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

“The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.”
This Sunday, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. We give praise, honor, and thanksgiving to our Lord Jesus, our true King. We recognize our desperate need to be loyal subjects ruled by the everlasting reign of our Lord Jesus’ kingship because He is the only One who can save us from our real enemies of sin and death. The scene of Pontius Pilate’s interrogation of Jesus in this week’s Gospel shows that worldly power, as represented in Pilate’s authority as the governor of Judea and agent of the Roman emperor, could not recognize the unlimited power, glory, and majesty of Christ’s universal kingship. Also, we know the religious leaders of the Jews were not able to see the fulfillment of the promise God made to Israel – the promise to give His people a Mighty Savior, a King whose reign would last forever. The reason they could not see Jesus as the true King was because they had their own expectation of how things should be. Kings are supposed to be powerful, successful, and victorious according to worldly standards. How can this man who apparently failed in His mission and ended up arrested, tried, convicted, and helplessly died on a cross be the promised king?

Our Lord chooses to reign not from a velvet-covered, diamond-encrusted throne, like passing earthly kings; rather, He chooses to reign from a Cross. Our Lord Jesus chooses a crown of thorns rather than one made of gold. Jesus wanted to show how much different His Kingdom and Kingship are as compared to worldly powers and kingdoms. Worldly leaders can only draw on finite, limited human power available in the physical world to impose their rule. Although some earthly rulers may have good intentions, their power to bring real and meaningful change to our fallen human condition is limited. Whereas, because Jesus is God, He is the true King of the Universe and has unlimited power to transform evil into good, hatred into love, suffering into joy, sin into holiness, and death into life.

No matter how good a leader might be, he or she could never come close to Jesus’ power to save us. Like Pilate and the Jews’ religious leaders, our Lord Jesus’ kingship and power are not recognized or acknowledged by the world. However, for we who have the gift of faith, we see and experience God’s saving power in the Kingship of Christ. So let us live our Faith by giving glory and honor to our King, the Lord Jesus Christ. We submit ourselves to the will of our Lord and King and fully trust His plan for us. We continually allow Him to conform us and our lives to what He wants, doing what pleases Him.

The image of Jesus as Supreme monarchy is an appropriate image of how the entire cosmos is ultimately governed by the supreme authority of One; the supreme authority is God. However, as Americans, we may not relate to what it means to be governed by a king. Our great nation was founded, at least partly, on the idea that rule by only one person as a form of government is a bad idea. In some ways, these suspicions are justified because in the course of history of civilization, we have many examples of corrupt, cruel, and oppressive kings. However, we should remember that not every monarchy is bad, just as not every democracy is automatically good. Celebrating Jesus as our King may not have much significance to us if we don’t understand what the people of Israel at the time of Jesus’ earthly ministry thought of being ruled by a king.

Throughout most of human history, from the ancient world until the modern period, peoples considered their king as the one and only person to whom everyone looked for security, justice, and maintenance of an orderly society. Because of the indispensable role of the king, the greatest honor, respect, and obedience was owed to the absolute monarch. In fact, everything depended upon him or her. Without the rule of the king or, in some cases, the queen, the whole social order would fall apart, descending into anarchy and chaos. This feast reminds us if we fail to reverence and honor our true King, the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not faithfully obey His commandments, the order of our lives will fall apart. Our Lord’s kingship, and thereby the fruits of His Kingdom, depends on how well we listen to Him, who is Truth.

In this week’s Gospel, Jesus responds to Pilate’s questioning by saying, “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” We belong to His kingdom, a kingdom of eternal peace, justice, and joy, when we listen to His “voice.” We hear the voice of our King, the voice of Truth, when we listen and follow the teachings of the Church. If we do not obey the Church’s teachings, which are Christ the King’s teachings, then we disrespect and dishonor our King, and our lives will slide into chaos and darkness.

With the help of our Queen Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us continue to listen to and obey our one and only Supreme Ruler, our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

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

**Sunday 11/25 ~** Meet & Greet: Knights of Columbus

**Sunday 11/25 ~** Youth Group meets, 6:15 pm

**Thursday 11/29 ~** Religious Study, OLMC
   4:00 - 5:30 pm Parish House, OLMC Big Oak Flat

**Saturday 12/1 ~** Altar Duty: Patti Gerner

**Saturday 12/1 ~** St. Patrick’s Christmas Fair

**Saturday 12/1 & Sunday 12/2 ~** Parish Services

**Sunday 12/2 ~** Meet & Greet: Ministers to the Sick

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### St. Patrick’s Christmas Fair Updates

🌟 **BASKETS** - If you took a tag in order to help out with our lovely Christmas baskets this year, **PLEASE return your items this week**! There are still many tags that have not been returned, and we need those items now so we have enough time to put the baskets together. Please call Carol Cashen at 209-213-9991 if you have questions or need someone to pick up your contribution.

🌟 **BAKE SALE** - If you are donating items to the Bake Sale, please bring your baked goods to the Parish Hall on **Friday, November 30th**.

🌟 **VOLUNTEERS** - We still need people to help run the booths during the day of the Christmas Fair. Volunteers work in 2-hour shifts, and you’ll get to see and chat with a lot of friends and parishioners during that time! Please call the Parish Office if you can help.

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### St. Patrick’s Christmas Fair

Saturday, Dec 1st ~ St. Patrick’s Parish Hall

- 7:00 am - 7:00 pm
  - Gift Booths
  - Bake Sale
  - Raffle
  - Food

Breakfast from 7 - 10 am
Lunch from 12 - 4 pm
Don’t miss it!

