St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News

... in Our Parish

F I R S T

Sunday of Advent

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another.

Isaiah 2:4

December 1, 2019

‘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
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

Father Banka’s Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Meaning of Advent
The name Advent comes from the Latin words, advenire (to come to) and adventus (an arrival), and refers to Christ’s coming into this world. It is that period of the year during which the Church encourages the faithful to prepare for the celebration of the Feast of Christmas, the anniversary of the birth and coming of Jesus Christ. The mystery of that great day has every right to the honor of being prepared for by prayer and works of penance. The focus of Advent is by no means limited to just Christ’s first coming. An equal, if not more important theme found in the Advent Liturgy is the Second Coming of Christ when He will come again to judge the world. The First Sunday of Advent is the Sunday closest to the 30th of November, the feast of St Andrew, and the Fourth Sunday of Advent is the Sunday before the 25th of December. The First Sunday of Advent falls between November 27 and December 3. The Advent season will thus have between 21 and 28 days, depending upon where this Sunday falls. The First Sunday of Advent is also the first Sunday of the new Church liturgical year. Advent marks the beginning of the new Church calendar. The liturgical color for the season of Advent is purple as purple shows the majesty which heralds the coming of the King of Kings.

Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

Evergreens:
Ancient symbol of immortality, life and growth, and everlasting love of God

Circle:
Symbolizes the unending and eternity of God who is, was and always will be

Light:
Symbol of God’s presence; darkness is its opposite, a symbol of His absence
Darkness stands for lack of salvation which is overcome by the arrival of Christ the Messiah (Isa.9:2) (Romans 13:12).

Four Candles:
The four candles spread light into darkness.
Each candle represents a week in Advent and will be lit accordingly. By the Fourth Sunday of Advent, all four candles will be lit. Three candles are purple and one is pink. The pink candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, which is also known as the Sunday of Joy.

On Christmas Eve the wreath will have a white candle in the center. The white stands for purity and joy. It is known as the Christ candle which represents Christ born on Christmas day. As we begin the season of Advent, one of preparation and anticipation, let us open our hearts to receive Jesus when He comes on Christmas morning.

I would like to once again acknowledge the hard work of all the volunteers in organizing the Christmas Fair. It was a success because of all your contributions and service. God bless us all.

Thank you.
In the Merciful Christ,
Fr. Banka

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
This Week in our Parish

Saturday 11/30 & Sunday 12/1 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Wednesday 12/4 ~ Religious Study at OLMC
4:00 - 5:30 pm, OLMC Parish House

Saturday 12/7 ~ Presentation “Mary’s Advent”
9:00 am to Noon, St. Patrick’s Parish Hall

Sunday 12/8 ~ Fiesta for Our Lady of Guadalupe
Mass at 3:00 pm, Fiesta in the Parish Hall after Mass

We all enjoy the wonderful November tradition of placing photos of our deceased loved ones in the windows. If you forgot to take your photos home, please come to the Parish Office to retrieve them.

St. Patrick’s Parish Christmas Giving Tree
is in place in the Church vestibule and ready for you to give a Christmas gift wrapped in joy and filled with love. This year we partner with the Foothill Pregnancy Center to help the children of those in need. Please stop by the Giving Tree after Mass and choose your ornament tag. Purchase your gift and return it to the Parish Office with the ornament tag attached. Do not wrap the gift.

Your love will help many infants, siblings, and parents. Imagine the face of a child receiving an unexpected gift this Christmas, or parents receiving some badly needed necessities for their newborn. You can make that happen.

If you have any questions please call the Parish Office at 209-532-7139.

God bless you for your help in this Advent season!

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
"That the most Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege from Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, was kept free of every stain of original sin." Pope Pius IX, "Ineffabilis Deus"

Monday, December 9
St. Patrick’s Catholic Church
Masses at 8:00 am and 6:30 pm
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Mass at 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 celebrará el domingo 8 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 8
Mass at 3:00 PM
Potluck and Mariachi will follow in the Parish Hall!
Everyone is welcome - please bring a dish to share.

Share the spirit of Christmas
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.

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 1st Quarter of 2020 (January, February, March), please let Sandra Betti know by Thursday, December 6th. Please call 532-7139, ext. 109, or email your dates to sandra@stpatssonora.org, or leave a note in the Parish Office.

Thank you for your ministry!

