St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish  
Sonora, California

The GOOD News  
. . . in Our Parish

October 7  
27th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

Jesus said,  
“Let the children come to me;  
do not prevent them,  
for the kingdom of God  
belongs to such as these.  
Mark 10:14

“\textbf{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
Father Sam’s Message

In today’s Gospel, the Pharisees confront Jesus, asking Him, “Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?” They are questioning Jesus on the indissoluble character of marriage, which is the most fundamental good of human society. Because the Pharisees challenge our Lord on marriage, it is reasonable to assume there was controversy over how to define marriage and how it should be lived in their society over 2000 years ago. Of course, confusion over what is a marriage should sound very familiar to us today. In His response to the Pharisees, our Lord affirms marriage as a life-long commitment between one man and one woman. Even His own disciples struggle with what Jesus was telling them about marriage. The text says they “again questioned” Him. They could not comprehend how it is possible for a man to stay committed to the same woman for the rest of his life. Jesus responds unambiguously, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries commits adultery against her…”

Why was it so difficult to accept our Lord’s clear teaching on marriage? Jesus gives the answer. He says because of the “hardness of heart,” or we can say because of self-centered motives. People today have a hard time accepting Christ’s teaching on marriage for the same reason. In the minds of many, marriage is reduced to a humanly-defined institution with the sole purpose of having personal security, receiving personal benefits, and finding personal fulfillment. But if we understand marriage as Jesus and the Church teaches, we see marriage is NOT exclusively about the parties in the marriage finding contentment for themselves. Marriage is about willingly sacrificing oneself for the good and happiness of the other as well as the good of children and the good of the whole of society. If we are to believe Jesus, then there is no other option than to see marriage as unbreakable and life-long. “Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”

God’s original plan for marriage is for perfect harmonious unity of the two, “male and female,” “become one flesh.” A married couple, a man and woman, is called to be a visible sign of the love of the three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity. The image of the Trinity in marriage is fully realized in the primary good of marriage which is children. It is not by accident that today’s Gospel passage has two parts: a section about marriage and a section about children. The unity between a man and a woman naturally leads to children. First, Jesus says beautiful words about marriage and then He says, “Let the children come to me!”

After the fall, God’s plan for us was obscured, and human beings took the liberty to reinvent themselves. Because of our weakened, sinful state after the fall, human beings have introduced divorce and remarriage, created new arrangements, redefined marriage and invented new gender identities for themselves. But as our Lord Jesus says, this was not so “In the beginning…”

Many people today do not believe the words from the first book of the Bible: “God made them male and female.” When God created us male and female, it was to fulfill His plan to form a perfect complementarity of male and female capable of being co-creators of new human life. This is the one “orientation” intended by God. For reasons not fully understood, some individuals have feelings or a physical attraction toward people of the same gender (a man toward another man or a woman toward another woman). We refer to this as “same-sex attraction.” In some, this attraction is very strong and obsessive. Same-sex attraction can often be traced to childhood experiences of trauma, neglect, or abuse. We must always have compassion toward those persons undergoing same-sex attraction because they are not able to experience the joy of marriage. For others, this attraction is less strong, and, in time, they are able to fall in love with a person of the opposite sex, marry, and have a family. We do not use the word “orientation” to describe what is experienced by these individuals. Instead, we use the word “attraction” or “inclination.” The Catholic Church has beautiful documents and compassionate ministries to support those who experience same-sex attraction (see website courageRC.org & lookup 2006 document from USCCB: “Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care”).

God does not call every person to the gift of marriage, but each one of us is called to give of ourselves in self-giving love. Those who are not called to the sacrificial love in marriage can still have a fulfilling and fruitful life. In addition to priests and religious faithfully serving the Church, God calls people to remain single their whole life or, after the death of a spouse, to remain a widow/widower so they can fully dedicate themselves in loving service to others. No matter what “state of life,” a person who has committed and centered themselves in Christ can show and grow in self-giving love, modeling the Divine Love of the Trinity. In addition, we are all called to have good and chaste friendships, which will also help us to grow in self-giving love.

In Christ, Fr. Sam West
The Catholic Mass
Wednesday Oct 10, 6:45 - 7:45 pm
St. Patrick’s Catholic Church
Fr. Sam West will be offering our Confirmation Class a step-by-step session on the Catholic Mass. Anyone interested in learning more about the Mass is welcome to attend.

