

**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

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

Closed 12:30-1:00 for lunch

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Email: stpat@stpatssonora.org

Parish Services: 209-532-7139

Ext. 107

Volume 12, Number 52



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!



Emmanuel, God is With Us ~ A Reflection by Fr. Ron Rolheiser

For many of us, I suspect, it gets harder each year to capture the mood of Christmas. About the only thing that still warms our hearts are memories, memories of younger, more naïve, days when the lights and carols, Christmas trees and gifts, still excited us. But we're adults now and so too, it seems, is our world. Much of our joy in anticipating Christmas is blunted by many things, not least by the commercialism that today is characterized by excess. By late October we already see Christmas decorations, Santa is around in November, and December greets us with series of Christmas parties which exhaust us long before December 25th. So how can we rally some spirit for Christmas day?

It's not easy, and commercialism and excess are not our only obstacles. More serious are the times. Can we, amid the many cruelties of this year, warm up to a season of tinsel and festivity? Can we continue to romanticize the pilgrimage of one poor couple searching for shelter two thousand years ago amidst the plight of the millions of refugees today who are journeying without even a stable as a refuge? Does it mean anything to speak of peace when nations are trying to destroy each other? Where exactly is the peace and goodwill in our world today?

Closer to home, there are our own personal tragedies: the death of loved ones, lost marriages, lost families, lost health, lost jobs, lost time, tiredness, frustration. How do we celebrate the birth of a redeemer in a world which looks shockingly unredeemed and with hearts that mostly feel heavy and fatigued? How do we maintain the belief that God came down from heaven, took on human flesh, conquered all suffering, and altered the course of human history? The Christmas story mirrors the struggle that's being experienced within our own world and within our own tired hearts.

Incarnation is not yet the resurrection. Flesh in Jesus, as in us, is human, vulnerable, weak, incomplete, needy, painfully full of limit, suffering. Christmas celebrates Christ's birth into these things, not his removal of them. Christ redeems evil, sin and pain. But they are not abolished. Given that truth, we can celebrate at Christ's birth without in any way denying or trivializing the real evil in our world and the real pain in our lives. Christmas is a challenge to celebrate while still in pain.

The incarnate God is called Emmanuel, a name which means God is with us. That fact does not mean immediate festive joy. Our world remains wounded, and

wars, strikes, selfishness, and bitterness linger. Our hearts too remain wounded. Pain lingers. For a Christian, just as for everyone else, there will be incompleteness, illness, death, senseless hurt, broken dreams, cold, hungry, lonely days of bitterness and a lifetime of dissatisfaction. Reality can be harsh and Christmas does not ask us to make-believe. The incarnation does not promise heaven on earth. It promises heaven in heaven.

Here, on earth, it promises us something else – God's presence in our lives. This presence redeems because knowing that God is with us is what ultimately empowers us to give up bitterness, to forgive, and to move beyond cynicism and bitterness. When God is with us then pain and happiness are not mutually exclusive and the agonies and riddles of life do not exclude deep meaning and deep joy.

In the words of Avery Dulles: "The incarnation does not provide us with a ladder by which to escape from the ambiguities of life and scale the heights of heaven. Rather, it enables us to burrow deep into the heart of planet earth and find it shimmering with divinity."

George Orwell prophesied that our world would eventually be taken over by tyranny, torture, double-think, and a broken human spirit. To some extent this is true. We're a long ways from being whole and happy, still deeply in exile.

However, we need to celebrate Christmas 2023 heartily. Maybe we won't feel the same excitement we once felt as children when we were excited about tinsel, lights, Christmas carols, and special gifts and special food. Some of that excitement isn't available to us anymore. But something more important is still available, namely, the sense that God is with us in our lives, in our joys as well as in our shortcomings.

The word was made flesh. That's an incredible thing, something that should be celebrated with tinsel, lights, and songs of joy. If we understand Christmas, the carols will still flow naturally from our lips.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser

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DECEMBER 24, 2023

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Week in our Parish

Monday 12/25 ~ The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Day

Mass at 8:00 & 10:00 am, St. Patrick's Church, Sonora

Mass at 9:00 am, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Big Oak Flat

Mass at 12:00 Noon, St. Anne's, Columbia

Tuesday 12/26—Friday 12/29 ~ Daily Mass

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

Wednesday 12/27 ~ Adoration/Reconciliation

6:00—7:00 pm, St. Patrick's Church

Saturday 12/30 ~ Vigil Mass for Holy Family

4:00 pm, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Big Oak Flat

Sunday 12/31 ~ Feast of the Holy Family

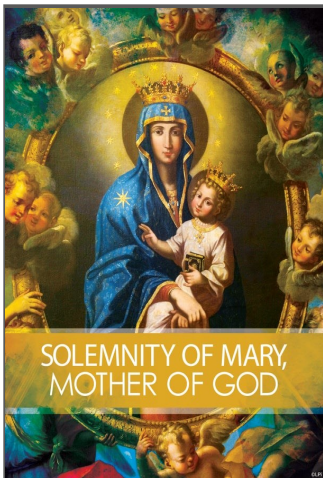
Mass at 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 am, St. Patrick's

