St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News
... in Our Parish

THREE PERSONS
ONE GOD

The Most Holy Trinity
May 27, 2018

“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

Volume 7, Number 21
The Holy Trinity/ Triune God/ Tri-Unity

All Christians believe the doctrine of the Trinity. If you do not believe this—that is, if you have come to a settled conclusion that the doctrine of the Trinity is not true—you are not a Christian at all. You are in fact a heretic. Those words may sound harsh, but they represent the judgment of the Christian church across the centuries. What is the Trinity? Christians in every land unite in proclaiming that our God eternally exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Those who deny that truth place themselves outside the pale of Christian orthodoxy.

I admit that no one fully understands the Trinity. It is a mystery and a paradox. Yet I believe it is true.

I can think of at least three reasons for believing in the Trinity:
- The Bible teaches this doctrine.
- Christians everywhere have always believed it.
- No other explanation makes sense.

Someone has said it this way: If you try to explain the Trinity, you will lose your mind. But if you deny it, you will lose your soul.

We believe in one living and true God who is the Creator of heaven and earth; who is eternal, almighty, unchangeable, infinitely powerful, wise, just and holy.

We believe that the one God eternally exists in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and that these three are one God, co-equal and co-eternal, having precisely the same nature and attributes, and worthy of precisely the same worship, confidence, and obedience.


Let's break it down into six smaller statements about the Trinity that's easier to understand:


Consider further this line of evidence. All Three Persons are called God in different places in the Bible.

Father — Galatians 1:1, Son — John 20:28, Spirit — Acts 5:3-4

Finally, all three Persons are associated together on an equal basis in numerous passages:

Jesus' baptism—Matthew 3:13-17 (voice of the Father, Son baptized, Spirit descending like a dove).
Salvation—1 Peter 1:2 (chosen by the Father, sanctified by the Spirit, sprinkled with the blood of Jesus).
Christian Baptism—Matthew 28:19 (baptized in one name, yet three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
Prayer—Ephesians 3:14-21 (strengthened by his Spirit, know the love of Christ, filled with the fullness of God).

A. Where in the Bible do you find the word Trinity?
The word "Trinity" is not in the Bible. Neither is the word "Inerrancy" but we don't discard it simply because it isn't found in the Bible. The issue is not the word, but the concept or the idea. We don't believe in the Trinity because of the word, but because of what the Bible teaches.

B. Is there another word we could use?
Yes there is. Theologians sometimes speak of the Tri-Unity of God. That's a good word—even though it sounds odd to our ears—because it combines the two ideas of unity and diversity in one word. There is a third word you should know. Sometimes we speak of the "Triune" God. That's another word that means the same thing as Trinity.

C. How can we illustrate the Trinity?
A number of illustrations have been suggested. They all are useful as long as you remember they are only illustrations. Water can exist as solid, liquid, or steam, but usually water only exists in one state at a time. However, there is a physical condition in which water can exist as solid, liquid and steam at the same time—which would be a much better illustration of the Trinity. Perhaps a more biblical approach is to consider that a husband and wife are two persons yet in God's eyes they are "one flesh." Add children and then you have the family as a miniature (but imperfect) version of the Trinity.

Another favorite illustration comes from noted scientist Dr. Henry Morris. He notes that the entire universe is trinitarian by design. The universe consists of three things: matter, space, and time. Take away any one of those three and the universe would cease to exist. But each one of those is itself a trinity.

Matter = mass + energy + motion
Space = length + height + breadth
Time = past + present + future

Thus the whole universe witnesses to the character of the God who made it (cf. Psalm 19:1).

It's important to remember that all illustrations fail eventually. They don't "prove" the Trinity, they simply help us understand the concept.

From what we have seen above we understand the following:

**Fellowship:** Father, Son and Holy Spirit is in mutual fellowship. We, you and God = God is the binding force.

**Love:** The Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Father and Spirit is their love. I (you), you (I) and Jesus = as I have loved you love one another.

**Community:** Trinity is Three and One; different Persons but One. All Christians are called to live as Community of Communities after the model of the Holy Trinity with Love, Fellowship and Communion.

The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

_In Christ, Fr. Joseph Lawrence_
**This Week in our Parish**

**Sun 5/27 ~** Meet & Greet: Knights of Columbus

**Mon 5/28 ~** Memorial Day, Mass at 9:00 am
St. Patrick’s Cemetery, No 8:00 am Daily Mass

**Wed 5/30 ~** Financial Peace University, 6:00 pm
St. Patrick’s Parish Hall, Rm. 4

**Thurs 5/31 ~** OLMC Religious Study, Parish House
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm, OLMC Big Oak Flat

**Sat 6/2 ~** Altar Duty: Sue Zunino, Bonnie Patania

**Sat 6/2 & Sun 6/3 ~** Parish Services Collection

**Sun 6/3 ~** Meet & Greet: Ministers to the Sick

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**REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED**

**Memorial Day**
Monday, May 28
Mass 9:00 am
St. Patrick’s Cemetery

ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

“**BLESS**ed are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labors, for their good deeds go with them.”  
*(Revelation 14:13)*

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**Knights of Columbus**
St. Patrick’s Council #2165
Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

**Applebee’s**
Crossroads Shopping Center
851 Sanguinetti Rd. Sonora

Pancakes, Bacon, Coffee & Juice

**Saturday, June 16**
8:00 am to 10:00 am
$8.00 Adults
$5.00 Children under 12
Proceeds from this breakfast go towards the promotion of scholarships for our graduating youth.

