St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News... in Our Parish

My eyes have seen your Salvation

The Presentation of the Lord
February 2, 2020

“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 frbanka@stpatssonora.org. God bless.

In Christ, Fr. Yesobu Banka, Parish Administrator
Father John Foley’s Message

A Sacrifice

The Presentation of the Lord falls on 2 February, 40 days (inclusive) after Christmas. The last time the Feast of the Presentation took place on a Sunday was in 2014.

To present a firstborn child in Jesus’ days meant the purification of the mother, which in turn demanded a sacrifice. The Book of Leviticus gives the prescription for purification: killing of a year-old lamb, or another animal. Poor people such as Joseph and Mary could not afford a first-born lamb, so they were allowed to sacrifice just a pigeon or a turtledove.

All right, then, what is a “sacrifice”? The word had many meanings in the times before Jesus’ birth. On the Feast of the Presentation, here is an attempt to understand this somewhat difficult topic.

For much of history, the realm of the gods was considered something far off from the daily world of earth. In our world there was suffering, death, sin, warfare, uncleanness. In the godly realm there was none of this, or at least not much. So, might there be a way to disconnect something from here and send it somehow as a peace offering into heaven? The gift would have to be of high value, of course, so it should be the “first fruit,” or the first born lamb, etc., which would mean it was “pure.”

How was it sent to the heavenly realm? By putting it to death. This part of the ritual would release its final binding to our world and send it into the heavens. “Priests” were set aside from ordinary life to preside, separated, so they could be understood as disconnected from this world.

This notion of sacrifice developed through the ages, and it came to be applied to Jesus and to Christianity. Here is a sketch of the outcome.

God’s self, his Word, came among us as a tiny human babe, the firstborn child of the Divine. If this firstborn were to grow up and become a sacrifice, then never again would anyone think that the doors to God were closed and locked, at least if they understood through faith who Jesus was. He, the Word of God, would participate in everything earthly (except sin). “Since the children share in blood and flesh, Jesus likewise shared in these things,” St. Paul says in the Second Reading. His crucifixion could then be seen as the death prescribed in sacrifice.

In the temple, Simeon rejoices in the following beautiful scene from Sunday’s Gospel:

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.

A sacrifice.

Simeon hints at a further sacrifice to come. “This child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel,” he says, “and to be a sign that will be contradicted— and, [speaking to Mary,] you yourself a sword will pierce.”

Quite a piercing it would be. Sacrifice includes suffering and it includes death. But in the very act of dying Jesus would show that Godliness, in its essence—which is love—survives death. And that such a life can dwell within each of us.

The world today is crowded with grief and torment, starvation, warfare, killing, and “lives of quiet desperation.” But in Jesus, God came to participate in all of it. He took the whole bundle into his two arms and he embraced it and made it good.

Fr. John Foley, SJ

Fr. John Foley, SJ, is a composer and scholar at Saint Louis University.

Encounter
Has moved to Friday
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Worship and Praise Music
Friday evenings 6:30-7:30 pm
### This Week in our Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Saturday & Sunday 2/1 & 2/2 | Parish Services  
Collection |
| Wednesday 2/5 | Adoration and Reconciliation |
| Friday 2/7 | Encounter: Adoration, Worship & Praise  
6:30 - 7:30 pm, St. Patrick’s |
| Sunday 2/9 | Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon  
St. Patrick’s Parish Hall, following the 11:00 am Mass |

This year the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, or Candlemas, falls on a Sunday, February 2. Traditionally at Candlemas the faithful bring candles to be blessed. We encourage our Parishioners to bring candles from home, and we will do a communal blessing of the candles at all weekend Masses. We will also have a communal blessing of the throats this weekend, in honor of the Feast of St. Blaise. We will have individual blessing of the throats on Monday, February 3rd, at the 8:00 am Daily Mass.

### St. Patrick’s ALTAR SOCIETY’S  
**ST. VALENTINE’S DAY LUNCHEON & BINGO GAME**

- **When:** Saturday, February 15  
- **Time:** Doors open 11:30am  
  Catered Lunch served 12:00 pm  
  Bingo games 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
- **Where:** St. Patrick’s Church Hall  
  98 W. Jackson St, Sonora  
- **Theme:** Celebrating Valentine’s Day  
  so wear Red or Pink attire.  
- **Prizes:** Cash and Raffle Prizes!  
- **Tickets:** $10 for lunch and 2 Bingo Cards  
  Additional Bingo Cards: $1 each  

**CALL CAROL FOR TICKETS 209-213-9991**  
or St Patrick’s Parish Office 209-532-7139

### Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon  
**Sunday February 9**  
**12:00 pm in the Parish Hall**  
**After the 11:00 am Mass**  
Please bring a dessert to share.

We thank the many generous and devoted volunteers at St. Patrick’s Parish!  
“Volunteers do not have more time, they just have more heart.”

### TRAVEL TO INDIA ON VALENTINE’S DAY!  
Enjoy special guests Father Banka and friends as they share stories of their recent journey together to India, and their love of the country and its people.

