St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf be cleared;
then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing!

Isaiah 35:5–6

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

“The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.”
At the outset, I must declare with great pride that I am most satisfied as a priest in the Catholic Church and in the Congregation of the Missions of the Northern India Province. Hailing from the south-eastern state of India, Odisha, I am the first of three kids of my parents born in a remote village to a middle class farmer family. I began my early schooling in the Catholic Mission residential school run by the Vincentian fathers in Odisha. Inspired by the life and works of the priests, I decided to join the seminary. I was picked as a candidate and was sent to the apostolic school for studies. After the completion of my schooling, I joined the minor seminary and completed the rest of the priestly training and was ordained a priest on 1 January 1987. Of the 31 years of my priesthood, I have spent 30 years in India serving in the vineyard of the Lord in various apostolates, viz., as a co-pastor and pastor, Minor Seminary Director, Principal in Higher Secondary Schools, Rector and teacher in the Major Seminaries and as an administrator both in the Congregation of the Missions as well as in the diocese.

During the first three quarters of the year 2018, I was in Ethiopia as a missionary priest helping out in the Major Seminary of the Ethiopian Province of our Congregation of the Missions. As formation to priesthood is one of the key areas of the Catholic Church, the Vincentians in Ethiopia depended greatly, since its inception, on foreign missionaries. A great majority of the priests are formed by foreign missionaries in this province.

On the very day of my arrival in Ethiopia, one Irish confreere gave me a piece of advice. He said, “Mathew, being in Ethiopia, you have to be very slow and you have to be very patient.” True to his advice, I realized that in order to be acceptable and successful, I needed to follow their rhythm and style. I started attending classes on Amharic, the state language, and began to adopt and appreciate their life style, culture, and food habits. Very soon I got acceptance and appreciation that I was for them. Though 66% percent are Christians yet 0.07% only is Catholic. Therefore, the Catholic youth is very much swayed away with the church practices of the other Christian denominations, viz., Orthodox, and Pentecostal groups.

The whole of Ethiopia has only one Major Seminary situated in the capital city of Addis Ababa. The total number of seminarians of all the dioceses and congregations are only 120. The major reason responsible for this small number could be not only for the Catholic minority, but also for the non-appreciation of the practice of celibacy as opposed to the presence of married clergy both in the Oriental rite as well as in the Orthodox Church in the country.

Though the country is poor and educationally backward, yet there is faith in Ethiopia. People practice their religious faith steadfastly. It is very impressive to witness the celebrations of different feasts and festivals conducted and to see people going to churches in great numbers. The Ethiopian Rite is very special and the chanting is very solemn, unique and beautiful, as that of the Gregorian chant.

I am very happy and excited to work as a missionary and a teacher in the seminary in this ancient country of Christianity, of culture, traditions and the land of the origin of first man and the land where coffee was found first. The people are very warm hearted, simple, and loving. However, the work of formation is highly tough and challenging due to the high rate of poverty, widespread HIV, drug addiction, other social evils and the poor educational system. Nevertheless, I enjoy being in Ethiopia to make a difference. I am so happy to share with you a great miracle that took place during the last Easter holidays when I visited different parishes and met many youth. I managed to attract 11 more new candidates for the Congregation. They are going to commence their studies in next October, thereby adding to the number 11 of the past so many years. Therefore, I earnestly solicit generosity of some souls to help these seminarians to pursue their studies in philosophy and theology and thereby become preachers of Jesus’ mission.

My primary purpose to visit the USA was not only to see this country of excitement and have new experiences as I had never before, but also to establish a link with the Congregation of the Missions (CM) of Ethiopian Province and my seminarians. I am so grateful to Fr. Samuel West, the Pastor of St. Patrick’s Church in Sonora, who extended to me a very warm welcome when I wrote to him and he was so kind to invite me just with the simple recommendation of Fr. Joseph Lawrence. Although I did not get any place for ministry during this summer, yet I am exceedingly thankful to Frs. Samuel and Joseph, who were so generous to share their turn to offer holy Masses, both in St. Patrick’s church as well as in Groveland.

(Cont. next page)
September 9, 2018

Father Mathew’s Message, cont.

