St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News

... in Our Parish

BLESSED ARE THEY

The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 17, 2019

WHO HOPE IN THE LORD

“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 frsam@stpatssonora.org. God bless.

In Christ, Fr. Sam West, Pastor
In this week’s Gospel, our Lord Jesus unveils His plan, His “blueprint,” for our true happiness. We hear Luke’s version of our Lord’s most widely known teaching - the Beatitudes. The Gospel we hear today differs from the account of the presentation of the Beatitudes described in the Gospel of Matthew. Each Evangelist, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, chooses the words and description of the setting to emphasize a different feature of Jesus’ teaching. In this case, St. Luke describes Jesus presenting the “Beatitudes” on a “stretch of level ground,” whereas, in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches His disciples the Beatitudes after “he went up the mountain.” For Matthew, sitting down and teaching from the mountain signifies Jesus’ authority to teach the Jewish people as one who sits on the “the chair of Moses.” In Luke’s Gospel, our Lord’s teaching is universal, for all nations and not only for the Jewish people, represented by standing on “the level ground.”

To have a greater understanding of Jesus’ “Beatitudes,” we first want to consider what the word “blessed” meant to those who heard our Lord’s presentation. The Greek word translated as “blessed” means objectively happy, more than just a “feeling” of contentment. For the people of Jesus’ time, happiness was not so much a feeling as it was an objective way to judge the quality of a person’s moral character and the goodness of their life. The ancient Greek philosopher Plato thought only people who practiced justice could be happy, no matter how they felt about themselves. In comparison, our culture today seems to promote that happiness is primarily measured on how you feel about your life. Accordingly, feeling happy is only possible if you have what most people think is necessary to be secure, content, and comfortable - wealth, health, sexual pleasure, a life free of pain, accomplishments, the respect and adoration of others, etc. As with most of His assessments of our human standards, Jesus turns what most people consider necessary for happiness upside down. Rather than seeking and desiring riches, comfort, health, sensual pleasure, honors, and power as the way to happiness, our Lord says it is by embracing the opposite of these earthly, self-centered desires that a person can have real happiness, sharing in His Divine Life. He instructs us in His plan for our happiness to take a different approach. Rather than do what the world claims is necessary to be happy, Jesus invites us to follow the path He shows us in His own earthly life. Our Lord freely chose to become poor, to experience hunger, to weep, and to be hated and insulted by those He came to save. To share in His heavenly life, a life of the only true happiness, we follow Jesus on the way of the Cross - sacrifice and self-giving love. Each of the Beatitudes instructs us to let go of the worldly, selfish standards of happiness and to submit ourselves to His measure of what it is to be truly blessed. Christ tells us those who are poor, meek, suffering and despised by the world will be happy. When we experience these trials, Jesus tells us to “Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven.”

Our Lord Jesus does not only tell us what is necessary to be truly blessed in the Beatitudes, He also shows us in the Gospels and in the Sacraments how we are to live out these Beatitudes. In the gift of the Holy Eucharist, our Lord gives Himself and embodies the model of how we can share in the true happiness of heaven even now here on earth. In making Himself look like a small, flat piece of bread, Jesus shows us His poverty, His meekness, His suffering, His Mercy, and His peace. When receiving the Eucharist, Holy Communion, with the proper disposition, we benefit from the sanctifying grace we need to follow Jesus and fulfil the Beatitudes in our daily lives.

Bishop’s Ministry Appeal (BMA) 2019
At all the Masses this Sunday, the Chair of our Finance Council, Mr. Duke York, explained the importance of our financial support for the Bishop’s Ministry Appeal (BMA). The theme this year is “As One, Serving the Lord.” All the parishes of the Diocese work together, as one, to support the mission of our dear Bishop Myron Cotta – to guide us to accept and respond to our Lord’s plan for our eternal happiness. Our Lord Jesus has entrusted Bishop Cotta with the responsibility of sanctifying, teaching, and governing us, the people of the Diocese of Stockton. The dedicated work of Bishop Cotta and the staff of the Pastoral Center in Stockton benefits our own parish. The money contributed to the BMA provides resources for training our devoted catechists, supports our Teen & Young Adult ministries, guides our many social justice ministries, encourages ongoing Adult faith formation, and supports our future priests and deacons. Our new Bishop has made it a priority to promote and support vocations to the priesthood from our own diocese and even our parish. Supporting the BMA will help Him in his effort to recruit greatly needed future priests to continue to preach the Gospel and bring us our Lord in the Eucharist.

