St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News
... in Our Parish

March 18, 2018
5th Sunday of Lent

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

John 11:25

“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

Fr. Sam West, Pastor
Fr. Joseph Lawrence,
Parochial Vicar
Mike Kubasek, Deacon
Ron Ivey, Business Manager
Marie Dahlstrand,
Coordinator of Liturgy
Sandra Betti, Music Director
Kathy Casas, Religious Education
Katie McClintock,
Youth Ministry Leader
Gail Andrus, Receptionist
Jan DePaoli, Administrative Asst.
Emergency Intercessions “8”
Before my message, I would like to express our profound and sincere gratitude to Almighty God for Bishop Stephen Blaire and his 19 years of dedicated service to our Diocese. As he officially begins his retirement, I ask you humbly to continue praying for Bishop Blaire, asking the Good Lord to grant him many joy-filled years. We especially pray our Lord Jesus will continue supporting Bishop Blaire as he recuperates from his recent health issues. On March 15th, our new bishop, Myron Cotta, became the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Stockton. We joyfully welcome our new Bishop and thank God for his appointment. We pledge our full support to Bishop Cotta as he begins, we pray, many years of service to our Diocese.

In the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we hear of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. We can think of this event as a “test of Faith” for His closest friends: His Apostles, Lazarus’ sisters Mary and Martha, and also for each of us. To be clear, by using the word “test,” I do not suggest we consider our Loving God as a strict teacher who makes sure we have done all our homework. Another way to describe what Jesus is doing in the raising of Lazarus is that our Lord is giving an “exercise” to strengthen Faith; so we can call it a “faith exercise.” Now our Lord Jesus uses one of the most challenging situations we could ever possibly face, death of a loved one, for this exercise.

First, Jesus gives a “faith exercise” to the Apostles when He tells them He is going back to Judea. They strongly protest because they are afraid to go back to the place where Jesus was nearly arrested and killed. Our Lord tells them, “If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” It is easy to think we have Faith when everything is going our way, in other words, when we “walk during the day.” But when we are faced with difficulties, uncertainty, confrontations, and trials, we “walk at night” and it is much harder to believe. Often our faith is not strong enough to continue trusting God in these dark moments and so “we stumble.” Jesus then challenges His Apostles telling them, “Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe.” Through the death of Lazarus, He is trying to strengthen the faith of His friends. One of life’s hardest “faith exercises” is the experience of death. Having real Faith is to see every trying and difficult moment, including death, as “the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

Through “death,” when seen by the light of Faith in our Lord’s own death and resurrection, we grow in Faith and trust of God. It is only when we are confronted with impossible situations that we can truly grow stronger in real Faith.

Next, Jesus gives a “faith exercise” to His friends, Lazarus’ sisters, Martha and Mary. They both show faith in Jesus in an initial dialogue with Him in the Gospel text. Martha says, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God...” However, when challenged, there is hesitation and excuses. When our Lord Jesus says, “take away the stone,” Martha says, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.” Our Lord Jesus sets up this whole scene. He has everything in control from start to finish. Through the death of Lazarus, our Lord allows Martha and Mary and even Himself to suffer the pain of loss. He does this for some greater good to come from it – the gift of Faith. At the end of this “test,” not only is the faith of Mary and Martha strengthened, we hear “many came to believe in Him.” So the “faith exercises” God will permit us to personally endure will not only help us but can also help others in their faith.

The next time we feel our faith faltering, we can think of these moments as “faith exercises” God permits us to experience in order to strengthen our faith. The challenges are really opportunities to strengthen faith. In addition to seeing trials as ways to grow in faith, we also want to do what we can daily to keep our Faith strong in order to be prepared for the trials we will certainly encounter. Just like the muscles of our bodies get weaker without exercise, Faith gets weaker if we are not doing regular “faith workouts.” This can happen slowly, without us noticing, until when we need to call on our Faith in a difficult moment, we realize how weak it is. We can then stumble and fall. Some people assume when a personal crisis hits, such as the death of a loved one, they can just start praying or going to Church again. However, if faith has not been active or exercised, like a muscle that has not been used in a while, it will be very weak and won’t hold up very long. In such a condition, a person is more susceptible to falling into despair and can turn bitter, hardening their hearts. If this happens, then they are not able to see any hope in God and His power over death. So to avoid the possibility of us falling into despair, we want to prepare for the inevitability of suffering and death by keeping our Faith active. We exercise our Faith by daily prayer, doing penance, reading Scripture, participating in the Sacraments, following the teachings of the Church, and performing works of mercy, etc.