October is Respect Life Month
40 Days for Life
Our Catholic faith calls us to participate in our communities. That same faith calls us to protect life and to promote dignity and respect for all human beings from conception to natural death. We at St. Patrick’s Church will participate in 40 Days for Life on each Monday in October, by standing on the corner of Greenley and Mono Way from 9 am to 5 pm, as we give witness to the sanctity of all human life. We pray for the protection of the unborn and their mothers, and an end to abortion. Please try to give us one hour per week. Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Office.
This month we were so blessed to welcome Maggie Durgin and Zackery Daniel into full communion with the Church. May God richly bless you both!

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

Catherine Bentz
Al Biedrzyci
Ken & Jackie Bolling
Rae Ann Bozzo
Evelyn Brom
Angela Brown
Ernie Cuzzocreo
John DeHerrera
Vern & Jo Froehlich
Ed Hall
A. J. Holmes
Donald C. Kellogg
Bill & Rolene Kiesling

Kristine Kitamura
Joseph Murtagh
Jim Napier
Nuncy Patania
Juan Pinela
Bob Porcella
Juan Pulido
Mike Schirmer
Jim Soderberg
Joshua Stevenson
Clay Sweeney
Mitch Woods

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

COME AND SEE . . . GHANA:
You are cordially invited to come, see and share in the experience of my journey to Ghana. The presentation will be on Sunday October 14th at 2:00 pm, in rooms 3&4 of the Parish Hall at St. Patrick’s.

Hope to see you there! Marla

This month we were so blessed to welcome Maggie Durgin and Zackery Daniel into full communion with the Church.

May God richly bless you both!

The Autumn Flute Recital on Saturday was absolutely incredible! Sandra Betti on flute and Diane Day on piano performed world-class renditions of music ranging from favorite hymns to Baroque to Broadway musicals. Some left the audience blinking back tears at the exquisite beauty of the duets. Not only was the music stunningly beautiful, but we were also introduced to the “language” of the composers, their personal background and composition history. I’m sure I speak for all who attended in expressing great appreciation for such a giving Music Director. Thank you Sandra!! Lorna Dillon Wick

Attention - all parents with teenagers:
St. Patrick’s Youth Group is starting!
Sunday, Oct 21 6:15 pm ~ Steinmetz House, upstairs

We joyfully welcome Angela Cordes as our new Coordinator of Youth Ministry!

Food Fun Fellowship in Christ

Hello, my name is Angela Cordes. I was born and raised in California; I love music, art, being outdoors, reading, dancing, and singing, but above everything, I love my Faith.

“To love God is the greatest romance, to seek Him is the greatest adventure and to find Him is the greatest human achievement.”

~St. Augustine

I am 21 years old and I have been a parishioner here at St. Patrick’s for the past five years. In that time, it has been my joy to be involved with choir, the Youth Group Core Team, and the Foothill Pregnancy Center. Thanks to your generosity, in 2016, I went with Fr. Sam and other young adults to World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. This experience left me with a desire to follow my Lord even more closely. Later that same year, I traveled to Austria to study theology and philosophy with Franciscan University of Steubenville.

The following year, I graduated from Columbia College and was accepted to serve with NET ministries. NET is a group of Catholic young adults who travel across the U.S., inspiring young Catholics to know Christ and live out our Faith to the full. With NET Ministries, my team and I visited over 15 states, put on 120 retreats and reached over 7,000 youth in parishes and schools. It was a beautiful adventure, and an incredible blessing in my life.

This past summer, I was asked to be the Coordinator of Youth Ministry here at St. Patrick’s, and it is my great joy to be able to give back to the parish that has helped me to grow in my faith so much. If you are in high school and are looking to share in an adventure, Youth Group will be starting up again on Sunday, October 21st! Please keep me and all the youth here in your prayers, as we seek to know Christ even more and dive deeper into the Faith of His Church. “You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13)
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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday October 8 ~ Sunday October 14

Monday: Gal 1:6-12; Ps 111:1b-2, 7-9, 10c; Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15; Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Ps 117:1b, 2; Lk 11:1-4
Thursday: Gal 3:1-5; Lk 1:69-75; Lk 11:5-13
Friday: Gal 3:7-14; Ps 111:1b-6; Lk 11:15-26
Saturday: Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 11:27-28
Sunday: Wis 7:7-11; Ps 90:12-17; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30 [17-27]

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday October 7 ~ Saturday October 13
Sunday: Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday
Monday: Columbus Day; Canadian Thanksgiving Day
Tuesday: St. Denis and Companions; St. John Leonardi
Thursday: St. John XXIII
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

“We do not be Afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.”
St. John Leonardi

Weekly Offerings

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Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!