Spanish Mass at 1:00 pm, St. Patrick's

Monday 1/1/24 ~ Mary, Holy Mother of God

Mass at 9:00 am, St. Patrick's

(No 8:00 am Communion Service)



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

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

St. Thomas Aquinas



St. Patrick's Music Ministry

provides 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 our diverse and committed members. We rehearse Tuesday afternoons from 4:00 - 5:00 pm, and joyfully sing at Mass on Sundays. If you can carry a tune or play a musical instrument, and want to learn more about music and its liturgical connection, come join us!

Please call the Music Office for more information:

209-532-7139, ext. 109

Joy to the World

Christmas Season Mass Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23

4:00 pm ~ Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Sunday, December 24

8:00 am ~ St. Patrick's

11:00 am (Bilingual) ~ St. Patrick's

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



Do you have extra rosaries around the house that you can donate to a young teen?

We are in need of about 50 rosaries for our January 6-7th Confirmation Retreat.

If you can help, please leave them in the office or in the "USHERS' CLOSET" at the back of the church. Thank you so much!



Children's Liturgy of the Word

takes place every Sunday at the 11:00 am Mass. All kids ages 4-9 are invited to come join the fun!

WELCOME TO ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PARISH



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

Jesse Alarcon
Barbara Balestrieri
Barbara Bellemare
Jane Braga
Roger Clark
David Costa
Aldo Diaz
Gerardo Diaz
Dante Dudoit
Alexandria Foye
Sue Froseth
Manuel Gamboa
Eileen Hogan
A. J. Holmes

Dennis Kavie, Sr.
Linda Knapp
Barbara Lema
Deb Mann
Mandie Mann
David Mesh
Jim Napier
Barbara North
Gloria Patania
Frank Perry
Juan Pulido
Greg Rodriguez
Sebastian Ruiz
Jo Vargo

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



Liturgical Ministers

Attn: Lectors, EMHC, Altar Servers, and Ushers:

Your Mass schedules for the 4th Quarter of 2024 (Jan-Feb-March), are ready and may be picked up after Mass, or in the Parish Office during the week. They are also posted online. Go to www.stpatssnora.org, click on More, then click on Ministry Schedules.

Thank you for your Ministry!



The Day of the Sick

Diocesan Mass

Officiated by Most Reverend

Bishop Myron J. Cotta

Sponsored by Order of Malta

9:00 am ~ Saturday, Feb 3, 2024

St. Joseph Church in Modesto

Cathi Ruiz is looking for volunteers during this Mass to provide assistance to those with mobility issues to find their seat, support them while receiving the Eucharist and during the Anointing of the Sick. There will be a lunch served after Mass.

If you are interested in helping at the Mass, or during lunch, contact Cathi Ruiz at 209-768-1121 or by email, clruiz@comcast.net

Important Dates for St. Patrick's Parish

Sunday, Dec 24 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent AND
Christmas Eve

Monday, Dec 25 ~ Christmas Day

Monday, Jan 1 ~ Mary, Holy Mother of God (Solemnity)
Happy New Year 2024!

(See previous page for full Christmas Mass Schedule)

Sunday, Jan 7 ~ Epiphany

Wednesday, Feb 14 ~ Ash Wednesday

Sunday, March 31 ~ Easter Sunday



INTO YOUR HANDS, O LORD,
we commend the soul of
Pat Fernandez

*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace.*

Do you own a business and want to increase your
visibility in the community?

Do you work for a business that may be interested in
growing and getting new customers?

Here's an opportunity: **Ads will be returning to our
Bulletin's Back Page very soon!**

If you are interested in advertising your business or
service in our Parish Bulletin, please contact the Parish
Office at 209-532-7139. For a reasonable yearly cost,
your ad will be seen by all of St. Patrick's parishioners
and visitors to our area every single week. At this point,
we are simply collecting names and contact information
of people who are interested in finding out more, so
give us a call! More details will follow!



