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
In last week’s message, I wrote about what it means to experience true joy and how this season of Advent is a time to intentionally prepare for the joy only possible by “resting” in God. As we enter the second week in the holy season of Advent, we hear in Psalm 126 selected for this Sunday’s readings, “the Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!”

To experience the joy God wants for us, we first need to be convinced of God’s love for us. We become more deeply aware of God’s love by acknowledging, as the Psalmist says, the “great things” He “has done for us.” So we want to take the time in prayer to consciously recall all God has done to bring us to this moment and recount the gifts He offers each of us, the greatest of which is His Son, Jesus Christ. We trust God has completely fulfilled the promise He revealed through His prophets, the promise to save us, in the coming of Our Lord and Savior.

The first reading declares how we each are “remembered by God,” and we should be “rejoicing” in the fulfillment of His plan of salvation, healing and wholeness. Because of His infinite love, God sends His Son and invites us into an intimate relationship with Him. God’s fulfillment of promised salvation in the person of our Lord Jesus is how we can rest securely in Him and thereby experience the joy for which we are created.

To have the joy we desire, we need to be aware of God’s love for us and then respond with a total readiness to do His will. The first reading reminds us, “God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice...” So God leads and we follow. Doing what He asks of us is how we follow Him. In the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist, a man whom Jesus called “the greatest born of woman,” is the “one crying out into the desert.” He faithfully does God’s will, carrying out God’s plan of salvation, to “prepare the way of the Lord” by “proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin.” We know through the sacrament of Baptism, all of our sins were washed away. But sins committed after Baptism also need to be cleansed so we can “make straight his path.” We follow God’s will to “prepare the way of the Lord” in our hearts and in our lives by experiencing His forgiveness of all our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

John the Baptist enters human history at a specific time and in a specific place. We know this because of how St. Luke, the Evangelist, lists the names of those who were governing at the time of the appearance of the Baptist, all of which can be historically verified. John the Baptist is the visible, tangible sign God gives to prepare for the fulfillment of His promise that “all flesh will see the salvation of God.” God’s promise of salvation, His promise of joy, is not some hypothetical event happening at some very distant point in the future; it is happening right now. In and through the visible, tangible signs of the Sacraments of the Church, God is HERE and NOW fulfilling the prophecies of the coming of our Savior, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In the Sacrament of Confession, He wants to HERE and NOW forgive all of our sins, opening our hearts to better know His love and give us the grace to more fully do His will.

Again, I am encouraging all our parishioners to attend a special Advent Prayer Service on Saturday, December 15th at 11:00 am. I especially urge you to invite anyone you know who may have left the parish, or has stopped coming to Mass, to attend this special event. We will be asking our Lord for the grace to “drop” all anger, resentment, guilt, and shame, to let go of anything we are holding onto that is preventing us from knowing His love and experiencing His joy. We will pray for the grace needed to trust more fully our Lord’s infinite power to heal any and all wounds caused by our sins and the sins of others.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we ask for the grace to be more aware of God’s love for us and have greater trust in His promise of salvation. As we continue in Advent, let us remain focused on God’s plan to save us, offering us the joy of “resting” in His love in the coming of our Lord Jesus.

*In Christ, Fr. Sam West*

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**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!
This Week in our Parish

Sunday 12/9 ~ Meet & Greet: YLI

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

Sunday 12/9 ~ Youth Group meets, 6:15 pm
upstairs in the Steinmetz House

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 ~ Altar Duty: Eleanor Lauterio

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

Sunday 12/16 ~ Meet & Greet: Religious Ed

Sunday 12/16 ~ DVD Presentation “The Star of
Bethlehem,” following the 11:00 am Mass
St. Patrick’s Parish Hall

Attention all Lectors, EMHC, Altar Servers, and
Ushers:
Mark your calendars!
Day of Reflection
for Liturgical Ministers
This Tuesday, December 11
10:00 am or 6:30 pm
(you only need to attend one of these sessions)

Also, if there are any dates you are NOT available to
minister during the 1st Quarter of 2019 (Jan-Feb-
March), please let Sandra Betti know by Friday,
December 14th. Please call 532-7139, ext. 109, or
e-mail your information to sandra@stpatssonora.org, or
leave a note in the office. Thank you for your ministry!

