

**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 - 6:45 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. Suresh Ery,

Parochial 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,

Communications Coordinator

Contact Us

Office: 116 W. Bradford St.

Sonora, CA 95370

Hours: Mon-Thur 8:30 - 4:00

Closed 12:30-1:00 for lunch

Phone: 1-209-532-7139

Web: www.stpatssonora.org

Email: stpat@stpatssonora.org

Parish Services: 209-532-7139

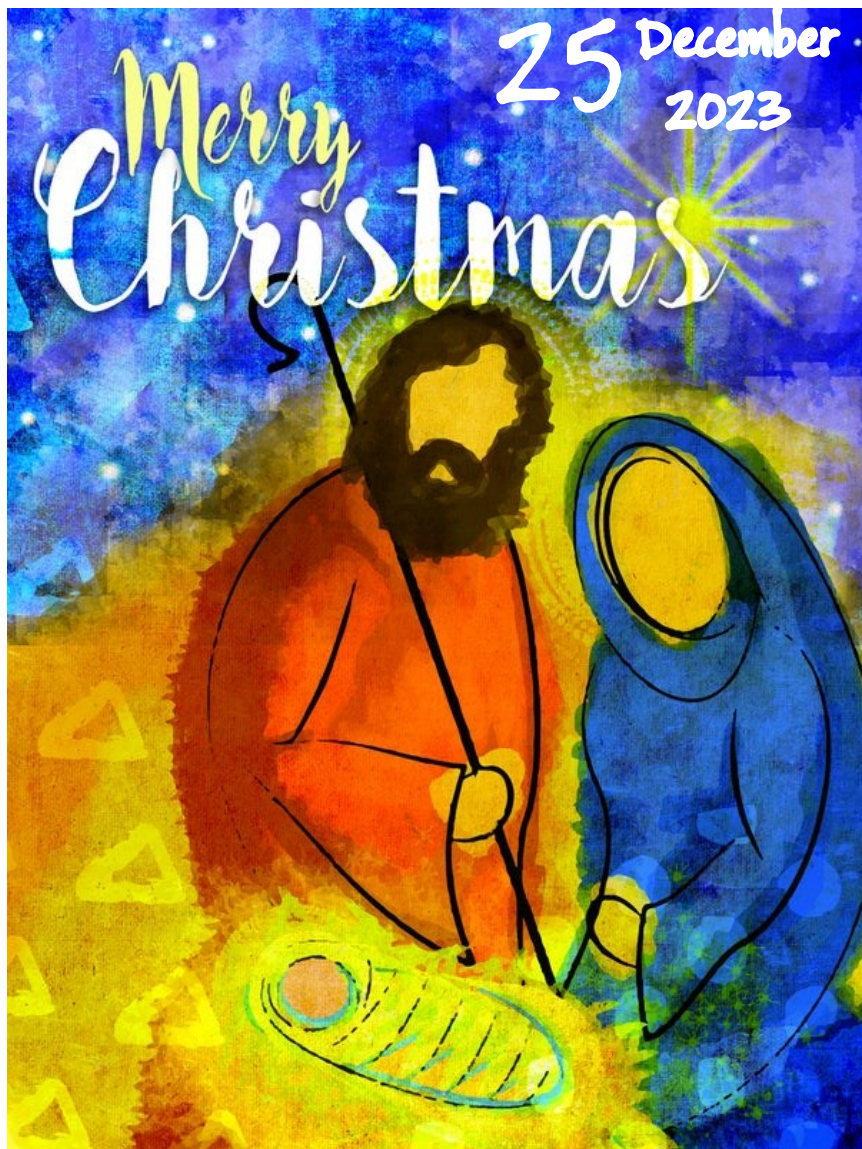
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Special Edition



The Good News

... in our Parish



All are welcome at St. Patrick's Parish!

Whether you are a visitor or a long time parishioner, St. Patrick's Parish joyfully welcomes you! We want all who come here to know the love of Christ, to truly encounter the risen Lord, to hear His word and experience His mercy. If you would like more information about our parish, please visit our website at www.stpatssonora.org.

