1,012</th>
<th>$833</th>
<th>$3,348</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,012</td>
<td>$833</td>
<td>$3,348</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$7,985</th>
<th>$6,774</th>
<th>$14,759</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7,985</td>
<td>$6,774</td>
<td>$14,759</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$31,882</td>
<td>$31,882</td>
<td>$63,764</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LAST YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$7,424</th>
<th>$6,448</th>
<th>$13,872</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7,424</td>
<td>$6,448</td>
<td>$13,872</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$29,836</td>
<td>$29,836</td>
<td>$59,672</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maintenance Offering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. Pat’s</th>
<th>OLMC</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$55</td>
<td>$185</td>
<td>$1,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$110</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$110</td>
<td>$1,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,169</td>
<td>$214</td>
<td>$1,383</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanksgiving: St. Pat’s $890; OLMC $162
Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!