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
**Father Sam’s Message**

This Sunday, on the feast of the Epiphany, the Church celebrates that the mystery of the Incarnation, God becoming human, is revealed and made known to all nations. This universal manifestation of God as a human happens in the arrival of “magi from the east” into Jerusalem. These mysterious figures are seeking the “newborn king of the Jews.” They saw “his star at its rising” and have come to worship Him. When they arrived at the place where the Christ Child was with His mother, “They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” The Magi, commonly referred to as the “wise men,” represent all nations, and the light of the star signifies the truth which is necessary to locate Jesus Christ, who is Truth Himself. The precious gifts the Magi offered to the newborn King show our Lord Jesus’ dual nature, divine and human.

For our Catholic faith to truly bear fruit, for us to love and live as God loves and lives, we first need to have a real human experience of God’s presence in our daily lives. We need what I would call a “personal epiphany” – coming to a sudden and profound awareness of the real presence of God; He is really here! One of the best ways for us to experience a “personal epiphany” of our Lord Jesus is through a full, active, and conscious participation in the celebration of the Mass, the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The truth of the teaching of the Church on the Eucharist could be thought of as the star which guides us to a real encounter with Jesus Christ – to meet Him in what looks like bread and wine but is not bread and wine. With the help of the “chief priests and the scribes of the people” assembled by King Herod, the Magi were able to know exactly the place, “Bethlehem of Judea,” the Child was to be born from prophesies of the Old Testament. Interestingly, the word “Bethlehem” in Hebrew means “House of Bread.” Likewise, Sacred Scriptures and the Sacred Tradition of the Church show us the precise directions we need to find Jesus truly present in the Eucharist.

Here are some practical suggestions to more actively and more fully celebrate Mass in order to have a “personal epiphany” and more fruitful experience at Mass:

1. **Read and spend time thinking about the Scripture Readings for the upcoming Sunday Mass ahead of time.**

   There are many resources on the Internet to get the readings for the Mass. Besides the Scripture references of the readings for upcoming Masses listed in our weekly Bulletin, the Bishops of the United States have a website – www.usccb.org – where the readings can be accessed easily. On the bishops’ home page, there is a small calendar titled “Daily Readings” on the right side of the screen. Simply click on the day and the readings appear! Also, you could use a monthly publication like *Magnificat* (website: us.magnificat.net) or *The Word Among Us* (website: wau.org).

2. **Quiet time before and after Mass.**

   We can have a personal epiphany, being aware of God’s loving Presence, only when we experience God. But it can be very difficult to recognize God, hearing Him, with all the noise and distractions in our busy lives. So we should take time being still and quiet if we want a real encounter with God. St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “The fruit of silence is prayer.” A short period of silence to ready ourselves to encounter and worship God should be done before Mass. Also, after receiving Holy Communion, we need some quiet time to reflect on God’s love for us, hearing Him and feeling Him truly in us, holding us.

   When coming into the Church building, really think and be aware of Whose house we are entering. The Almighty, All-loving, All-merciful God of the whole universe, the One who creates all things, made you, and holds all things in being, is truly present in the tabernacle – an enclosure, or “box,” with a golden door directly behind the altar. Like the magi prostrated when they saw the Christ child, we want to genuflect to show our reverence for Jesus, Who is present. If we are not able to genuflect, then we would want to at least bow toward the tabernacle. Also, we also want to remember, while in the Church, to remain in a worshipful, reverent disposition, avoiding unnecessary talk and staying attentive to Jesus in the tabernacle.

3. **Spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.**

   When our church in Sonora is open (Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 4 pm), you are invited to come and spend some quiet time with Jesus Who is present in the tabernacle. We also have special times when Jesus is “exposed” in what is called a “monstrance” that is placed on the altar. This beautiful devotion is called Eucharistic Adoration. Every morning before the 8 am weekday Mass at St. Patrick’s, we have Adoration. Also, we have Adoration on Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, while we hear Confessions. In addition, we have Adoration all day, from 9 am to 5 pm, on the First Friday of each month.

**The Wise Still Seek Him**

Whether at Mass or Eucharistic Adoration, like the “wise men,” we can really find and adore our Lord Jesus. Once we meet Him, we then can give Him our “little” gifts – our praise, our thanksgiving, our time, our energy, our talent, our attention – our whole self.

We do this to show Him how much we really need Him and how much we want to love Him.

