St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News

Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.

Luke 13:24

AUGUST 25, 2019

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“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

Contact Us

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Volume 8, Number 34
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

Father Sam’s Message

In this Sunday’s Gospel, our Lord is asked, “Will only a few people be saved?” In His response, Jesus warns, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, will attempt to enter but not be strong enough.” He then goes on to tell a frightening parable about “the master of the house” locking the door and refusing to open, or even to acknowledge knowing those who “stand outside knocking.” For those who are refused entry, Jesus graphically describes that “there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.” We learn from Jesus’ terrifying warning that salvation – “reclining at table in the kingdom of God” - requires more than just claiming “to know” Jesus. In another Gospel passage, our Lord says, “not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 7:7). Being saved is more than saying words, more than even having the right intention; salvation is really a way of living in God’s love and freely responding to Him in love. To be saved, we need to do more than to know Jesus’ name; we need to give of ourselves to Him, to love Him intimately. We were already brought in union with Him, entered “into His house,” in our baptism. Now we just simply need to remain in His house before He locks the door.

Our Lord’s response to who can be saved reminds me of a saying I have heard - “simple, but not easy.” Jesus seems to say that salvation, getting to heaven, is “simple,” but it is not “easy.” Salvation is simple because there is only one Way to salvation, Jesus Himself. But it is not easy because the Way is “narrow,” and one needs to be “strong enough” to enter. So for us to be saved, we need strength or a power from outside of ourselves. The word we use to describe this necessary power from outside is “grace.” Our gracious and good Lord is always in every circumstance, even in those times we consider as trials, offering us the grace we need, the strength necessary, to continue on the path of salvation and to enter through the narrow gate. One of the most important ways we receive the needed grace is through the worthy reception of the Sacraments. For the special grace (power) offered in the Sacraments to benefit us, to provide the strength needed, we must be disposed, meaning being free from mortal sin, having a sincere desire to choose to love God and to do His Will.

Also, frequent praying, offering our suffering, resisting temptation, and generously doing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy are other ways that help us to grow in our love of Christ, to really know and serve Him. To get to heaven is “simple” because all we need to do is love Jesus and live out our love of Him through actively practicing our faith. But as we all know, it is not “easy” because we tend to resist and turn our backs on Jesus. In “striving,” doing what Jesus asks of us in the practice of our Faith, we grow in love of Him and then we will have the strength needed, with His help, to enter through the narrow gate!

Your new Pastor

As I announced publicly at all the Masses last weekend, our Bishop Myron Cotta has appointed me to be pastor of St. Joseph’s in Modesto. My new assignment begins on October 1st. I attempted to say in my homily last weekend how blessed I have been to serve as your pastor for these past five years and how much I will miss this beautiful parish family. I sincerely love each of you and really want you to be happy, not just in this earthly life, but more importantly the life to come in heaven! I have been so honored and blessed to get to know you, to share in your joys and your sorrows, and to grow with you in the gift of our Faith, to grow in our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. I hope my efforts in some small way have helped you come closer to our Lord and to know His love for you. I have sincerely tried, and I am sure have fallen short many times, to encourage you to consciously and actively practice the gift of your Catholic Faith – especially practice the faith through frequent Confession, having a deeper experience and understanding of the supernatural gift of the Mass, and knowing our Lord Jesus’ true Presence in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

I know by remaining faithful to our Lord Jesus and His Church, this wonderful parish will continue to grow in the many blessings the Lord has graciously bestowed on you. I can truly say this parish is very blessed. You have been blessed with so much generosity, devotion and love of God, and care and love for one another, especially for our brothers and sisters in need. Like any parish, St. Patrick’s has its challenges, many of which we have faced together. I pray, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Patrick, this parish family continues to grow and thrive in bearing fruit for God’s kingdom so everyone who comes to St. Patrick’s will truly know our Lord Jesus - His peace, love, and joy!

(Cont. next page)
August 25, 2019

Father Sam’s Message, cont.

My assignment to a different parish is the “bad news,” so now the good news! The Bishop has assigned a priest you already know and love as your next parish administrator ... Fr. Banka! Fr. Banka already knows the parish very well from his four years of serving as associate pastor. I trust he will do an excellent job as your new parish administrator, which is the title given before a priest could be installed as pastor. Please give him the same warm reception you gave me. I humbly ask you to show him all the love and support you so generously have always given to me!

You and every member of St. Patrick’s parish, including Our Lady of Mt. Carmel mission, will always be in my heart and my prayers.

In Christ, Fr. Sam West

This Week in our Parish

Saturday 8/24 & Sunday 8/25 ~ All weekend Masses are in the Parish Hall

Monday 8/26 ~ 6:30 pm Encounter, Parish Hall Rm. 3

Sunday 8/25 ~ Parish Picnic, Mass at 11:30 at Pinecrest Lake, Picnic after Mass

Wednesday 8/28 ~ 6:30 pm Adoration & Reconciliation, St. Patrick’s Parish Hall Rm. 3

Wednesday 8/28 ~ Religious Study, 4:00 - 5:30pm OLMC

Saturday 8/31 & Sunday 9/1 ~ All weekend Masses are in the Parish Hall

Altar & Rosary Society Luncheon

Monday, September 9th
11:30 am
St. Patrick’s Parish Hall

Potluck: Please bring your favorite salad to share.