- **Chicken Dinner and Raffle**  
  Dinner at 6:00 pm, Raffle to follow  
  **Tickets $20.00 each**  
  **Friday, February 14th**, St. Patrick’s Parish Hall  

Tickets will be available to purchase after various weekend Masses, in the Parish Office Mon-Thur, or  
by contacting Cynthia by email:  
atonewiththespirit@gmail.com

**Please purchase your tickets in advance!**  
All proceeds will go to Spiritual Growth Education.

The flu season has begun early and is widespread in our region of the state. St. Patrick’s Parish is following Bishop Cotta’s recommendations to suspend Communion from the Chalice during this flu season. This is only a temporary measure. We will again distribute Communion from the Chalice as soon as Bishop Cotta informs us it is safe to do so. We pray that all in our community stay healthy this winter!
Please Pray for the Sick in our Parish, and their family members.

Jackie Boling  
Aldo Diaz  
Pat Fernandez  
Claudia Day Fossum  
Diane Goodspeed  
Ed Hall  
Eileen Hogan  
A. J. Holmes  
David & Carol James  
Jeanne Kiely  
Rosemarie Lapan  
Ashlie Lotz  
Lois Marzocchi  
Rosie Napier  
Lee O’Shaughnessy  
Jan Opie  
Gloria & Nuncia Patania  
Juan Pulido  
Cathi Ruiz  
Mary Russell  
Connie Scott  
Clay Sweeney  
Dan Ward

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

In the December meeting, the Pastoral Council continued work on refining and updating the Council Statutes, concentrating mostly on areas concerned with details of members’ terms and on meeting processes.

Cynthia Dragun presented an overview of The Called and Gifted program, a formation that helps parishioners identify their unique charismatic gifts. This process helps an individual discern ways to be drawn into a deeper relationship with God, to bear fruit to the world, and to do so with joy. The training will be available to parishioners in the near future.

The Council plans to spend a weekend in February hosting informal parish assemblies after all Masses in Sonora and in Groveland, summarizing the work done by the Council over the past two years. This time will be specially designed to hear parishioners’ thoughts, concerns and needs which will help the Council prioritize its work for the upcoming year.

Also in the near future one weekend will be devoted to our parish ministries. This Open House effort will showcase the myriad of ministries within our Parish and offer opportunities to use your charisms in channeling God’s love to our fellow parishioners, our Church, and our community.

All Council meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be held February 19th, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 6 of the Parish Hall in Sonora.

Have you ever felt really close to God? Have you ever felt that God was present with you? Have you ever looked for God and couldn’t find Him? This study shows how you can enjoy a vibrant, moment-by-moment relationship with your heavenly Father. John Ortberg reveals the face of God waiting to be discovered in the complex mosaic of your life. He shows you God’s hand stretching toward you. You will discover ways you can reach toward God and complete the connection.

We will be watching the presentation by John Ortberg followed by group discussion. Lesson material will be handed out prior to each session for you to contemplate and review prior to meeting. An optional book by John Ortberg is available.

Please sign up for this class as soon as possible so your class outline can be emailed to you.
Contact Warren Belisle at 962-4309 or email: bellale@msn.com for more information.

"God wishes to test you, like gold in the furnace. If then you remain constant in faith in the face of trial, the Lord will give you peace and rest for a time in this world, and forever in the next."

St. Jerome Emiliani  
Patron Saint of orphans and abandoned children
**Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date**

**Friday 2/14** ~ Spiritual Growth Valentine’s Day Dinner and Stories from India 6:00 pm, St. Patrick’s Parish Hall, Tickets $20

**Saturday 2/15** ~ Altar Society Luncheon and Bingo Lunch 12:00, Bingo 1:00-3:00 pm St. Patrick’s Parish Hall, Tickets $10

**Saturday & Sunday 2/15-16 ~**

- Bishop’s Ministry Appeal

**Tuesday 2/19** ~ Pastoral Council Meeting 6:30 pm, St. Patrick’s Parish Hall Rm. 6

**Saturday & Sunday 2/22-23 ~**

- Bishop’s Ministry Appeal

**Wednesday 2/26** ~ Ash Wednesday Season of Lent begins

**Monday 3/2** ~ Altar Society Meeting 1:00 pm

**Sunday 3/8** ~ Daylight Saving Time Begins

**Tuesday 3/17** ~ St. Patrick’s Day

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**Readings for the Week**

**Monday February 3 ~ Sunday February 9**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2 Sm 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7; Mk 5:1-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30 - 19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 6:1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Mk 6:7-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47, 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16</td>
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**Saints and Special Observances**

**Sunday February 2 ~ Saturday February 8**

- **Sunday:** The Presentation of the Lord; Blessing of Candles; Boy Scouting Sunday World Day for Consecrated Life
- **Monday:** Fourth Week in Ordinary Time; St. Blaise; St. Ansgar
- **Wednesday:** St. Agatha
- **Thursday:** St. Paul Miki and Companions
- **Friday:** First Friday
- **Saturday:** St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita; Blessed Virgin Mary

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**Weekly Offerings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal</th>
<th>1-19-20 Participation</th>
<th>1-26-20 Participation</th>
<th>January Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
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**General Offerings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>1-19-20</th>
<th>1-26-20</th>
<th>January</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Pat’s</td>
<td>$4,768</td>
<td>$3,956</td>
<td>$23,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLMC</td>
<td>$817</td>
<td>$1,243</td>
<td>$4,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-giving</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$910</td>
<td>$2,520</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$5,585</td>
<td>$6,109</td>
<td>$30,145</td>
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**Last Year**

- **$12,334**

**Maintenance Offering**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>1-19-20</th>
<th>1-26-20</th>
<th>January</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Pat’s</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$73</td>
<td>$1079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLMC</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$73</td>
<td>$1,264</td>
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Church in Latin America: St. Pat’s $600; OLMC $50

Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!