**All Saints Catholic Church, Twain Harte**

**Vacation Bible School**

June 18-22
9:00 am -1:00 pm

All children from St. Patrick’s Parish are welcome!
For more information, please contact
Lina Marion @ 209-586-3161

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**Mini-Retreat**

**A Day with the Carmelites: Come and Pray**

When: **Saturday, June 23**
8:30 am to 1:00 pm

Where: **Our Lady of Fatima Parish**
Old Hall, 505 W. Granger Ave.
Modesto, CA 95350

Cost: Free will offering
Guest Speaker: **Father Matthew Williams, OCD**
The day will include teaching and practice of prayer, focusing on Lectio Divina and fellowship. Lunch will be provided. Sponsored by the Modesto Community of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites.

Pre-registration required by June 10
To register:
Online: www.ocdsmodesto.com/events
Email: modestosecularcarmelites@gmail.com
Mail: Carmelites, PO Box 805, Linden, CA 95326
Phone: 209-639-8975

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**Additional Sessions**

OLMC Religious Study:
The Bible and the Virgin Mary
In these final sessions, we will be delving deeper into the mystery of the Rosary.
OLMC Parish House Great Room
4:00-5:30 pm
Thursdays, May 31 and June 7
For more information, please contact:
Warren Belisle @ 209-962-4394
11:00 am Mass at Pinecrest Lake
Picnic after Mass
Food ~ Fun ~ Fellowship!

- Mass at 11:00 in the Movie Amphitheater.
- Picnic after Mass! We have reserved 2 picnic spots in the Day Use Area, “Fir” and “Pine”.
- Hamburgers & hot dogs, paper plates and plastic utensils will be provided by the Parish.
- Parking is not reserved—please park in the large lot and walk to the Day Use Area, or at the Commercial Center and take the shuttle to the lake.
- Please bring your own camping chairs, blankets, sunscreen, games, and beverages. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.
- Pets are not allowed in the Day Use Area during the summer months.
- Please call the Parish Office to let us know you are attending, so we can have an accurate count.

Don’t miss this wonderful day!
Enjoy God’s beautiful creation with your fellow parishioners.

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

Tete Arellano
Catherine Bentz
Al Biedrzycki
Beverly Brainard
Carolyn Bruning
Jan Buck
Vern & Jo Froehlich
Mitch & Patti Gerner
Bill Gookin
Ed Hall
Joan Holland
A. J. Holmes

Bill & Rolene Kiesling
Kristine Kitamura
Lois Marzocchi
Dorothy McCargar
Maria Negrete
Pat Newton
Barbara North
Lee O’Shaughnessy
Joseph Perez
Mike Schirmer
Clay Sweeney

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

NEW Religious Study

Catholicism:
The Pivotal Players
“Discover the figures who shaped the Church and changed the world!”
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Big Oak Flat, CA

Thursdays, 4:00 - 5:30, starting June 14
Everyone is invited to attend this “minimal homework” study. Just watch and discuss! Join Bishop Barron on this journey to discover the most influential people of the Catholic Church. We will learn who these people were, and how their faith in Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church helped shape world history, and our own Catholic legacy.

Each episode highlights a different saint, evangelist, or artist. This is an interactive experience, as we walk in the historical places they lived and see where the pivotal “God-moments” occurred in their lives.

The lesson begins with an outline of the particular episode, followed by a short biography on the pivotal player as well as some context for their life. We also get a glimpse of the Church during the time this person lived. We are then presented with Questions for Understanding, which include references to both Sacred Scripture and the Catechism, followed by Questions for Application, which are meant to serve as reflection questions in our own life. Please sign up for this class as soon as possible so we can order the optional study guide for you.

For more information, please contact
Warren Belisle @ 209-962-4394

Spring Cleaning? 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’d love to have household items, crafts, religious items, Christmas decorations, and more (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 Spiritual Growth Team would like to thank everyone who contributed to our bake sale this month. Please look for many more religious studies and spiritual growth sessions in the future!
May 27, 2018

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday May 28 ~ Sunday June 3
Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9; Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9-10c; Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16; Ps 98:1-4; Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday: 1 Pt 1:21-25; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 10:32-45
Thursday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16; Is 12:2-3, 4b-6; Lk 1:39-56
Friday: 1 Pt 4:7-13; Ps 96:10-13; Mk 11:11-26
Saturday: Jude 17, 20b-25; Ps 63:2-6; Mk 11:27-33
Sunday: Ex 24:3-8; Ps 116:12-13, 15-18; Heb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday May 27 ~ Saturday June 2
Sunday: The Most Holy Trinity
Monday: Eighth Week in Ordinary Time; Memorial Day
Thursday: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday: St. Justin; First Friday
Saturday: St. Marcellinus and St. Peter; Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

Celebrated at all Masses next weekend
June 2-3

Weekly Offerings

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Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!

Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date
Monday 5/28 ~ Memorial Day Mass at 9:00 am, St. Patrick’s Catholic Cemetery
(No 8:00 am Daily Mass)
Thursday 6/14 ~ NEW Religious Study begins at OLMC, 4:00-5:30 pm, details to follow
Saturday 6/16 ~ Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
Applebee’s, 8:00 am - 10:00 am
Sunday 6/24 ~ Parish Picnic! Pinecrest Lake
Wednesday 7/4 ~ Special Independence Day Mass 9:00 am, St. Anne’s in Columbia
Saturday 7/28 ~ Feast of St. Joachim and St. Anne will be celebrated at St. Anne’s in Columbia, 9:00 am

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.