New members are welcome to attend!
Please call President Marge Nath for more information.
209-532-2229

Save the Date!

St. Patrick’s Ice Cream Social
Saturday, September 28th after the 5:00 pm Mass

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

† RCIA is the pathway by which adults wishing to become Catholic are brought into the Church.
† If you have been previously baptized Catholic, but wish to complete your Sacraments of Initiation, this is the place for you.
† Learn more about the Catholic Faith during the RCIA Inquiry period, which starts on Tuesday, August 27th. The sessions are held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall, Room 1.

For more information, please contact Linda Knapp:
925-231-5849

11:30 am Mass at Pinecrest Lake
Picnic after Mass

Food ~ Fun ~ Fellowship!

Don’t miss this wonderful day!
Enjoy God’s beautiful creation with your fellow parishioners.
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

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

Al Biedrzycki
Jackie Boling
Jalen Bozzo
Mary Brown
Matt & Kim Cushman
Anna Davidson
Deacon John Froehlich
Ed Hall
Eileen Hogan
A. J. Holmes
Jeanne Kiely
Bill Kiesling
Kristine Kitamura
Lois Marzocchi
Rebecca & Joe Nichols
Angela Pinocchio
Juan Pulido
Clay Sweeney
Dan Ward
Mitch & Trish Woods

To add or remove a name from this list, please contact the Parish Office at 209-532-7139.

INTO YOUR HANDS, O LORD, we commend the soul of Lois McLain
May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

YLI Patricia #79

Baked Potato Bar Luncheon/ Bunco Games!
Saturday, Sept 21
St. Patrick’s Parish Hall
Doors open at 11:30 am
All Adults welcome!
$15 per person

Advance tickets or reservations suggested
For more information, call Vicki @ 532-6010
Bunco prizes ~ Drawing ~ Good food ~ Lots of fun!

Christmas in August?
While cleaning out your closets, attics, and garages, remember our Christmas Fair! You can bring donations to the office now, no need to wait! We need jewelry, craft items, raffle items, silent auction items, household items, small furniture, etc. (no clothing, please). Please donate clean, sellable items. If you have any questions, or would like to help with this year’s Christmas Fair, please call Teresa @209-206-1062.

St. Patrick’s Parish Christmas Fair
Saturday, November 23, 2019

Thanks to the Art & Environment Team for turning our Parish Hall into such a beautiful space to celebrate Mass during the renovation of our Church entrance.

Liturgical Ministers
Attention all Lectors, EMHC, Altar Servers, and Ushers:
If there are any dates you know you are NOT available to minister during the 4th Quarter of 2019 (October, November, December), please let Sandra Betti know by Thursday, September 5th. Please call 532-7139, ext. 109, or email your dates to sandra@stpatssonora.org, or leave a note in the office.

Thank you for your ministry!

Any contribution of food is welcome, but what the Pantry needs most right now is: cereal, canned fruit (pull-top lids preferred on canned items), peanut butter, jelly/jam (small jars), pasta, pasta sauce, and boxed dinners such as Rice-A-Roni, Tuna/Hamburger Helper, etc. You can put the items in the large basket inside the Parish Hall during Mass, drop them off in the Parish Office, or call Sandy Tannhauser @ 532-3899.
Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date

Monday 9/2 ~ Labor Day, Parish Office closed
Monday 9/9 ~ Altar & Rosary Society Luncheon 11:30 am Parish Hall
Friday 9/13 - Sunday 9/15 ~ Catholic Men’s Fellowship Retreat
Saturday 9/14 & Sunday 9/15 ~ Second Collection for the Catholic University of America
Saturday 9/21 ~ YLI Bunco and Luncheon, 11:30 am
Sunday 9/22 ~ Catholic Charities Sunday
Saturday 9/28 ~ St. Patrick’s Ice Cream Social
Sunday 10/6 ~ Respect Life Sunday
Saturday 10/12 ~ Jason Jeffrey, organist at the Cathedral of the Annunciation, will perform a short organ recital at St. Patrick’s Church at 3:00 pm, as part of the Sonora Bach Festival.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday August 26 ~ Sunday September 1

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139:1-6; Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-12ab; Mt 23:27-32
Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab, 17; Mk 6:17-29
Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1, 2b, 5-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13
Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Mt 25:14-30
Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68:4-7, 10-11; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday August 25 ~ Saturday August 31

Sunday: Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday: St. Monica
Wednesday: St. Augustine
Thursday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

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“"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

St. Augustine

Weekly Offerings

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<th>Weekly Goal</th>
<th>8-11-19</th>
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General Offerings

- St. Pat’s: $5,293 $9,536 $21,357
- OLMC: $1,553 $950 $4,171
- E-giving: $618 $313 $2,579

Total: $7,464 $10,799 $28,107

LAST YEAR: $7,256 $6,041 $21,808

Maintenance Offering

- St. Pat’s: $100 $208 $1,081
- OLMC: $100 $0 $213

Total: $200 $208 $1,294

Assumption: St. Pat’s $1,133; OLMC $306

Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!