I am sincerely grateful to all who have generously contributed to the successful appeals we had for the last four years. Last year, St. Patrick’s exceeded our goal of $55,013 by $7,152! The goal for this year is $57,500, which can be easily reached if we have the same level of participation. For those who gave last year, your family should have received a letter asking for a new pledge for 2019. I humbly ask you to consider giving at least what you gave last year and, for the families who did not have an opportunity to give last year, please consider what you can contribute to help us increase our participation.

Mary’s Mantle Consecration
Finally, our Spiritual Development Team, At One with the Spirit, is offering a special consecration to Our Blessed Mother which will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6th and end on April 20th, Holy Saturday. All are invited and encouraged to participate in Mary’s Mantle Consecration during this upcoming season of Lent. The point of the consecration is to entrust ourselves to the Blessed Mother’s maternal guidance and protection to assist us to more fully know Jesus’ plan for our happiness and more faithfully live out the Beatitudes. Please check next week’s bulletin for more details on this wonderful opportunity to grow closer to our Lord Jesus with Mary’s unfailing help.

In Christ, Fr. Samuel West
This Week in our Parish

Sunday 2/17 ~ No Meet & Greet
Monday 2/18 ~ Parish Office Closed
Wednesday 2/20 ~ Children’s Choir Orientation Meeting, 6:00 pm Parish Hall
Thursday 2/21 ~ Youth Group 6:30 pm Steinmetz
Saturday 2/23 ~ Bingo, 11:00 am in the Parish Hall!
Saturday 2/23 ~ Altar Duty: Pat Eaton
Sunday 2/24 ~ Meet & Greet: Knights of Columbus

Diocese of Stockton, Office of Religious Education
Ministry Day Conference is April 6, 2019
Register early and pay less! The last day for early registration is Friday February 22. For more information contact Stephanie Rodriguez (209) 546-7652 or visit our website and download the registration form at http://stocktondiocese.org/diocesan-departments/religious-education/diocesan-ministry-day

Join St. Patrick's Children's Choir!

Grades 1-6
Kids: join with other young parishioners in a fun and supportive atmosphere as you learn to sing and share your faith through music. Parents: give the gift of music to your children while enhancing their spiritual life in a most happy and joyful way!

The Children’s Choir will sing the opening hymn, the Glory to God, and the closing hymn for the 11:00 Mass on the first Sunday of every month during the school year. Once a month we will practice for 30 minutes before Religious Ed classes begin on Wednesday evenings. All practices will take place in the Parish Hall.

We will have an orientation meeting on Wednesday, February 20, at 6:00 pm (before Religious Ed classes) in the Parish Hall. Please come with any questions you may have! Our first rehearsal will be the following Wednesday, Feb 27, at 5:45 pm in the Parish Hall.

For further information, please contact Sandra Betti, Music Director for St. Patrick’s Catholic Church Email: sandra@stpatssonora.org Phone: 209-532-7139, ext. 109

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

Diane Abdelnour  Bill & Rolene Kiesling
Rich Abdelnour, Jr.  Kristine Kitamura
Al Biedrzycki  Lois Marzocchi
Ingrid Blom  Judi Maguire
Jackie Boling  Cindy Merritt
Cheryl Bozzo  Gary Pizl
Jan Buck  Mike Schirmer
Bill Gookin  Clay Sweeney
Ed Hall  Roy Volpetti
A. J. Holmes  Mitch & Trish Woods
Donald C. Kellogg

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

A new Religious Study will begin on February 28 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. “Fulfilled - Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism.” This study will explore how in the Old Testament, God began laying a foundation for the beautiful traditions of the Catholic Faith. Classes are from 4:00-5:30 pm on Thursdays, in the OLMC Parish House.

Some of the topics covered will include:
† Explaining how Jesus fulfills the Old Testament.
† Becoming equipped to share your faith concisely.
† Understanding how the Tabernacle’s design and its function is a blueprint for the Faith.
† Learning how to answer incomplete and non-Catholic interpretations of the Bible.
† Examining your own faith and grow deeper in your relationship with Christ.