In this new year, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and our Patron St. Patrick, let us continue to beg God for the grace to more fully experience Jesus truly present in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

*In Christ, Fr. Sam West*
This Week in our Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat &amp; Sun 1/6 - 1/7</td>
<td>Parish Services Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 1/7</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet hosted by the Ministers to the Sick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 1/7</td>
<td>Religious Study, Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Big Oak Flat), 2:00 pm Parish House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 1/8</td>
<td>CANCELLED: Altar Society Meeting and Luncheon, to be Rescheduled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 1/10</td>
<td>Teens! Steinmetz House 6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 1/10</td>
<td>Religious Study, Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Big Oak Flat), 4:00 pm Parish House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 1/14</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet hosted by the YLI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 1/14</td>
<td>Installation of Fr. Samuel West as Pastor of St. Patrick’s Parish, 11:00 am Mass</td>
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Please join us, together with Bishop Stephen Blaire, as we celebrate the Installation of Fr. Samuel West as Pastor of St. Patrick’s Parish.

Sunday, January 14th at the 11:00 am Mass
Reception and Luncheon to follow in the Parish Hall
All are invited!

Next Sessions
Sun Jan 7th & Wed Jan 10th
OLMC Religious Study:
The Bible and the Virgin Mary

We will be meeting at the OLMC Parish House Great Room 4:00 - 5:30 pm on the following Wednesdays:
Jan 10, Jan 24, Feb 14, Feb 28, March 14, March 28, April 11, April 25
Additionally, we’ve added these dates listed below, which will include a guest speaker, Fr. Banka!
Jan 7, Jan 14, Jan 21 (Sundays) @ 2:00 pm

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

Update on our Donation for San Jose Parish in Puerto Rico
On behalf of Fr. Orlando, Pastor of San Jose in Penuelas, Puerto Rico, I want to graciously thank all of you who donated gift cards. With your generous support, we were able to send $3,165 worth of gift cards to our brothers and sisters who are slowly recovering from the effects of Hurricane Maria. Wow, $3,165! Two boxes of Christmas cards with gift cards were sent by USPS on the Monday before Christmas and arrived by Thursday of that week, four days before Christmas. I was able to talk with Fr. Orlando and confirmed he received the packages. He was so grateful and was going to distribute them to needy families in his parish just in time for Christmas. May the Good Lord bless your generosity!

In Christ, Fr. Sam West

In Loving Memory
INTO YOUR HANDS, O LORD, we commend the souls of
Joseph David Utecht
Josefine Andrada Esparza
John “Jack” Joseph Gardella, Jr.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Please support the St. Patrick’s Food Pantry!
During this past holiday season, there was an overwhelming demand on our Food Pantry. We are now running desperately low!
Any contribution of food is welcome BUT what the Pantry needs most right now is: peanut butter, jam/jelly, pasta and sauce, canned tuna or chicken (with “pull top” lids, if possible), crackers (especially those with individual sleeves of crackers), soup, beans, and ramen noodles. You can put the items in the large basket at the back of the Church, drop them off in the Parish Office, or call Sandy Tannhauser @ 532-3899.
Thank you for making 2017 a huge success! This year, we handed out over 1,050 bags of groceries to those who are hungry and in need.

In Christ, Fr. Sam West
Please Pray for the Sick in our Parish, and their family members.
Those needing your continued prayers*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruben Bacci</td>
<td>Bill &amp; Rolene Kiesling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Bentz</td>
<td>Jim Kubasek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Biedrzycki</td>
<td>Laura Lombardi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Bruning</td>
<td>Lois Marzocchi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiff Family</td>
<td>Joan Montesano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger Clark</td>
<td>Joseph Perez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Gamboa</td>
<td>Juan Pulido</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitch &amp; Patti Gerner</td>
<td>Hannah Rose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Gookin</td>
<td>Mike Schirmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leon Hinen</td>
<td>Clay Sweeney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Holland</td>
<td>Mona Tompkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. J. Holmes</td>
<td>Roy Volpetti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To add or remove a name from this list or the prayer chain, please contact Sandy Pallante at 532-7625. *We would like updated information on our fellow parishioners and their family members so we can continue praying for them. Please check the weekly Prayer List in the Bulletin, and let the office know of any additions or changes.

St. Patrick’s Pastoral Council Update
Six Council members and two guests met with Fr. Sam on December 19 to discuss moving St. Patrick’s Parish towards:

- Being a welcoming community
- Stewardship of the Parish
- Making spiritual growth opportunities available
- Caring for the needs of the parish community
- Having communication as a core value

Six specific initial projects have been selected:
1. Creating a Welcome Team
2. Establishing a year’s schedule of spiritual growth opportunities
3. Hosting a nine-week series on getting personal finances in order
4. Making the Pastoral Council more visible and accessible
5. Continuing work on deferred maintenance of St. Patrick’s Church building
6. Growing into a Stewardship community

St. Patrick’s Parish has a rich history of caring and growth as a family in Christ. These initiatives will further use of the time, talents and treasures with which God has graced us. Another Open House will be scheduled early in the New Year, explaining these ventures, inviting your participation, and gathering your suggestions for future projects.