December 1, 2019

The First Sunday of Advent
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

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

Jackie Boling  Lois Marzocchi
RaeAnn Bozzo  Rosie Napier
Anna Davidson  Jan Opie
Aldo Diaz  Gloria Patania
Claudia Day Fossum  Nunci Patania
Diane Goodspeed  Chuck & Pat Peshia
Ed Hall  Juan Pulido
Eileen Hogan  Mary Russell
A. J. Holmes  Connie Scott
Jeanne Kiely  Clay Sweeney
Rosemarie Lapan  Dan Ward
Ashlie Lotz

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

Prepare the way for the Lord...
Advent Penance Service
Servicio Penitencial de Adviento

Advent Penance Services in the Mother Lode
† Monday Dec 9, 6:30 pm, St. Patrick’s, Angels Camp
† Tuesday Dec 10, 6:30 pm, St. Patrick’s, Sonora
† Wednesday Dec 11, 6:30 pm St. Andrew’s, San Andreas
† Thursday Dec 12, All Saints, Twain Harte
  (time TBA)
† Friday Dec 13, 4:00 pm, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
  Big Oak Flat

As we enter the holy season of Advent, let us remember those less fortunate, especially as the weather grows colder. The St. Patrick’s Food Pantry is in need of donations. Any contribution of food is welcome, but what the Pantry needs most right now is: pasta, pasta sauce, soups (canned or packaged), jelly/jam (small jars), and boxed dinners such as Rice-A-Roni, Mac & Cheese. 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.

November meeting Update:
St. Patrick’s Pastoral Council began to consider how it can best advise Fr. Banka on our Pastoral Council Statutes: Proclaiming God’s word, celebrating the sacraments, caring for the faithful, promoting the mission of the Church to the world, and being a good steward of parish resources.

Two specific actions are being considered for the near future: 1.) Naming three additional council members from Our Lady of Mount Carmel mission to focus on the needs of that part of the parish, and 2.) Holding an open house in January to introduce current Council members, review the past year’s Council efforts, and to hear from parishioners about their concerns, needs and recommendations to further the Parish’s growth into a joy-filled community of Christ.

All Council meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be held December 17th, at 6:30 pm in Room 6 of the Parish Hall in Sonora.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Art & Environment
Place Keepers 2020

Join hands and be a part of a beautiful ministry - tending to the art and environment of our lovely church. No experience necessary, and you’ll get lots of help if needed! This is an opportunity to have fun, creative, and quiet time with the Lord. Work with a partner or individually. We all have unique talents, and OLMC needs yours!

Call Ellen if you have any questions or suggestions: 962-7617

“I was sick, and you visited me.” (Matthew 25:36)
**Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date**

**Monday 12/9 ~** Immaculate Conception, Mass at 8:00 am and 6:30 pm St. Patrick’s, 4:00 pm OLMC

**Tuesday 12/10 ~** Advent Penance Service, 6:30 pm St. Patrick’s

**Friday 12/13 ~** Advent Penance Service, 4:00 pm OLMC

**Sunday 12/15 ~** Blessing of the new Church doors! After the 11:00 am Mass, St. Patrick’s

**Tuesday 12/17 ~** Pastoral Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Parish Hall Rm. 6

**Tuesday 12/24 ~** Christmas Eve, OLMC Mass at 4:00 pm; St. Patrick’s 5:00 pm and Midnight

**Wednesday 12/25 ~** Christmas Day Mass 9:00 am OLMC; 10:00 am St. Patrick’s; Noon St. Anne’s

**Tuesday 12/31 ~** New Year’s Eve, Adoration 11:00 pm ~ Mass at Midnight, St. Patrick’s

**Wednesday 1/1/2020 ~** New Year’s Day Mass at 9:00 am, St. Patrick’s

Mass for the Intentions of the Week

**Saturday November 30 ~ Sunday December 8**

**Saturday** 5:00 pm Mitch Woods

**Sunday** 7:30 am Angela Brown

9:00 am Alvena Leal

Catherine Bentz

11:00 am Lupe Diaz

Joan Holland

5:00 pm Adolfo Negrete

Alicia Sanchez

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

**Monday**

8:00 am Shane Connor

**Tuesday**

8:00 am Souls in Purgatory

**Wednesday**

8:00 am Mitch Woods

**Thursday**

8:00 am Stevenson Family

Lupe Diaz

**Friday**

8:00 am Joan Lynch Bauer

K.J.B. Kiely (*Happy Birthday*)

**Saturday**

5:00 pm Jack McCoy

Bill & Pam Stout (*Healing*)

**Sunday**

7:30 am Adolfo Negrete

9:00 am Tete Arellano

Stevenson Family

11:00 am Pierrette Loiseau

Carol Ann Cervce

5:00 pm Lupe Diaz

Alicia Sanchez

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday December 2 ~ Sunday December 8**

**Monday:** Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday:** Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35-10:1

**Sunday:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-2

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday December 1 ~ Saturday December 7**

**Sunday:** First Sunday of Advent; World AIDS Awareness Day

**Tuesday:** St. Francis Xavier

**Wednesday:** St. John Damascene

**Friday:** St. Nicholas; First Friday

**Saturday:** St. Ambrose; First Saturday; Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

**Weekly Offerings**

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<th>Weekly Goal $ 10,000</th>
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*CCHD: St. Pat’s $606; OLMC $121
Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!"
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Parish Associate
St. Patrick Church

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