Advent Reconciliation Services
St. Patrick’s Parish
St. Patrick’s Church
Tuesday December 18th, 10:00 am
Wednesday December 19th, 6:30 pm

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Friday December 21st, 4:00 pm

La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
La fiesta de nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, en la Iglesia Católica de
San Patricio, se celebrarà 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.

At One with the Spirit
St. Patrick’s Spiritual Growth Ministry presents:
A DVD Presentation of Rick Larson’s fascinating
documentary, as he
attempts to solve the
mystery of the sighting
of the Bethlehem Star.
Sunday, Dec 16
12:30 pm
(Following the 11:00 am
Mass)
St. Patrick’s Parish Hall
Snacks will be served
Please Pray for the Sick in our Parish, and their family members.

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

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

Interfaith Christmas Giving Tree

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!

Christmas Mass Schedule

Monday Dec 24 ~ Christmas Eve
4:00 pm, OLMC
Family Mass 5:00 pm, St. Patrick’s (Parish Hall)
12:00 Midnight Mass, St. Patrick’s (Church)
Midnight Mass is preceded by wonderful seasonal music starting at 11:00 pm

Tuesday Dec 25 ~ Christmas Day
9:00 am, OLMC
10:00 am, St. Patrick’s (Church)
12:00 noon, St. Anne’s

Adopt-A-Family

If you would like to share the Joy of Christ’s birth with those in need, you have a chance this Advent season to “Adopt a Family.” If you would like to adopt a family, or if you know of any families in need in our Parish, please call the Parish Office at 209-532-7139 and leave a message for Deacon Mike.

NEW Religious Study at OLMC

The Mass - Encountering Heaven on Earth
6 sessions, begins January 3
Thursdays 4:00-5:30 pm
This study will help you understand how to fully, consciously, and actively participate in the source and summit of the Christian life - the Catholic Mass.
Please contact Warren Belisle ASAP to sign-up and receive your Session 1 handout.
Call 962-4309, or email bellale@msn.com

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.”
(OLEP #289)
**Mass Intentions for the Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday December 8 ~ Sunday December 16</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong> 10:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Negrete (<em>Happy Birthday</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jack McCoy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jack &amp; LaVon Woodcock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong> 7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph &amp; Margaret Aragon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter Jess Healy</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adolfo Negrete</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hezzy Arellano</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrique Vanzinni (<em>Healing</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupe Diaz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alicia Sanchez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miguel Beran</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

**Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date**

- **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
- **Monday 12/24** ~ Christmas Eve Masses
  - OLMC 4:00 pm; St. Patrick’s 5:00 pm (Parish Hall)
  - St. Patrick’s 11:00 pm Musical prelude, followed by Midnight Mass (Church)
- **Tuesday 12/25** ~ Christmas Day Masses
  - OLMC 9:00 am; St. Patrick’s 10:00 am
  - St. Anne’s (Columbia) 12:00 noon
- **Monday 12/31** ~ New Year’s Eve
  - Mass 11:00 pm St Patrick’s, Bells rung at midnight
- **Tuesday 1/1** ~ New Year’s Day Masses
  - 9:00 am OLMC; 9:00 am St. Patrick’s

**Weekly Offerings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal</th>
<th>11-25-18 Week 47 Participation 27%</th>
<th>November Totals</th>
<th>12-2-18 Week 48 Participation 28%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10,000</td>
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</table>

**General Offerings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. Pat’s</th>
<th>OLMC</th>
<th>E-giving</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>LAST YEAR</th>
<th>12-2-18 Week 48 Participation 28%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>St. Pat’s</strong></td>
<td>$4,809</td>
<td>$1,132</td>
<td>$833</td>
<td>$6,774</td>
<td>$6,448</td>
<td>$6,651</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OLMC</strong></td>
<td>$23,740</td>
<td>$4,794</td>
<td>$3,348</td>
<td>$31,882</td>
<td>$29,836</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E-giving</strong></td>
<td>$7,674</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
<td>$1,643</td>
<td>$11,117</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
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**Maintenance Offering**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. Pat’s</th>
<th>OLMC</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>St. Pat’s</strong></td>
<td>$110</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$110</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OLMC</strong></td>
<td>$1,169</td>
<td>$214</td>
<td>$1,383</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>$873</td>
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**Parish Services:** St. Pat’s $2,264; OLMC $1,105

Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!