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
Most of us at one time or another has aspired to be “great” at something. Whether we have dreamed of being a famous rock star or a champion athlete, or have imagined making some great discovery, we have had this desire for “greatness,” especially as a child. I admit to “all of the above” and then some. I want to be the greatest at everything I do or what is the point of doing it in the first place?

In the scene from this Sunday’s Gospel, we see how the Apostles exhibit this desire for greatness, or another term we can use is a desire for “glory.” The text from Mark’s Gospel recounts how, as “the Twelve” were walking with our Lord Jesus to a place called Capernaum, “they had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest.” Our Lord’s Apostles are concerned with being great in the way the world defines it. They seem to fall into the vice of “vainglory” – seeking the praise and attention of others, wanting glory for themselves more than seeking glory for God. After our Lord asks them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” and “they remained silent,” He instructs them, “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” Our Lord is not criticizing their desire for greatness. But He does talk about being great in a very different way than how the world typically defines greatness. Jesus’ measure of greatness is about serving rather than being served. His measure is how much one loves. Striving to be the greatest in the world’s eyes does not lead to the fulfillment of our purpose of loving and serving God and others; it does not lead to eternal life and, therefore, is empty and useless, in other words is “vain.”

The desire for greatness, or wanting to be great, is not wrong. We are called to be great saints. But as with all natural, God-given desires, the desire for “greatness” or “glory” can be misdirected toward something other than what God wants for us. Rather than serving God and others, the desire can easily be misused to seek greatness in other ways – wealth, human praise (fame), power, etc. Motivated by this natural desire, we can fall into the temptation of striving for greatness for ourselves alone, seeking only the admiration of others or even desiring to dominate others. This desire for glory or greatness is given for a much higher purpose, for God’s Glory. We are made, redeemed, and called to share in His glory and not for worldly “glory.” In this week’s second reading, St. James asks, “Where do the conflicts among you come from?”

And then immediately He gives the answer, asking “Is it not from your passions?” Passions move us to satisfy our natural desires, called “appetites.” These desires can be either of the body or of the mind, and they motivate us to attain some good or avoid some evil. When directed to what God intended, the passions serve our good and the good of others. However, if they are misdirected or not controlled, they cause, as St. James says, “conflicts” and cause harm to us and others.

To redirect His Apostles’ desire for greatness from seeking their own glory to God’s glory, our Lord Jesus says, “Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.” It is interesting our Lord points to a child as an example of what He considers greatness because children, although cared for and loved, are not typically held up by the world as having done something great. If we use the world’s standard of being great – having done some great accomplishment, being successful in business, accumulating wealth, having power in society, and so forth – then children, who have not yet achieved any of these things, are not “great.” But Jesus puts a child “in the midst” of His Apostles to show true greatness by God’s standard. In their innocence and purity of heart, children are able to love more like God loves. To speak of how God loves, we can talk about serving, giving of oneself for the good of others. Children are the greatest in the Kingdom of God because of their closeness to God. This should also remind us of the grave responsibility we all have, especially the bishops and priests, to vigorously safeguard the innocence of all children and to do everything possible to help each child live up to saintly greatness. We must always honor and protect every child’s God-like greatness. To reach our own greatness, we seek daily purity of heart and, in all things, love as God loves. We need to grow in the virtue of humility to “be the last and the servant of all,” seeking God’s glory rather than our own glory.

The more we are like God (holy), the greater we are. We ask for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the greatest of God’s creatures, to help us truly find our greatness as a child of God.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday 9/22 &amp; Sunday 9/23</strong></td>
<td>Second Collection Catholic Charities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 9/23</strong></td>
<td>Catechetical Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 9/23</strong></td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet: Knights of Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 9/26</strong></td>
<td>Religious Education Classes 2nd Grade to Confirmation, 6:30 - 7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 9/27</strong></td>
<td>OLMC: Religious Study The Prophets: Messengers of God’s Mercy OLMC Parish House, 4:00 - 5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday 9/29</strong></td>
<td>Altar Duty: Louise Goicoechea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday 9/29</strong></td>
<td>Flute Recital, Fundraiser for the Music Ministry, 2:00 pm St. Patrick’s Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 9/30</strong></td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet: The Altar Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 9/30</strong></td>
<td>Religious Education Classes Kindergarten &amp; 1st Grade, 10:15 - 11:00 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Check out St. Patrick’s NEW Bulletin Board!**

Our beautiful new Bulletin Board is on the right as you face the front doors of the church. If you or your ministry group has something to be posted, please bring the materials to the Parish Office.

The annual **Catholic Charities Sunday** appeal is this weekend, September 22-23, 2018. We need your support and generous contribution on Catholic Charities Sunday to continue to serve the poor and vulnerable people in our communities. Please prayerfully consider your donation to this appeal, be as generous as your means allow, recalling that 100% of your contribution stays in our Diocesan community serving friends, neighbors and families in need. Catholic Charities provides services to the frail elderly, access to health insurance for families, low-cost legal immigration services, family counseling, parenting classes, CalFresh and nutrition education, food bank, services for Veterans, homeless and at-risk women, transitional care services for at-risk patients transitioning from hospital-to-home, and environmental justice advocacy. Together we demonstrate God’s mercy and love in concrete actions.

