

**St. Patrick's  
Catholic Church**

127 Jackson St.

Sonora, CA

**Masses:**

Mon-Fri

8:00 am

**Sunday**

7:30 am

9:00 am

11:00 am

1:00 pm

**Reconciliation: Wednesday  
6:00 - 7:00 pm, or by appt.**

**Our Lady of  
Mt. Carmel  
Mission Church**

11700 Catholic Cemetery Rd.  
Big Oak Flat, CA

**Mass:**

**Saturday**

4:00 pm

**Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30,  
or by appt.**

**Parish Staff**

Fr. Yesobu Banka,

Parish Administrator

Mike Kubasek, Deacon

Michael Tippet, Deacon

Nancy Roe, Business Manager

Marie Dahlstrand,

Coordinator of Liturgy

Sandra Betti, Music Director

and Bulletin Editor

Kathy Casas, Religious Ed

Teresa Sweeney, Maintenance

Lisa Gabrielson,

Administrative Assistant

Kary Hubbard,

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**Contact Us**

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Ext. 107

Volume 12, Number 21



# The Good News

... in our Parish



## The Ascension of the Lord May 21, 2023

**"Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen Him going into heaven." (Acts 1:10-11)**

**"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.stpatrickssonora.org](http://www.stpatrickssonora.org). If you are new to the area, please request a new member packet. I would like to meet all of you! I am available for appointments. Please call me at 1-209-532-7139, ext. 112 or email [frbanka@stpatssonora.org](mailto:frbanka@stpatssonora.org).

**In Christ, Fr. Yesobu Banka, Parish Administrator**



## *Bishop Cotta's Message regarding Parish reassignments*

To the faithful of the Diocese of Stockton,  
Peace in the Risen Lord!

I pray that your Easter journey has been grace-filled! I wanted to share with you a brief update on some parish re-assignments. This year, the priest personnel board and I were faced with a challenging task: the responsibility of filling seven open parishes, seven parishes that need new pastors. To fill these crucial appointments, we were forced to make some tough decisions and will have to move a number of our priests from their current homes with you, to new parish assignments.

This promises to be a bitter-sweet moment in the life of our parish communities...bitter in losing someone that we love, but sweet knowing that our beloved priest will now explore new opportunities of ministry, make new friends, and continue to share God's saving love with ever more of the Catholic faithful. I ask, my brothers and sisters, for your prayers during this transitional time. Please pray for the priests being impacted by the upcoming move, the parish communities that will say goodbye to their priest, and for the parish communities that will welcome a new member to their parochial family.

**The changes, which are to take effect on July 1, 2023, (unless otherwise noted), are as follows:**

A los fieles de la Diócesis de Stockton,  
¡Paz en el Señor Resucitado!

¡Rezo que su viaje de Pascua ha sido lleno de gracia! Quería compartir con ustedes una breve actualización sobre algunas reasignaciones parroquiales. Este año, el Consejo de Personal de los Sacerdotes y yo fuimos enfrentados con una tarea desafiante: la responsabilidad de llenar siete parroquias abiertas, siete parroquias que necesitan nuevos párrocos. Para cumplir con estos nombramientos cruciales, nos vimos obligados a tomar algunas decisiones difíciles y tendremos que mudar a varios de nuestros sacerdotes de sus hogares con ustedes, y moverlos a nuevas asignaciones parroquiales.