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will be Jan 16, 2018 at 6:30 pm, in a classroom in the Parish Hall in Sonora. You are always welcome to attend, or you can discuss your thoughts with any of the Council members.

Respect Life News - Deadline is January 13 to register for the Bus to San Francisco!
We have some good news about the 14th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco. St. Patrick’s in Angels Camp has invited us to join them on their bus on January 27th. They will pick us up at 9:00 am in the lower Save Mart parking lot on that day. They will also bring us back to Save Mart at about 7:00 pm. The cost is only $20.00. The deadline for registration for the bus is January 13th. Registration forms for the bus are available in the Parish Office. Please return the form to the Office, or to Joan Madsen. Please consider joining the 50,000 Christians at this powerful event, as we all stand up for the most vulnerable, giving a voice to those who have no voice, and for the mothers who carry these precious lives. For more info, call Joan Madsen at 533-3429.

January 27, 2018
St. Patrick’s Parish Council, from left: Nathan Graveline, Charlene Dambacher, Juddy Kendall, David Bolles, Fr. Sam, Jim Woosley, Tina Welch. Not pictured: Wendall Cushman
**Mass for the Week**

**Saturday January 6 ~ Sunday January 14**

**Saturday** 5:00 pm  Ken Francek
**Sunday** 7:30 am All Parishioners
9:00 am  Barbara Carnero
Bernie Wick, Happy Birthday!
11:00 am  Fr. John Keisling
5:00 pm  Alicia Sanchez
Jose Luis Guzman

We say the rosary after each 8:00 am weekday Mass.

**Monday** 8:00 am  No Intentions
**Tuesday** 8:00 am  Lenny Wilder
**Wednesday** 8:00 am  No Intentions
**Thursday** 8:00 am  No Intentions
**Friday** 8:00 am  Alicia Diaz
**Saturday** 5:00 pm  No Intentions
**Sunday** 7:30 am  All Parishioners
9:00 am  Hezzy Arellano
Josephine Esperanza
11:00 am  David Utecht
5:00 pm  No Intentions

**Weekly Offerings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal $10,000</th>
<th>12-24-17 Week 51</th>
<th>12-31-17 Week 52</th>
<th>Dec Totals To Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Offerings</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Pat’s</td>
<td>$4,259</td>
<td>$5,425</td>
<td>$23,680</td>
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<tr>
<td>OLMC</td>
<td>$1,284</td>
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<td>$5,041</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-giving</td>
<td>$380</td>
<td>$325</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$5,923</td>
<td>$6,938</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LAST YEAR</strong></td>
<td>$7,178</td>
<td>$16,426*</td>
<td>$39,592</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maintenance Offerings</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Pat’s</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<td>$1,455</td>
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<tr>
<td>OLMC</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$1,615</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Christmas:  St. Pat’s $10,265 ~ OLMC $1,665
Solemnity of Mary:  St. Pat’s $858 ~ OLMC $250
*2016 Christmas Offerings are included in this figure

Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday January 8 ~ Sunday January 14**

**Monday:**  Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Mk 1:7-11

**Tuesday:**  1 Sm 1:9-20 or 1 Sm 1:1-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28 or Mk 1:14-28

**Wednesday:**  1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday:**  1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45

**Friday:**  1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday:**  1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17

**Sunday:**  1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday January 7 ~ Saturday January 13**

**Sunday:**
The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week; Julian Calendar Christmas

**Monday:**
The Baptism of the Lord

**Tuesday:**
First Week in Ordinary Time begins

**Saturday:**
St. Hilary; Blessed Virgin Mary

**Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date**

**Sunday 1/14 ~** Installation of Fr. Samuel West as Pastor of St. Patrick’s Parish, 11:00 am Mass

**Sunday 1/21 ~** 11:00 am Youth Mass!

**Saturday 1/27 ~** Walk for Life West Coast

**Sunday 1/28 ~** Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon 12:00 noon Parish Hall

**Wednesday 2/14 ~** Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins

**Thursday 3/22 ~** Chrism Mass, Cathedral of the Annunciation, Stockton

**Thursday 3/29 ~** Holy Thursday

**Friday 3/30 ~** Good Friday

**Saturday 3/31 ~** Easter Vigil

**Sunday 4/1 ~** Easter Sunday

For regularly scheduled meetings, please check the Master Calendar at www.stpatssonora.org. If you have calendar requests or need to make changes to your current calendared items, please email ron@stpatssonora.org.