I am very much impressed to see in a short period of time how this parish is being administered, how different charitable organizations function, how different voluntary groups come forward to study the Word of God, how people come together to study different church related topics, how people themselves come forward to feed the poor, how people contribute to adopt a village in India, how new catechumens and children for receiving confirmation are prepared and how different language groups come to prepare the liturgy well ahead of time. There are still many more programs which the pastor is undertaking and the diocese is organizing to build Christian community. I shall go away with lots of sweet memories of the love and appreciation of the people of this parish. I wish I will get the chance to come again to do my summer ministry in this diocese. May God bless Fr. Samuel West, Fr. Joseph Lawrence, and St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, Sonora!

Rev. Dr. Mathew Nayak, C.M.

Never forget ~ Pray for the souls of those who died on September 11, 2001; for their loved ones who still grieve, for all those who serve in our military, and for an end to terrorism everywhere.

This Week in our Parish

Sunday 9/9 ~ Meet & Greet: YLI

Monday 9/10 ~ St. Pat’s Altar & Rosary Society
Potluck luncheon and Meeting, 11:30 am Parish Hall

Wednesday 9/12 ~ Religious Education Classes
2nd Grade to Confirmation begin! Details here

Thursday 9/13 ~ OLMC: Religious Study
The Prophets: Messengers of God’s Mercy
OLMC Parish House, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Saturday 9/15 ~ YLI Potato Bar Luncheon and Bunco, 11:30 am, St. Patrick’s Parish Hall

Saturday 9/15 ~ Altar Duty: Jeanne Kiely, Martha Gandee

Sunday 9/16 ~ Meet & Greet: Religious Ed & Teens

Sunday 9/16 ~ Religious Education Classes
Kindergarten & 1st Grade begin! Details here

Potluck Luncheon and Meeting!
Monday, September 10
11:30 am, St. Patrick’s Parish Hall

Bring your favorite dish to share. Please join us, and bring a friend! Meeting will follow the luncheon.

Baked Potato Bar Luncheon/ Bunco Games

Saturday, Sept 15
St. Patrick’s Parish Hall
Doors open at 11:30 am
All Adults welcome!
$15 per person

Advance tickets or reservations suggested
For more information, call Vicki @ 532-6010

Religious Education Classes Begin...

Kindergarten and First Grade
Sundays 10:15 through 11:00 Family Mass
Includes Liturgy of the Word for Children
Begins Sunday, September 16th
Downstairs in the Parish Hall
We still need teachers for Sunday mornings!

2nd Grade through Confirmation
Begins Wednesday, September 12th
6:30-7:30 pm - Parish Hall

PRE-REGISTRATION is helpful!
Forms are in the church vestibule, hall, and office.
Baptismal certificates are necessary unless baptized at St. Patrick’s.

Please return the forms to the Parish Office or mail to:
St. Patrick’s Church
116 W. Bradford St.
Sonora, CA 95370
Please Pray for the Sick in our Parish, and their family members.

Catherine Bentz  Joseph Murtagh
Al Biedrzycki       Juan Pinela
Ken & Jackie Bolling  Bob Porcella
Rae Ann Bozzo       Juan Pulido
Vern & Jo Froehlich  Mike Schirmer
A. J. Holmes         Joshua Stevenson
Donald C. Kellogg    Clay Sweeney
Bill & Rolene Kiesling  Mitch Woods
Kristine Kitamura    Jean Wobbe

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

St. Patrick’s Christmas Fair Raffle

Find treasures hidden in your home and donate them to the Christmas Fair Raffle! You probably already have items in your closets that would make great raffle prizes. How about those unopened gifts, those pretty or useful items you’ve barely used, or those antiques that you’ve never put out on display? We could also use gift cards, game or theater tickets, overnight stays at your cabin, beach, or lake home, several lessons you might teach or coach, even a cooking lesson or dinner prepared at someone’s home. Be creative!

Items are needed by mid-November. We hope to have many raffle items at the Christmas Fair fundraiser this year. Please help us by donating things, big or small, for this fun event. We will need them by mid-November. Please contact the parish office 532-7139 or Kathy Casas 770-5987 if you would like to donate.

Thank you for your generosity!

St. Anne’s Catholic Church in Columbia has memorials that can be sent in honor of a lost loved one. Please contact Judy Wilder for more information. (209) 532-9422

Medaase!

