Sc. Datrick'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 Mr. Carmel

Mission Church 11700 Catholic Cemetery Rd. Big Oak Flat, CA



Mass: Saturday 4:00 pm

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30, or by appt.

Darish Staff

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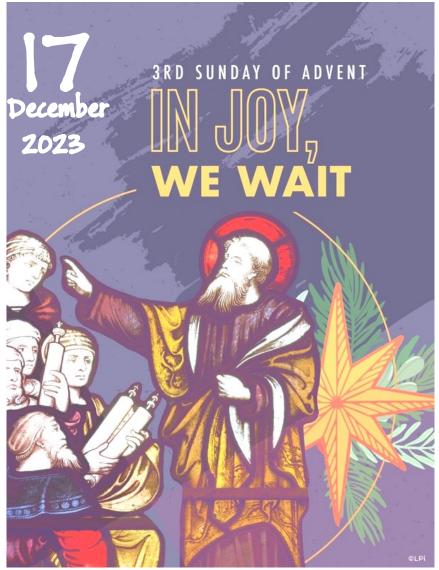
Hours: Mon-Thur 8:30 - 4:00 Closed 12:30-1:00 for lunch Phone: 1-209-532-7139

Web: www.stpatssonora.org Email:stpats@stpatssonora.org Parish Services: 209-532-7139

Ext. 107

Volume 12, Number 51





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!



Hope ~ A Reflection by Fr. Ron Rolheiser

Hope is not simple optimism, an irrepressible idealism that will not let itself be defeated by what's negative. Nor is it wishful thinking, a fantasy-daydream that someday our ship will come in. Nor is it the ability to look the evening news square in the eye and still conclude, realistically, that there are good reasons to believe everything will turn out well.



Hope is not based on whether the evening news is good or bad on a given day. The daily news, as we know, is better on some days and worse on others. If we hope or despair on the basis of whether things seem to be improving or disintegrating in terms of

world events, our spirits will go up and down like the stock market. Hope isn't based on CNN, Fox, or any other network.

Instead, hope looks at the facts, looks at God's promise, and then, without denying the facts or turning away from the evening news, lives out a vision of life based upon God's promise, trusting that a benevolent, all-powerful God is still in charge of this world and that is more important than whether or not the news looks good or bad on a given night.

Jim Wallis, the founder of Sojourners and one of the prophets of hope in today's world, has a wonderful way of illustrating this:

Politicians, he says, are all of a kind. A politician holds up his finger in the wind, checks which way the wind is blowing, and then votes that way. It generally doesn't help, Wallis says, to change the politicians because those who replace them do exactly the same thing. They too make their decisions according to the wind. And so "we need to change the wind!" That's hope's task. The wind will change the politicians.

How does this work? Wallis uses the example of the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa. Apartheid was not brought down by guns or violence or even by

changing the politicians, but by changing the wind. And it was changed by hope. How?

In the face of racial injustice, people of faith began to pray together and, as a sign of their hope that one day the evil of apartheid would be overcome, they lit candles and placed them in their windows so that their neighbors, the government, and the whole world would see their belief. And their government did see. They passed a law making it illegal, a politically subversive act, to light a candle and put it in your window. It was seen as a crime, as serious as owning and flaunting a gun. The irony of this wasn't missed by the children. At the height of the struggle against apartheid, the children of Soweto had a joke: "our government," they said, "is afraid of lit candles!"

It had reason to be. Eventually those burning candles, and the prayer and hope behind them, changed the wind in South Africa. Morally shamed by its own people, the government conceded that apartheid was wrong and dismantled it without a war, defeated by hope, brought down by lit candles backed by prayer. Hope had changed the wind.

During this season of advent, Christians are asked to light candles as a sign of hope. Unfortunately this practice, ritualized in the lighting of the candles in the advent wreath, has in recent years been seen too much simply as piety (not that piety doesn't have its own



virtues, especially the virtue of nurturing hope inside our children). But lighting a candle in hope is not just a pious, religious act; it's a political act, a subversive one, and a prophetic one, as dangerous as brandishing a firearm.

