

**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**

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Parochial Administrator

Mike Kubasek, Deacon

Michael Tippet, Deacon

Nancy Roe, Business Manager

Marie Dahlstrand,

Coordinator of Liturgy

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Ext. 107

Volume 12, Number 51



# 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](http://www.stpatssonora.org).

To contact Fr. Suresh, please call 1-209-532-7139, ext. 112 or email [frsuresh@stpatssonora.org](mailto: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.



ONE WHO HAS  
HOPE LIVES  
DIFFERENTLY.

POPE BENEDICT XVI

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 &amp; 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!

*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 "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!

WELCOME TO ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PARISH



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

*Jesse Alarcon  
Barbara Balestrieri  
Jane Braga  
Roger Clark  
David Costa  
Aldo Diaz  
Gerardo Diaz  
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.

## Important Dates for St. Patrick's Parish

**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



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.



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!



**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](mailto:clruiz@comcast.net)

*Mass for the  
Intentions of the Week*

**Saturday December 16 ~ Sunday December 24**

**Saturday**

**OLMC 4:00 pm** *No Intentions*

**Sunday**

**7:30 am** Anthony Sena ✠  
Eriq James Wilson ✠  
**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 ✠

**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 ✠  
Holly Bever ✠  
**11:00 am** Mari Louise Sowa ✠  
Frank and Helen Dragowski ✠  
Barbara and Joe Dragowski ✠  
**4:30 pm** Jeffrey & Rose Engler ✠  
**1:00 pm** James Betti ✠  
Virginia Hamrick (*Blessings*)

**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**



Weekly Goal \$ 10,000	12-3-23 Week 49	12-10-23 Week 50	December Totals To Date
<b>General Offerings</b>			
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
<b>Maintenance Offerings</b>			
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!			



**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.*