Estos cambios prometen ser un momento agri dulce en la vida de nuestras comunidades parroquiales... amargo por perder a alguien que amamos, pero dulce al saber que nuestro amado sacerdote ahora explorará nuevas oportunidades de ministerio, hará nuevos amigos y continuará compartiendo el amor salvador de Dios con otros fieles Católicos. Pido, mis hermanos y hermanas, sus oraciones durante este tiempo de transición. Oren por los sacerdotes que se verán afectados por la próxima mudanza, las comunidades parroquiales que se despedirán de su sacerdote y las comunidades parroquiales que darán la bienvenida a un nuevo miembro a su familia parroquial.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• St. Edward, Stockton: Fr. Martin Garcia (Pastor)</li><li>• St. George, Stockton: Fr. Luis Navarro (Pastor)</li><li>• Cathedral of the Annunciation, Stockton: Fr. Hamilton Suarez (Parochial Administrator)</li><li>• Our Lady of the Assumption, Turlock: Fr. Larry Machado (Parochial Administrator)</li><li>• St. Andrew, San Andreas: Fr. Bill McDonald (Parochial Administrator)</li><li>• St. Anne, Lodi: Fr. Joseph Banka (Parochial Administrator)</li><li>• St. Joachim, Newman: Fr. Kishor Yerpula (Parochial Administrator)</li><li>• St. Patrick, Sonora: Fr. Suresh Ery (Parochial Administrator)</li><li>• St. Frances of Rome, Riverbank: Fr. Kondayya Mocherla (Parochial Administrator, October 1, 2023)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sacred Heart, Turlock: Fr. Alvaro Delgado (Parochial Vicar, July 2023 – Dec. 2023)</li><li>• Sacred Heart, Turlock: Fr. Misael Avila (Parochial Vicar, January 1, 2024)</li><li>• St. Anthony, Manteca: Fr. Cesar Martinez (Parochial Vicar, July 2023 – Dec. 2023)</li><li>• St. Anthony, Manteca: Fr. Alvaro Delgado (Parochial Vicar, January 1, 2024)</li><li>• St. Patrick, Ripon: Fr. Sleevaraj Pasala (Parochial Vicar, October 1, 2023)</li><li>• Pastoral Center: Fr. John Foster (Episcopal Vicar and Judicial Vicar)</li></ul> |
| In the Peace of Christ,<br>Bishop Myron J. Cotta  | En la Paz de Cristo,<br>Obispo Myron J. Cotta   |



MAY 21, 2023

# This Week in our Parish

## Monday 5/22 ~ Communion Service

8:00 am, St. Patrick's Church, Sonora

## Tuesday 5/23 - Friday 5/26 ~ Daily Mass

8:00 am, St. Patrick's Church, Sonora

## Wednesday 5/24 ~ Adoration/Reconciliation

6:00 pm, St. Patrick's Church

## Saturday 5/27 ~ Vigil Mass for Pentecost

4:00 pm, Our Lady of Mount Carmel

## Sunday 5/28 ~ Pentecost

Mass at 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 am, St. Patrick's  
Spanish Mass at 1:00 pm, St. Patrick's

## May is the



## Month of Mary

Please bring your prettiest spring flowers to Mass or to the Parish Office, and we will use them to adorn the church and Mary's Garden during the month of May. Please take special time this month to venerate our Blessed Mother, and pray for her intercession. Mary's Garden, just in front of St. Patrick's church, is a beautiful place to pray the Rosary or to have some quiet personal prayer and reflection.



Next Sunday, May 28 is Pentecost Sunday. This is the day we celebrate the fulfillment of Christ's promise to ask God, the Father, to send an Advocate to be with us always, the Holy Spirit.

Next Monday, May 29 is Memorial Day.

The Parish Office will be closed. We will celebrate Mass at 8:00 am, (not our usual Communion Service) with patriotic music and a special remembrance for all who have died while serving our country.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



## Fr. Banka's Enlightening Facts The Many Titles of Mary, Part II

This week we will continue our discussion on some of the devotional titles of the Blessed Mother. Mary is often associated with light, as she not only bore our Savior, the light of the world, but she can also serve as a guide for us toward the light, toward Jesus. Three of the many devotional titles for Mary are Morning Star, the Star of the Sea, and Our Lady of Light.



Just like the star that rises early in the morning (that star is actually the planet Venus) to reveal and reflect the coming light of the sun, Mary, the Morning Star, reflects and reveals Jesus, who would soon fill the world with His light.

Pope John Paul II said, "Mary appeared on the horizon of salvation history before Christ."

Star of the Sea, or *Stella Maris* in Latin, is an ancient title for Mary, probably in use since the Medieval Ages. It shows Mary's role as an interceder, a "guiding star" to show us the way to Christ. The name has come to indicate that she guides and protects those on a physical journey as well, especially a journey by sea. Many coastal churches are named Star of the Sea, like the one in San Francisco, above.