To light an advent candle is to say, in the face of all that suggests the contrary, that God is alive, still Lord of this world, and, because of that, "all will be well, and all will be well, and every manner of being will be well," irrespective of the evening news.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser

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This Week in our Parish

Monday 12/18 ~ Communion Service

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

Tuesday 12/19—Friday 12/22 ~ Daily Mass

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

Tuesday 12/19 ~ Advent Penance Service

6:00 pm, St. Patrick's

Wednesday 12/20 ~ 6:00 pm Adoration/Reconciliation

is Cancelled due to Penance Services

Saturday 12/23 ~ Vigil Mass for 4th Sunday in Advent

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

Sunday 12/24 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent

Mass at 8:00 am, St. Patrick's Bilingual Mass at 11:00 am, St. Patrick's

CHRISTMAS EVE (VIGIL)

Family Mass at 4:30 pm, St. Patrick's Evening Mass at 7:30 pm, St. Patrick's



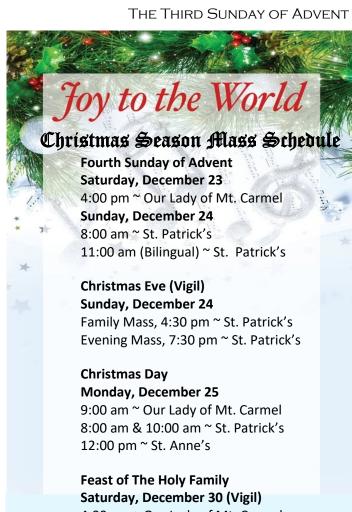
- Monday December 18, 6:00 pm St. Patrick's, Angels Camp
- Tuesday December 19, 6:00 pm St. Patrick's, Sonora
- ♦ Wednesday December 20, 6:00 pm St. Andrew's, San Andreas
- Thursday December 21, 6:00 pm All Saints, Twain Harte

Fellowship Sundays!



TODAY! After the 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am Mass Hosted by Eucharistic Apostles of the Divine Mercy

Please join your fellow parishioners in St. Patrick's Parish Hall after Mass today for coffee, treats, and fellowship!



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 "USHER'S 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!



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

Jesse Alarcon Linda Knapp Barbara Balestrieri Barbara Lema Deb Mann Jane Braga Roger Clark Mandie Mann **David Costa David Mesh** Aldo Diaz Jim Napier Gerardo Diaz **Barbara North** Alexandria Foye Gloria Patania Sue Froseth Frank Perry Manuel Gamboa Juan Pulido Eileen Hogan **Greq Rodriquez** Sebastian Ruiz A. J. Holmes Dennis Kavie, Sr. Jo Vargo

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



Our Advent Giving Tree is located in the vestibule of St. Patrick's Church. Please take an ornament, and buy the gift as suggested on the ornament. Then bring it UNWRAPPED either back to the tree, or to the Parish Office by December 21. All gifts are then given to our friends at Foothill Pregnancy Center to distribute to those families and children in need.



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. Datrick's Darish

Tuesday, Dec 19 ~ Advent Penance Service 6:00 pm, St. Patrick's

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



If you missed your chance to buy one of our beautiful Christmas Baskets at the Christmas Fair, good news! There are still some left. They will be for sale after all Masses this Sunday, until we sell out. If you still need a gift for someone special,

check out these amazing baskets before they're gone!

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!





Saturday December 16 ~ Sunday December 24

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Sa	tu	ırd	av	

OLMC 4:00 pm No Intentions Sunday 7:30 am Anthony Sena 합 Eriq James Wilson 합

9:00 am Charlotte Dunne 🕆

Deceased members of YLGI &

11:00 am Sharon Kay Doherty 🕆

Souls in Purgatory ₽

1:00 pm Jose Padilla 🕆

Monday 8:00 am *Communion Service* Tuesday 8:00 am Souls in Purgatory ♥

Wednesday 8:00 am Teresa Sweeney (Happy Birthday!)