To contact Fr. Suresh, please call 1-209-532-7139, ext. 112 or email frsuresh@stpatssonora.org. May God richly bless you!



Fr. Suresh's Christmas Message

Dear family of St. Patrick's Parish,
What a great joy and blessing to celebrate another Christmas. My heart is filled with joy as we all are prepared and ready to invite Jesus into our hearts and lives. Christmas is the most happening season. It brings a new feel to the entire world. It's a season of lights, colors, gifts, greetings, and beautiful decorations. It is melodious with Christmas music and festive with delicious treats. We have our favorite dress to wear, friends and families to meet. We have fond memories to recall and make more memories as we journey along. We have wonderful family traditions which reunite us year after year. It's all because of Christmas.

The purpose of Jesus's birth is to bring peace, joy, and salvation to the whole of humanity. If only this season could bring such joy to the world, if Jesus is the center of *all* our celebrations, imagine how much more we could feel God's blessings.

Jesus comes to us at Christmas year after year for a very concrete purpose, to further our salvation by renewing us in His love. That's why the church urges us to get ready to welcome Him. Jesus comes to us individually; He also delights in coming to us whenever we gather as a community. Jesus is with us when we gather to pray, when we read or listen to the scriptures and in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

As we celebrate this Christmas with our friends and families, I wish you all a great season filled with joy and the peace of Christ. Merry Christmas!

I also sincerely acknowledge all of your committed support and service to our parish in making this Christmas so special.

With the peace and love of Christ,

Your Parochial Administrator,
Fr. Suresh

A Christmas Poem

What Child Is This?

How could it be
that the Creator of the Universe
would think of me?

How could it be
that the Creator of over
a trillion galaxies
would care for me
as a mother, her baby?

How could it be
that the Creator of over
300 billion stars of our galaxy
would comfort me
as a father, his child?

How could it be
that the Creator of the Universe
would conceive of pomegranates,
peaches, plums, and apples
to feed me?

How could it be
that the Creator of the Universe
wishes me to call Him, Father?

How could it be
that the Creator of the Universe
would come to me
as a helpless baby
lying in straw in a manger?

How could it be
that the Lord of the Universe
would come to me as a child,
the Christ Child
telling me he needs a
home in my heart?

J. Janda



J. Janda's poems have appeared in newspapers, magazines, anthologies, and literary publications, as well as in books of his own poetry. The present poem comes from the Janda's book, *In Embrace*. Copyright © 2023, J. Janda. All rights reserved. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce for personal or parish use.

Join us as we celebrate:



**The Solemnity of Mary,
Holy Mother of God**

Monday, January 1, 2024

Mass at 9:00 am

St. Patrick's Church

What a great way to start the New Year!

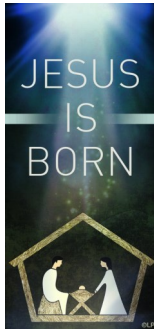
"As mariners are guided into port by the shining of a star, so Christians are guided to heaven by Mary."

St. Thomas Aquinas

December 25, 2023 ~ The Nativity of the Lord

"She gave birth to her firstborn son." The pain of childbirth is something that boggles my mind. I'm sure I couldn't handle it. I can't even watch scenes in movies in which a woman gives birth. I understand it's a beautiful part of nature, but there's still something awful about it and the attendant suffering.

Which is why it's worth pondering an often neglected and currently unpopular part of the Church's theology around the birth of Christ, his was miraculous because it caused no pain to his mother. Even her physical virginity remains intact. Of course, we modern scientific people scoff at such an idea.



Without obsessing over the obstetrical details, we discover a glorious illumination in the symbolic meaning of this birth that we moderns find so embarrassing. God comes into the world in an utterly non-violent way. He himself will suffer his own bloodshed but will never shed that of others. He is so peaceful and non-violent that he will even rise from the dead without breaking the seal of the tomb. All of humanity, in the Church, will give birth to him in the Church free from the terrible pain due to original sin. How badly we need the truth of this miraculous birth today!