A couple of points to remember. First, let us ask for the grace to see every trying and difficult moment, including death, as opportunities to strengthen our Faith. Such moments are how we really grow in our friendship with Jesus and our trust of Him. Secondly, we want to consistently strengthen the gift of Faith through regularly exercising our Faith. We then can truly believe “Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.”

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Patrick, we ask our Heavenly Father to grant us all the grace we need to have the faith to really believe in the gift of eternal life we have been given in our Lord Jesus’ Death and Resurrection.

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

Sun 3/18 ~ No Meet & Greet; St. Patrick’s Day celebration! Parish Hall 12:00 noon

Mon 3/19 ~ Lenten Penance Service, OLMC 4:00 pm

Wed 3/21 ~ Teens! Steinmetz House 6:30 pm

Fri 3/23 ~ Stations of the Cross and Reconciliation
St. Patrick’s, 10:00 am

Fri 3/23 ~ Stations of the Cross, 6:00 pm, followed by Knights of Columbus Fish Fry Fundraiser

Sat 3/24 ~ Altar Duty: Barbara Kay, Rose Kutsch

Sun 3/25 ~ Meet & Greet: Knights of Columbus

OLMC Easter Lilies
During Lent, OLMC parishioners and their families may donate Easter Lilies for a loved one. Please put your donation in an envelope and place it in the collection basket during Lent. Please put “OLMC Easter Lily” on your envelope as well as who the lily is for: “In memory of . . .” or “In honor of . . .” This is a wonderful tradition and our beautiful church will look even more special for Easter.

Stations of the Cross
are prayed every Friday evening in Lent, followed by a Lenten Soup Supper.

Please join us for this wonderful tradition as we remember His sacrifice on the Cross, followed by a beautiful time of fellowship in Christ.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Big Oak Flat ~ 5:00 pm
St. Patrick’s, Sonora ~ 6:00 pm

Holy Week and Easter Services

Come Worship With Us!

March 24-25 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Regular Weekend Mass Schedule
Solemn Procession at 11:00 am, St. Patrick’s

March 29 Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord’s Supper
St. Patrick’s: 7:00 pm
OLMC: 4:00 pm

March 30 Good Friday: Passion of the Lord
St. Patrick’s: Veneration and Communion 12:00 noon
Stations of the Cross and Veneration 6:00 pm
OLMC: Stations of the Cross and Veneration 3:00 pm

March 31 Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil
St. Patrick’s: 8:00 pm

April 1 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
St. Patrick’s: 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 am
OLMC: 7:30, 9:00 am
St. Anne’s (Columbia): 1:00 pm

St. Patrick’s will have a special daytime Lenten service on Friday, March 23rd.
10:00 am Stations of the Cross followed by Reconciliation
This service is especially for our seniors who don’t like to drive at night, but all are welcome!

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry Fundraiser!
Friday, March 23rd
St. Patrick’s Parish Hall
Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm
Fish Fry immediately after Stations
$12 per adult
$6 for first child, all other children in family are free
3 pieces of fish, French fries, coleslaw, bottled water
Soft drinks available for purchase
Proceeds will help replenish our Maintenance Account.
Tickets available in the Parish Office and at the door.