Bill Balbuena (Blessings)

Thursday 8:00 am Marcos and Carlos Balbuena ₽

Thomas Merel **廿**

Friday 8:00 am Ramiro & Lizbeth Gutierrez 🕆

Mary Gonzales & Ryan Allison &

Saturday

OLMC 4:00 pm Souls in Purgatory &

Sunday 8:00 am Sandy, Anthony & Tony Pallante ₽

Katie Barba む Holly Bever む

11:00 am Mari Louise Sowa 廿

Frank and Helen Dragowski む Barbara and Joe Dragowski む

4:30 pm Jeffrey & Rose Engler ₽

1:00 pm James Betti む

Virginia Hamrick (Blessings)



Notes from the Music Ministry

During the Advent season, we sing the beautiful Mass of St. Frances Cabrini, which is a more subdued

Mass setting inspired by the feelings of hope, love, joy, and peace, in anticipation of our Savior's birth.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Concert! We appreciate your support, and we hope you enjoyed the music. Wishing you and yours a blessed Christmas!



INTO YOUR HANDS, O LORD, we commend the souls of Stuart Galka Janet Hart Ramos Carmen Mallare

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them May they rest in peace.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday December 18 ~ Sunday December 24

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/

Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/

Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38 Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,

20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/

Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and

14/Lk 1:57-66

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,

27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday December 17 ~ Saturday December 23

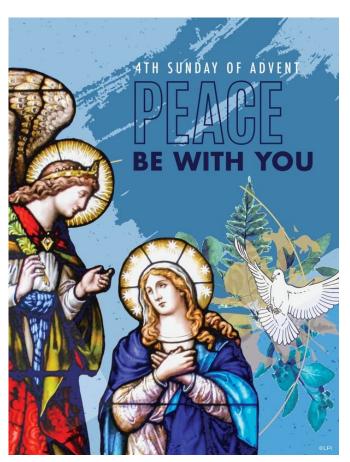
Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent Thursday: St. Peter Canisius Saturday: St. John of Kanty



Weekly Offerings

		1011119				
Weekly Goal \$ 10,000	12-3-23 Week 49	12-10-23 Week 50	December Totals To Date			
General Offerings						
St. Pat's	\$7,228	\$4,664	\$11,892			
OLMC	\$498	\$932	\$1,430			
E-giving	\$1,890	\$900	\$2,790			
Total	\$9,616	\$6,496	\$16,112			
LAST YEAR	\$11,001	\$5,873	\$16,874			
Maintenance Offerings						
St. Pat's	\$1,009	\$482	\$1,491			
OLMC	\$0	\$25	\$25			
Total	\$1,009	\$507	\$1,516			

Immaculate Conception: St. Pat's \$1,068; OLMC \$317 Retired Religious: St. Pat's \$1,288; OLMC \$75 Thank you for your continued and generous offerings!



Next Sunday's Gospel: 4th Sunday of Advent

The Angel Gabriel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called Holy, the son of God."

How blessed and fortunate are we that in one weekend, we get to celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent AND the Nativity of the Lord!

But remember, one Mass does not "replace" the other! Please plan on attending one of the Advent Masses Sunday morning and one of the Christmas Masses, either Sunday evening or Monday. Hear the Angel's astonishing announcement to Mary, and then hear the glorious story of our Savior's birth. Join the multitude of heavenly hosts singing "Glory to God in the highest!" Receive the peace and joy that only Christ can give, and prepare to greet the new year!



St. Patrick's Parish Communications

Visit our **Website** at **www.stpatssonora.org** to view our new <u>*</u> 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 $\overset{\wedge}{*}$ 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