“Thank you” does not adequately express the gratitude for all the support given me for my recent mission trip to Ghana, Africa. We are a universal church experiencing the same type of needs, joys and sorrows, though some at a greater intensity. Through the kindness of seminarians, priests, and the people of the villages, I was able to witness the church alive in Ghana. I pray, through the Eucharistic Lord, that the family of Ghana experienced the universal love shared through all the parishioners of St. Patrick’s.

In Christ,
Marla Rumbaugh

After all morning Masses on Sunday, September 23rd, the Knights of Columbus will be hosting a hot breakfast in the Parish Hall. For only $5.00 per person, you will get French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, a cup of fruit, juice and coffee. Tickets will be available after each Mass this weekend. Tickets are also available in the Parish Office. All proceeds from this breakfast will support the efforts of the Knights of Columbus, as they strive to bring Christ to our community by helping those in need.

Fundraiser Flute Recital

with our Music Director Sandra Betti on flute, and pianist Diane Day.
Saturday, September 29th
2:00 pm
St. Patrick’s Parish Hall

This concert will include classical music by Telemann, Vidala, and Poulenc; show tunes from West Side Story, and a few of our favorite sacred songs. Light refreshments will be served after the performance. This recital is free of charge, but donations will be gratefully accepted. All proceeds will be used toward the sound system in the church, and new equipment for the music ministry at St. Patrick’s Parish.

Music ministry provides beauty, joy, comfort, inspiration, and prayer for our communal liturgies and parish celebrations. This is possible due to the generous sharing of time and talent of diverse and committed members. If you can carry a tune and want to learn, come sing with us! Please call the Music Office for more information: 209-532-7139, ext. 109
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.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday September 8 ~ Sunday September 16
Saturday 5:00 pm Ken Franck ★ Mary Ann Widerman ★
Sunday 7:30 am Irene Bryant ★ Marie Evans ★
9:00 am Margaret & Gijsbert Spilt ★ Hezzy Arellano ★
11:00 am William Schrag ★ Adolfo Negrete ★
5:00 pm Lupe Diaz ★ Bianca Guerrero, Happy Birthday!

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

Monday 8:00 am Millie Wright ★
Tuesday 8:00 am Vicki Pacholka ★
Wednesday 8:00 am Juan Barba
Thursday 8:00 am Joe Hart ★ Marge Nath, Happy Birthday!
Friday 8:00 am Leo & Doris Fletcher ★ Gabriel Gyamfi
Saturday 5:00 pm Margaret & Gijsbert Spilt ★
Sunday 7:30 am Fred Rodriguez ★
9:00 am Deceased members of the YLI ★ Adolfo Negrete ★
11:00 am James Robert Kindle ★ Vicki Pacholka ★
5:00 pm Lupe Diaz ★ Alicia Sanchez ★

Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date
Tuesday 9/18 ~ Pastoral Council Meeting, 6:30 pm Room #6, Parish Hall
Saturday 9/22 ~ All Saints Parish Festival, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, All Saints Catholic Church, Twain Harte
Saturday 9/22 & Sunday 9/23 ~ Second Collection Catholic Charities Sunday
Sunday 9/23 ~ KOC Breakfast, St. Patrick’s Parish Hall after all Masses, $5 per person
Sunday 9/23 ~ Catechetical Sunday
Saturday 9/29 ~ Music Ministry Fundraiser, Concert at 2:00 pm, Parish Hall

Readings for the Week
Monday September 10 ~ Sunday September 16
Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7, 12; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-17; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24; Lk 6:27-38
Friday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1b-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13, 17-18; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Sunday: Is 50:5-9a; Ps 116:1-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

Saints and Special Observances
Sunday September 9 ~ Saturday September 15
Sunday: Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents Day; Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) 5779 begins at sunset
Tuesday: Patriot Day
Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Mary
Thursday: St. John Chrysostom
Friday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Saturday: Our Lady of Sorrows

Weekly Offerings

Weekly Goal $10,000 8-26-18 Week 34 Participation 23% August Totals 9-2-18 Week 35 Participation 25%

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Parish Services: St. Pat’s $444, OLMC $156 Catholic University: St. Pat’s $531, OLMC $170
Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!