Let's delight in this great mystery and miracle of Jesus's birth. He is the Prince of Peace and always nonviolent. We need not fear him, ever.

Father John Muir
©LPi

Joy to the World
Christmas Season Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve (Vigil)
Sunday, December 24
Family Mass, 4:30 pm ~ St. Patrick's
Evening Mass, 7:30 pm ~ St. Patrick's

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25
9:00 am ~ Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
8:00 am & 10:00 am ~ St. Patrick's
12:00 pm ~ St. Anne's

Feast of The Holy Family
Saturday, December 30 (Vigil)
4:00 pm ~ Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Sunday, December 31
Regular Mass Schedule ~ St. Patrick's

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Monday, January 1
Mass 9:00 am ~ St. Patrick's

It's Christmas! The Gloria returns to our Mass, and the one we sing during the Christmas season is based on "Angels We Have Heard on High," with its iconic refrain "*Glo . . . o . . . o . . . ria, in Excelsis Deo!*" Sing it with us, and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



All Parishioners please note:

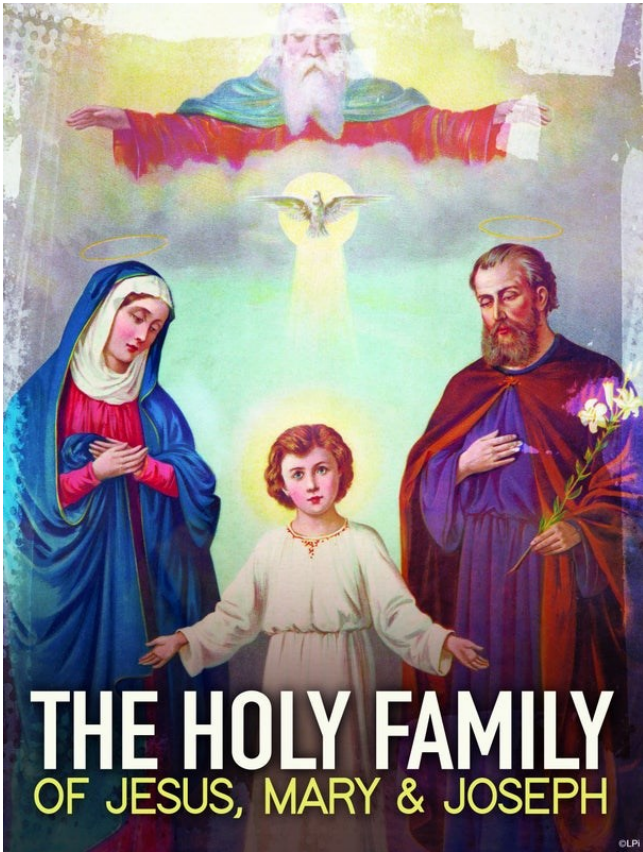
St. Patrick's Parish Office will be **closed** from Monday, December 25 through Monday, January 1. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.



We wish all our faithful Parishioners
a blessed and joyful Christmas!

St. Patrick's Parish Staff

Next Sunday's Gospel:
The Holy Family



Mary and Joseph take the child Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, to consecrate Him to the Lord. There, they meet Simeon, a devout man who knew, by the Holy Spirit, that he would not die before he had seen the Christ.

Simeon took Jesus into his arms and said to God, "Now, Master, You may let your servant go in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared in sight of all the peoples; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for Your people Israel."

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon Him.



St. Patrick's Parish Communications

Visit our **Website** at www.stpatssonora.org to view our new helpful links, and learn more about our Parish. You can also sign up for Faith Formation, request a Mass Intention, read current and past Bulletins, make a Donation, check our Calendar, and much more!

Follow us on Social Media

If you have any questions or comments, please email our Communications Coordinator Kary Hubbard at kary@stpatssonora.org

