St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
Sonora, California

The GOOD News

... in Our Parish

St. Patrick’s Catholic Parish
127 Jackson St., Sonora, CA

Our Lady of
Mt. Carmel
Mission Church
11700 Catholic Cemetery Rd.
Big Oak Flat, CA

Mass Times:
SUSPENDED

Mass Times:
SUSPENDED

Staff
Fr. Yesobu Banka,
Parish Administrator
Fr. Joseph Lawrence O.C.D.,
Parochial Vicar
Mike Kubasek, Deacon
Ron Ivey, Business Manager
Marie Dahlstrand,
Coordinator of Liturgy
Sandra Betti, Music Director
Kathy Casas, Religious Education
Angela Cordes,
Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Gail Andrus, Receptionist
Jan DePaoli, Administrative Asst.
Emergency Intercessions “8”

Contact Us

Office: 116 W. Bradford St.,
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Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9:00 - 12:00
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Parish Services:
Sonora: 209-532-7139 Ext. 107
Big Oak Flat: 209-532-7139 Ext. 111

Volume 9, Number 13

March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

John 11:25-26

“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 frbanka@stpatssonora.org. God bless.

In Christ, Fr. Yesobu Banka, Parish Administrator
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

Bishop Cotta’s Message

My Dear People of God,

We find ourselves in challenging and chaotic times. The whole world has been impacted by a threatening adversary: a virus. The effect that the Coronavirus is having on our global society is unprecedented. Everyday life: health, work, entertainment, sporting and cultural events, economics and politics have been “stopped in its tracks,” including the area of worship throughout the world. At the same time, it has set before us a reality check: “What has taken priority in our lives?”

Many things have consumed our lives and have distracted us from the love of God: entertainment, professional sports, politics, our busy lives and professions, our personal pleasures and material well being, the economy, vacations and travel, etc. For many in our day and age, these things have become idols! This time of affliction has also become a graced time for us to “fast,” to detach, from these distractions and to thirst, especially, during this Lenten season, for the Living Water, the Light and the Life: Jesus. We must put things into a proper perspective: God is to be first in our lives and we are to love others as we love ourselves. We are to say, “No” to sin and live the Gospel.

When the season of Lent began, we were reminded: “Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation.” Even though a sense of global uneasiness, panic and fear have worked its way into many areas of life, we are not to fear for God is in control. As we pray for a cure; for those afflicted; and for those who have died, we must remain grounded in faith and hope. While we place our trust in Christ, also, we must put into action the precautions and directives presented to us. Let this time be an opportunity for families to comfort each other, and to welcome and experience more family-time and family-prayer. This graced time can move and avail us to take up a spirit of “almsgiving” in order to assist the elderly and our neighbors who might be in need due to quarantine restrictions. Let us be instruments of calm, collaboration and support. Let us utilize common sense and prayer during this time. In the midst of it all, we are called to be attentive, responsible and charitable toward one another as we adapt to the directives and precautions presented to us to help combat this virus.

Cooperation is of utmost importance. Throughout our Diocese of Stockton, I ask that we keep this serious situation in our daily prayers; and let us focus upon our acts of penance and works of mercy during this holy season. I am encouraging the prayer of Divine Mercy and the Rosary to be included in our daily devotion, especially, within our families. As we pray the Rosary, may the Shepherd Children of Fátima: St. Jacinta Marto and her brother, St. Francisco, intercede for us. Their families and community fell victim to the epidemic of the Spanish Flu of 1918, along with millions, including Francisco. May he and Jacinta pray for us during these troubling times. “For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.” Our Lady of Fátima and Health of the Sick, Pray for us.

In the Peace of Christ, Bishop Cotta

God always brings about good when an evil occurs.

When people asked Jesus about the seemingly senseless deaths of the Galilean Jews at the hands of Pontius Pilate, He said those slaughtered worshipers weren’t any more sinful than the people of Siloam who died when a tower collapsed on them. What mattered was not why they died, but whether they were able to repent before they died. “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!” (Luke 13:2-5).

You or I may or may not contract Covid-19. If we do, we may or may not die from it. We also may never know why God allowed some people to get this disease and not others. But what we do know is that you and I will die one day and come before our Lord to be judged.

Therefore, we should use this time of communal trial to draw nearer to God. We should repent of any sin that keeps us apart from God and seek communion with him, even if it is through a prayer of spiritual communion and worshiping with the assistance of something like an online video stream of the Mass. And we should extend Christ’s mercy and kindness to the many people who are in need right now and may be suffering physically, emotionally, and economically.

St. Paul put it this way in his second letter to the Corinthians: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction, with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God” (2 Cor 1:3-4).

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**Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**Weekly Offerings**

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**General Offerings**

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**Maintenance Offering**

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Please continue to support your Parish during this crisis. Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!