Please come to watch and discuss the material presented in the video and in the handout that I will email you in advance. An optional book ($11) by Sonja Corbitt is available. Let me know if you would like me to order a book for you.

Schedule:
Feb 28 - Introduction
March 7 - A Home for God
March 14 - Keeping Time with God
March 21 - A Kingdom of Priests
March 28 - Sacrificial Love
April 4 - Perfected by His Presence
April 11 - Immersed in His Grace

Please sign up for this class as soon as possible, so you can receive your Session 1 handout.

For more information and to sign up, please contact Warren Belisle at 962-4309 or email: bellale@msn.com

Important Dates for RCIA
Sun, March 10: Rite of Sending
Sun, March 17: Penitential Rite for Candidates
Sun, March 24: 1st Scrutiny
Sun, March 31: 2nd Scrutiny
Sun, April 7: 3rd Scrutiny

All rites will take place during the 11:00 am Mass.
Mass for the Week

Saturday February 16 ~ Sunday February 24
Saturday 5:00 pm Jack McCoy
Jack & LaVon Woodcock

Sunday 7:30 am Aurora Andre
Adolfo Negrete
9:00 am Deceased members of the YLI
Sherry Lynes
11:00 am Robin Seamon
John O’Quinn
5:00 pm Adolfo Negrete
Alicia Sanchez

We say the rosary after each 8:00 am weekday Mass.
Monday 8:00 am Corrie Cardon (Healing)
Socorro Gamdarilla
Tuesday 8:00 am Duane Chatlain (Healing)
Marylynn Bond
Wednesday 8:00 am No Intentions
Thursday 8:00 am Susanna Riedel
Herlinda Balbuena
Friday 8:00 am Lizbeth Gutierrez
Sharon Rogers
Saturday 5:00 pm Victor Espinosa
Sunday 7:30 am John Njirich
Adolfo Negrete
9:00 am Joe Johnston
11:00 am Manuel Vieira
Charlie & Fran Barberini (Healing)
5:00 pm Alicia Sanchez
Lizbeth Gutierrez

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday February 18 ~ Sunday February 24
Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-26; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-15, 18-19; Mk 8:22-26
Thursday: Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mk 8:27-33
Friday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19
Saturday: Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13
Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday February 17 ~ Saturday February 23
Sunday: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Presidents’ Day
Thursday: St. Peter Damian
Friday: Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
Saturday: St. Polycarp

Weekly Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal $10,000</th>
<th>2-3-19 Participation N/A%</th>
<th>2-10-19 Participation N/A%</th>
<th>February Totals to date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Offerings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Pat’s</td>
<td>$6,344</td>
<td>$3,574</td>
<td>$9,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLMC</td>
<td>$816</td>
<td>$838</td>
<td>$1,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-giving</td>
<td>$1,611</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$1,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$8,771</td>
<td>$4,412</td>
<td>$13,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAST YEAR</td>
<td>$9,080</td>
<td>$7,052</td>
<td>$16,132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maintenance Offering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal $15,000</th>
<th>2-3-19 Participation N/A%</th>
<th>2-10-19 Participation N/A%</th>
<th>February Totals to date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Pat’s</td>
<td>$828</td>
<td>$113</td>
<td>$941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLMC</td>
<td>$95</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$923</td>
<td>$118</td>
<td>$1,041</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!

Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date
Tuesday 3/5 ~ YLI Minestrone Soup Luncheon
Wednesday 3/6 ~ Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
Sunday 3/17 ~ St. Patrick’s Day
Saturday 4/6 ~ Diocese of Stockton Ministry Day
Thursday 4/11 ~ Chrism Mass, Cathedral of the Annunciation, Stockton
Thursday 4/18 ~ Holy Thursday
Friday 4/19 ~ Good Friday
Saturday 4/20 ~ Easter Vigil
Sunday 4/21 ~ Easter Sunday
Saturday 5/11 ~ Mother Lode Round-Up Parade
Sunday 5/12 ~ Mother’s Day
Wednesday 5/15 ~ Confirmation Mass, 6:00 pm
Saturday 6/1 ~ Music Ministry Retreat!