**Catholic Charities**  
Second Collection, September 22-23

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**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, Bach, 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**

Musicians provide 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

St. Patrick’s Altar and Rosary Society will hold their regular meeting on Monday, October 1st at 1:00 pm in the Parish Hall. All ladies of the Parish are invited to attend. If you would like to become a member, please call President Marge Nath at 532-2229.

**Pray the Rosary**

The Knights of Columbus will be praying the Rosary prior to the 7:30 am and 11:00 am Masses on September 30th, the fifth Sunday of the month. Please come to Mass early and join us in this beautiful devotion.

**Religious Education Classes...**

- Kindergarten and First Grade  
  Sundays, 10:15 through 11:00 Family Mass  
  Includes Liturgy of the Word for Children
  
- 2nd Grade through Confirmation  
  Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm  
  Parish Hall
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

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

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

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

Journey in Christianity, an organization focusing on Christian renewal through Catholic service, is sponsoring a weekend retreat in Sonora. It begins Friday evening, October 19th, and lasts through Sunday October 21st. The Journey experience is an opportunity to share and encounter Christ in each other. The weekend is a great way to jump start or recharge your faith.

Anyone interested in further information, please contact

Duarte Bento 209-499-5256 or
Mary Bento 209-499-6739

**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!

Our own Louise Turney, OLMC parishioner, was honored to be chosen Grand Marshall of the 2018 49er Festival Parade in downtown Groveland on Saturday, Sept 15th. Besides organizing, directing and producing the “Hilltop Musical Kids,” Louise is a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church where she has taught religion to children, is in charge of Lectors, and is also a Lector herself. CONGRATULATIONS, LOUISE!!

**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 and pray for an end to abortion. Please try to give us one hour per week. Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Office.

**Walk for Life**

Foothill Pregnancy Center will hold a Walk for Life in Sonora on Saturday, October 6th. Registration will be at 9:00 am at the Pregnancy Center, and the Walk down Washington Street in downtown Sonora will begin at 9:30 am.

**Liturgical Ministers**

Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, and Ushers:

Your 4th Quarter (October - November - December) 2018 Ministry Mass Schedules are ready to be picked up. You will find them in the basket in the vestibule after Mass, alphabetical by last name. They are also available on our website.

Go to www.stpatssonora.org, click on “More,” click on “Ministry Schedules,” and scroll to your schedule.

Thank you all for your ministry!
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.

**Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date**

- **Monday 10/1** ~ 40 Days for Life begins
- **Thursday 10/4** ~ Blessing of the Animals, 10:00 am
  *Please note change of date*
- **Saturday 10/6** ~ Walk for Life, 9:00 am register at Foothill Pregnancy Center, Walk begins at 9:30 am
- **Saturday 10/6 & Sunday 10/7** ~ Parish Services
- **Monday 10/8** ~ Columbus Day, Parish Office closed
- **Thursday 11/1** ~ All Saints Day
  Masses: St. Patrick’s 8:00 am and 6:30 pm; OLMC 4:00 pm
- **Friday 11/2** ~ All Souls Day
  Masses: St. Patrick’s 8:00 am, St. Patrick’s Cemetery 12:00 noon; OLMC 4:00 pm

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

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday September 24 ~ Sunday September 30**

- **Monday:** Prv 3:27-34; Ps 15:2-5; Lk 8:16-18
- **Tuesday:** Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 18:19-21
- **Wednesday:** Prv 30:5-9; Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk 9:1-6
- **Thursday:** Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc; Lk 9:7-9
- **Friday:** Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4; Lk 9:18-22
- **Saturday:** Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday September 23 ~ Saturday September 29**

- **Sunday:** Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Sukkot (Jewish Harvest Festival) begins; Autumn begins
- **Wednesday:** St. Cosmas and St. Damian
- **Thursday:** St. Vincent de Paul
- **Friday:** St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions; St. Wenceslaus
- **Saturday:** St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael

The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.  
*James 3:18*

**Weekly Offerings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Goal</th>
<th>9-9-18 Week 36 Participation</th>
<th>9-16-18 Week 37 Participation</th>
<th>September Totals YTD</th>
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<tr>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Offerings</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Pat’s</td>
<td>$5,045</td>
<td>$4,824</td>
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<tr>
<td>OLMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-giving</td>
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<td>$528</td>
<td>$1,081</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$6,344</td>
<td>$6,526</td>
<td>$20,732</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAST YEAR</td>
<td>$7,926</td>
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<td>$23,404</td>
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**Maintenance Offerings**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. Pat’s</th>
<th>OLMC</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-giving</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Pat’s</td>
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<td>$190</td>
<td>$884</td>
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<tr>
<td>OLMC</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$87</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$1,044</td>
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</table>

Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-year</td>
<td>2.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-year</td>
<td>3.30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minimum deposit $1,000

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shaves with an ADVERTISED razor
brushes his teeth
with ADVERTISED mouthwash
washes with ADVERTISED soap
puts on ADVERTISED clothes
drinks a cup of
ADVERTISED coffee
drives to work
in an ADVERTISED car
and then...
refuses to ADVERTISE
believing it doesn’t pay.
Later if business is poor
he ADVERTISES it for sale.

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