Lenten Penance Services
Monday, March 19th
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Big Oak Flat, CA
4:00 pm

“Don’t be afraid” to go to the Sacrament of Confession, where you will meet Jesus, who forgives you.”
Pope Francis

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

Leanne Abbe-Alcioti
Tete Arellano
Catherine Bentz
Al Biedrzycki
Carolyn Bruning
Jan Buck
Margaret Coroda
Vern & Jo Froehlich
Joe Gamboa
Mitch & Patti Gerner
Bill Gookin
Ed Hall
Joan Holland
A. J. Holmes
Fred Kahl
Bill & Rolene Kiesling
Lois Marzocchi
Dorothy McCargar
Letty Molinari
Pat Newton
Joseph Perez
Mike Schirmer
Monica Steele
Clay Sweeney

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

Divine Mercy Sunday ~ April 8, 2018
Pope John Paul II declared the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy was given to St. Faustina by Jesus. He told her to have the Novena of Divine Mercy prayed starting on Good Friday and through the first week of Easter, culminating on Divine Mercy Sunday. At St. Patrick’s, we will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy daily at the hour of mercy, 3:00 pm, in the church except on Easter Vigil. On Easter Vigil, we will be praying the chaplet in the Parish Hall at 3:00 pm. This is a nine-day novena and includes Easter Sunday. On Divine Mercy Sunday, the festivities start at 1:45 pm with a DVD and refreshments: English in rooms 4/5 and Spanish in room 1. We will then go to the church at 3:00 pm to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in song with alternating English and Spanish verses followed by a benediction.

For further information please contact: Cecilia Woosley@536-4020 or Deb Cushman@533-2756.

Spiritual Growth ~ "Queen of Heaven: Mary's Battle for Souls"
Begins Saturday, April 21, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, St. Patrick’s Parish Hall
This series gives us the intriguing story of Mary, this gentle and perfect mother, and her battle for our souls with Lucifer, the fallen angel. It also delves into the deeper meaning of her annunciation, her sorrows and her “dark night of the soul.” We learn why she is our Queen, and the Mother of our Church.

For more information, please contact Cynthia Dragun @ 209-984-5726. Email: atonewiththespirit@gmail.com
Weekly Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal</th>
<th>3-4-18 Week 9</th>
<th>3-11-18 Week 10</th>
<th>March Totals to Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$10,000</strong></td>
<td>$5,669</td>
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**General Offerings**

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<td>$1,084</td>
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<td>E-giving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>$7,803</td>
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**LAST YEAR**

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2nd Collection, CRS: St. Pat’s $593, OLMC $132
Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday March 19 ~ Sunday March 25**

**Monday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

**Tuesday:** Nm 21:1-4; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

**Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

**Friday:** Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

**Sunday:** Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 (Procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1 -- 15:47

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday March 18 ~ Saturday March 24**

**Sunday:** Fifth Sunday of Lent; Third Scrutiny

**Monday:** St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Tuesday:** Spring Begins

**Friday:** Abstinence; St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

**March 18, 2018**

**The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Weekly Goal:** $10,000

**Week 9**

3-3-18 to 3-10-18

**Week 10**

3-11-18 to 3-18-18

**Week Totals to Date**

$7,328

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**Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date**

**Thursday 3/22** ~ Chrism Mass, Cathedral of the Annunciation, Stockton

**Friday 3/23** ~ Daytime Stations of the Cross and Reconciliation, 10:00 am St. Patrick’s Church

**Friday 3/23** ~ Knights of Columbus Fish Fry!
Following Stations of the Cross, 6:00 pm $12 adult, $6 child

**Thursday 3/29** ~ Holy Thursday

**Friday 3/30** ~ Good Friday

**Saturday 3/31** ~ Easter Vigil

**Sunday 4/1** ~ Easter Sunday

**Wednesday 4/4** ~ Financial Peace University 6:00 pm, St. Patrick’s Parish Hall

**Sunday 4/8** ~ Divine Mercy Sunday

**Saturday 4/14** ~ YLI Bunco and Tostada Bar St. Patrick’s Parish Hall, 11:30 am ~ $15 per person

For regularly scheduled meetings, please check the Master Calendar at www.stpatssonora.org. If you have calendar requests or need to make changes, please email ron@stpatssonora.org.