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### Advent Prayer Service

Finding Joy in Jesus through Challenging Times

Saturday, December 15th
11:00 am
St. Patrick’s Church

All are invited to this joyful service dedicated to restoring our spirits as we prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Season of Advent.

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### Advent Penance Services ~ St. Patrick’s Parish

St. Patrick’s Church

- Wednesday December 5th, 6:30 pm (Spanish)
- Tuesday December 18th, 10:00 am
- Wednesday December 19th, 6:30 pm

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Friday December 21st, 4:00 pm

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### Altar & Rosary Society

St. Patrick’s Altar & Rosary Society will hold their regular meeting on **Monday December 3rd**, in the Parish Hall, Room 4. It will be a potluck luncheon, and all the ladies from the Parish are invited to attend. If you would like to become a member, please contact President Marge Nath at 209-532-2229. Arrival time is 11:30, and lunch will be at 12:00 noon. There will also be nominations for officers for 2019 at this meeting. In addition, please bring a non-perishable food item for the food pantry at the Parish.

### Winners of the Silent Whist Card Party

Thanks to all who donated to the St. Patrick’s Altar Society Silent Whist Card Party! All donations were deeply appreciated and will go towards buying new linens for the church.

- **Diestel Turkey winner**: Emily Berry
- **Additional winners**:
  - Roquel Diaz
  - Sandy Becker
  - Gloria Kretschmann
  - George Kosko
  - Joan Baker
  - Carolyn Blackmore
  - S.R. Villegos
  - Pam Bowman
  - Beatriz Gamboa

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**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**
Welcome to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

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

Rich Abdelnour, Jr.  Judi McGuire
Catherine Bentz  Cindy Merritt
Al Biedrzycki  Joseph Murtagh
Ken & Jackie Bolling  Juan Pinela
Pat Fernandez  Juan Pulido
Vern & Jo Froehlich  Pat Rut
Bill Gookin  Mike Schirmer
Ed Hall  Connie Scott
A. J. Holmes  Clay Sweeney
Donald C. Kellogg  Dan Tew
Bill & Rolene Kiesling  Judy Wilder
Kristine Kitamura  Mitch & Trish Woods

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

OLMC Parish Services
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Services is an organization within the parish which provides assistance to our community. We are guided by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to follow our Catholic tradition of caring for those in need by providing for the physical and financial needs of our parishioners and the community. The phone number to call to request assistance or information is 209-532-7139 Ext. 111 and is on the front page of the church bulletin. Our Core Group monitors this phone number.
Parish Services picks up the food donated each week at Mass and delivers it to the EV Free Church, who distribute it to people in need in the Groveland – Big Oak Flat Area. Thank you to those of you who donate food at Mass.
We could use one or two more volunteers on our Core Group. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, please call the number above and a member will return your call.
If you would be available to prepare food for the sick or for funerals, do light home repairs, light yard work or make social visits, please fill out a form which is available at the back of the church and put it in the Parish Service Box.
Thank you for your past support!

Liturgical Ministers
Mark your calendars!
Day of Reflection for Liturgical Ministers
St. Patrick’s ~ Tuesday, December 11
10:00 am or 6:30 pm
(you only need to attend one of these sessions)

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
"That the most Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege from Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, was kept free of every stain of original sin." Pope Pius IX, "Ineffabilis Deus" (December 8, 1854).

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Vigil Mass on Friday, December 7 ~ 4:00 pm
St. Patrick’s
Mass on Saturday, December 8 ~ 10:00 am

La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
La fiesta de nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, en la Iglesia Católica de San Patricio, se celebrará el domingo 9 de diciembre con una misa a las 3:00 p.m. Después de la misa, habrá un potluck y fiesta en el salón de la parroquia. Habrá mariachi, comida y camaradería. Todos son bienvenidos – por favor, traiga un platillo para compartir.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sunday, December 9
Mass at 3:00 PM
Potluck and Mariachi will follow in the Parish Hall!
Everyone is welcome - please bring a dish to share.

The deadline to sign-up for our pilgrimage to Mexico City and the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been extended to December 1st! There’s still time to get your registration form in, but don’t delay!
Upcoming Events ~ Save the Date
Wednesday 12/5 ~ Servicio Penitencial de Adviento, 6:30 pm (Advent Penance Service, Spanish)
Friday 12/7 ~ Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass, 4:00 pm OLMC
Saturday 12/8 ~ Immaculate Conception 10:00 am Mass, St. Patrick’s
Sunday 12/9 ~ Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe St. Patrick’s, 3:00 pm
Tuesday 12/11 ~ Day of Reflection for Liturgical Ministers at St. Patrick’s 10:00 am - 12:00 noon OR 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Saturday 12/15 ~ Advent Prayer Service, 11:00 am St. Patrick’s
Tuesday 12/18 ~ Advent Penance Service 10:00 am
Wednesday 12/19 ~ Advent Penance Service 6:30 pm
Friday 12/21 ~ Advent Penance Service, 4:00 pm Our Lady of Mt. Carmel 2019
Sunday 1/13 ~ Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
Wednesday 5/15 ~ Confirmation Mass 6:00 pm

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday November 26 ~ Sunday December 2
Monday: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Ps 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19; Ps 96:10-13; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4; Ps 98:1-3ab, 7-9; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Rv 18:1-2, 21-23, 19:1-3, 9a; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 21:20-28
Friday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Saturday: Rv 22:1-7; Ps 95:1-7ab; Lk 21:34-36
Sunday: Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12 -- 4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday November 25 ~ Saturday December 1
Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Monday: Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time
Friday: St. Andrew
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

Weekly Offerings

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Catholic Campaign for Human Development
St. Patrick’s $542; OLMC $97
Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!