Our Lady of Light is a devotional title given to Mary that is better known in Mexico and the Philippines. In the 18th Century, a woman had a remarkable vision of Mary, later painted in oils (left), in which Mary appeared surrounded by angels. An impossibly clear, bright light streamed from the body of the Virgin. In her right hand, she lifted a sinner from the fires of hell, keeping him from falling back in. In her left hand, she held the Christ Child, where an angel held up a basket filled with the hearts of the faithful and presented them to Jesus. The Divine Child took the hearts one at a time and lit them with the fire of His love.

Wishing you and your family all the blessings of Easter!

Fr. Banka





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

*Jesse Alarcon  
Barbara Balestrieri  
Kate Baum  
Roger Clark  
David Costa  
Gerardo Diaz  
Pat Fernandez  
Sue Froseth  
Manuel Gamboa  
A. J. Holmes  
Linda Knapp*

*Jim Kubasek  
Barbara Lema  
John Mendiola  
David Mesh  
Jim Napier  
Barbara North  
Gloria Patania  
Frank Perry  
Juan Pulido  
Sebastian Ruiz*

To add or remove a name from this list,  
please contact the Parish Office at 1-209-532-7139.



Rite of Christian Initiation  
of Adults

If you've been coming to Mass for awhile, but are not Catholic, we invite you to look deeper into the Catholic faith. Come meet some faithful Catholics who love the Lord and would consider it a privilege to get to know you. St. Patrick's will begin a process to share with others the truths of the Catholic faith and the fellowship of our church family. We invite you to deepen your journey with the Lord by coming to our Inquiry Sessions, beginning Sunday, May 21, after the 9:00 am Mass. The sessions will be held in the Parish Hall. These sessions are open to people who are unbaptized, as well as those who are baptized Christians from Protestant or Evangelical backgrounds.

**Come join us!**

Please give us a call if you have questions or would like further information: 209-768-7612  
or email [marie@stpatricksonora.org](mailto:marie@stpatricksonora.org)



**Spring Cleaning?**  
**We are taking donations for this  
year's Christmas Fair!**

Please bring your no longer needed treasures to the Parish Office, M-Th, 8:30—4:00. No clothing or books, please. We do need newspaper to wrap these items, so if you have discarded newspapers ready for the recycle bin, please bring them to the Parish Office instead!

Thank you!

## Important Dates for St. Patrick's Parish

**Sunday, May 28** ~ Pentecost

**Monday, May 29** ~ Memorial Day, Parish Office closed  
8:00 am Mass at St. Patrick's Church

**Friday, June 2** ~ First Friday

**Sunday, June 11** ~ Corpus Christi

**Sunday, June 18** ~ Father's Day

**Tuesday, July 4** ~ Independence Day

**Friday, July 7** ~ First Friday

**Wednesday, July 26** ~ Feast of Ss. Joachim and Anne



"Eucharist Received, Eucharist Lived!" is a fitting theme for this year's **Bishop's Ministry Appeal**. For the Church, the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith and a reminder of God's precious gift. Once again, your kind support is needed this year to ensure that these critical diocesan ministries continue to serve our communities and build up the Kingdom of God. The collective participation of all our parishioners is vital to the success of the Bishop's Ministry Appeal.

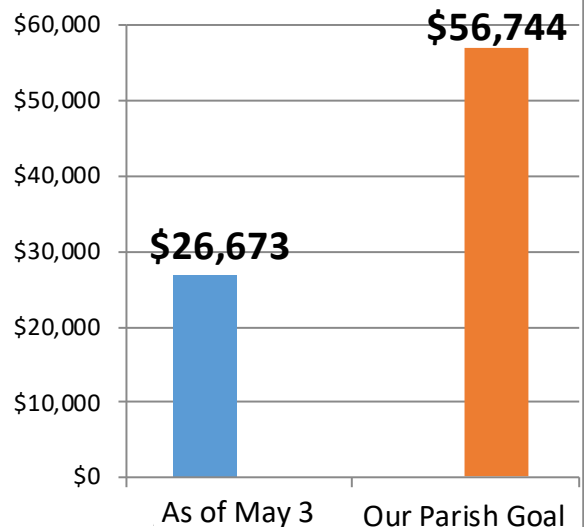
**For more information, or to give online:**