*Mass for the
Intentions of the Week*

Saturday December 23 ~ Sunday December 31

Saturday OLMC 4:00 pm	Souls in Purgatory ☩
Sunday 8:00 am	Sandy, Anthony & Tony Pallante ☩ Katie Barba ☩ Holly Bever ☩
11:00 am	Mari Louise Sowa ☩ Frank and Helen Dragowski ☩ Barbara and Jo Dragowski ☩
4:30 pm	Jeffrey & Rose Engler ☩
7:30 pm	James Betti ☩ Virginia Hamrick (<i>Blessings</i>)
Monday 8:00 am	Cooper Gookin ☩
10:00 am	Carlos and Marcos Balbuena ☩ Louise Goicoechea (<i>Birthday</i>)
OLMC 9:00 am	<i>No Intentions</i>
St. Anne's 12:00 pm	Joan Holland ☩ Mitch Woods ☩
Tuesday 8:00 am	Cynthia Schlosser ☩
Wednesday 8:00 am	Keith Koefed ☩ Gary & Theresa Stevenson
Thursday 8:00 am	Terri Julian Gray ☩ Joseph Perez ☩
Friday 8:00 am	Souls in Purgatory ☩
Saturday OLMC 4:00 pm	McVey Family ☩
Sunday 7:30 am	Ray Hilgersom ☩ Janis & Don Banchero (Anniversary)
9:00 am	Rosary & Altar Society Members Lisa Reyes ☩
11:00 am	Jack McCoy ☩ Jack & LaVon Woodcock ☩
1:00 pm	Guadalupe Diaz ☩ Jose Padilla ☩

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday December 25 ~ Sunday December 31

Monday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/ Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/ Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/ Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Tuesday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1-8
Thursday:	1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 2:13-18
Friday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/ Lk 2:22-35
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/ Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday December 24 ~ Saturday December 30

Sunday:	4th Sunday of Advent
Monday:	The Nativity of the Lord
Tuesday:	St. Stephen
Wednesday:	St. John
Thursday:	The Holy Innocents
Friday:	St. Thomas Becket

Weekly Offerings





Keep that mistletoe out ... All year long.
For Christmas, give each other a weekend together.

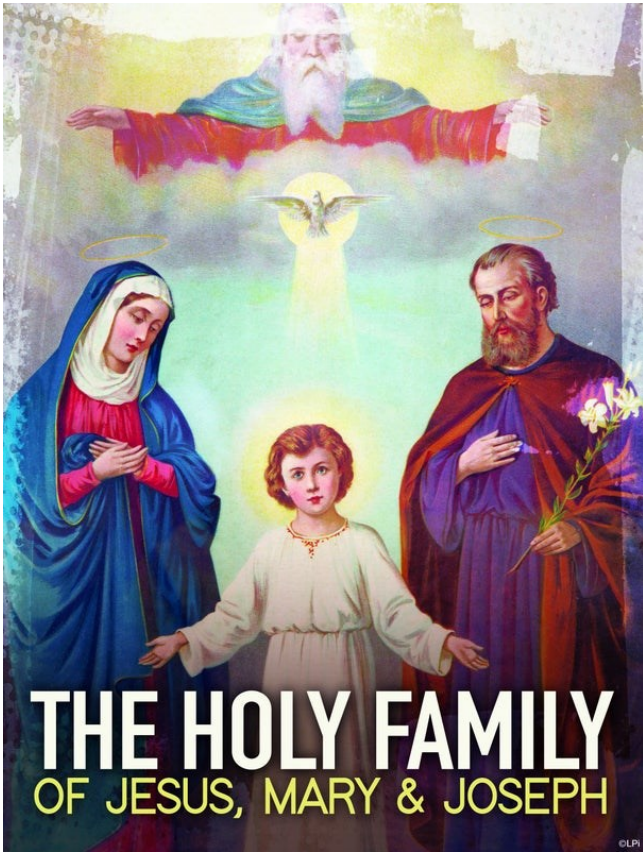
Worldwide Marriage Encounter
The Lodge Christian Retreat Center
February 16-18 ~ Mi-Wuk Village, CA
WWME.org 916-489-3464



Mary is the mother who patiently and tenderly leads us to God, so that He may untie the knots in our souls.
Pope Francis

Weekly Goal \$ 10,000	12-3-23 Week 49	12-10-23 Week 50	12-17-23 Week 51	December Totals To Date
General Offerings				
St. Pat's	\$7,228	\$4,664	\$5,312	\$17,204
OLMC	\$498	\$932	\$1,149	\$2,579
E-giving	\$1,890	\$900	\$805	\$3,595
Total	\$9,616	\$6,496	\$7,266	\$23,378
LAST YEAR	\$11,001	\$5,873	\$7,507	\$24,381
Maintenance Offerings				
St. Pat's	\$1,009	\$482	\$225	\$1,716
OLMC	\$0	\$25	\$135	\$160
Total	\$1,009	\$507	\$360	\$1,876
Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!				

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