[www.stocktondiocese.org/bma](http://www.stocktondiocese.org/bma)



**Bishop's Ministry Appeal Update**

What does the Bishop's Ministry Appeal do for us in our Parish? For one, it helps us with Insurance and Financial Management for the business side of our Parish.



Mass  for the  
Intentions  Week

### Saturday May 20 ~ Sunday May 28

#### Saturday

**OLMC 4:00 pm** Soledad Balbuena (*Blessing*)

#### Sunday

**7:30 am** Souls in Purgatory †

Frank J. Somarriba †

**9:00 am** Lizbeth Gutierrez †

Deceased members of YLGI †

**11:00 am** Laura Sandoval †

**1:00 pm** Carlos and Marcos Balbuena †

Souls in Purgatory †

Monday 8:00 am **Communion Service**

Tuesday 8:00 am Fred Montgomery †

Pat Stuth †

Wednesday 8:00 am John & Emily Andryc †

Thursday 8:00 am John & Emily Andryc †

Friday 8:00 am Pat Stuth †

#### Saturday

**OLMC 4:00 pm** Ralph Gaarde †

**Sunday 7:30 am** Sisters of the Santa Rita Abbey  
(*Healing*)

Agnes Grants †

**9:00 am** Lorna Wick †

Enriqueta & Rustico Lit †

**11:00 am** *No Intentions*

**1:00 pm** Polo & Lluvia Garcia Family  
(*Blessings*)

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### Monday May 22 ~ Sunday May 28

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab;  
Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21;  
Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a,  
35bc-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30—23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8,  
9-10, 11; Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12,  
19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7;  
Jn 21:20-25

Sunday: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34;  
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25;  
Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27—16:12-15

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

### Sunday May 21 ~ Saturday May 27

Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord

Monday: St. Rita of Cascia

Thursday: St. Mary Magdalene; St. Gregory VII;  
St. Bede the Venerable

Friday: St. Phillip Neri

Saturday: St. Augustine of Canterbury

  
*He is Risen, Alleluia!*

As we age, we may experience feelings of depression, anxiety, grief, loss, and isolation. Urooj John from the Older Adult Mental Health Counseling Program and Catholic Charities is offering counseling services for seniors aged 60 and older in Tuolumne County. For more information, contact her at (209) 396-6953.

*You are never too old and it is never too late  
to keep moving forward in your beautiful life.*

### Children's Liturgy of the Word



takes place every  
Sunday at the  
11:00 am Mass.

All children ages 4-9 are  
invited to come and join  
the fun!

## Weekly Offerings



| Weekly Goal<br>\$ 10,000   | 5-7-23<br>Week 19 | 5-14-23<br>Week 20 | May Totals<br>To Date |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>General Offerings</b>   |                   |                    |                       |
| St. Pat's  | \$5,720           | \$5,082            | \$10,802              |
| OLMC   | \$855             | \$1,177            | \$2,032               |
| E-giving   | \$1,890           | \$1,105            | \$2,995               |
| Total  | \$8,465           | \$7,364            | \$15,829              |
| LAST YEAR  | \$7,977           | \$7,032            | \$15,009              |
| <b>Maintenance Offering</b>  |                   |                    |                       |
| St. Pat's  | \$10,811*         | \$265              | \$10,811              |
| OLMC   | \$125             | \$5                | \$125                 |
| Total  | \$10,936          | \$270              | \$10,936              |
| *Not a typo—with thanks to a very generous donor<br>Thank you for your continued and generous offerings! |                   |                    |                       |





## **The Ascension of Christ**

**Oil painting from the Italian Renaissance  
Artist: Benvenuto Tisi de Garofalo (1481-1559)**