

St. Patrick Catholic Church

February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

235 Chapel Street
Grass Valley CA 95945
Phone (530) 273-2347
Fax (530) 272-9681

Office Hours
Mon – Fri : 9:00 AM—2:00 PM

www.stpatrickgrassvalley.org
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Visit our YouTube Channel
for weekly live-streams of our
Sunday 11:00 AM Mass



Mission

We, the parish of St. Patrick Church, being one community growing in faith and proclaiming our belief in the message and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ, invite all to open their hearts, hear His call, and become one with the Body of Christ.

Masses

Weekday	Mon - Sat 8:30 AM
Saturday Vigil	5:00 PM
Sunday	7:30 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM 1:00 PM (Español)
Daily Rosary	7:40 AM
Divine Mercy	Mon, Tues, Fri after Rosary
Devotion to Our Lady	Wed. after Rosary
Liturgy of the Hours	Thurs. after Rosary

For anointing, hospital visits and communion visits, please call parish office.

Adoration

1st Thursday	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Tuesday	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Friday	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
1st Sunday	2:00 - 7:00 PM
3rd Sunday	2:00 - 6:00 PM

Confession

Tuesday	7:30 AM-8:15 AM
Friday	5:00 PM-6:00 PM
Saturday	3:00 PM-4:30 PM <i>or by appointment</i>

Clergy and Staff

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Fr. Jossy Vattothu CMI
Richard Soria

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Parochial Vicar
Deacon

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Deacon (retired)

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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Family

With Ash Wednesday just around the corner, I'm thinking about what I will do to observe Lent this year. In the rectory this turns into joking about all the disciplines and penances I "would" impose. Fortunately, our community life does not include any spiritual tyranny on my part as well as others. As we prepare for Lent I share with you some wisdom from St. Benedict/

St. Benedict in his chapter on Lent in the Rule of St. Benedict declares that the monk's life should be a constant Lent. He then muses on how monks can live that and then gives a remedy to profit from Lent. Lucky for them, and lucky for us! This time of Lent in the Eastern Church is called the Great Fast and is observed with regulations that make our paltry two fast days seem like banquets.

St. Benedict continues in his rule that every monk should give up some additional food and drink (mind you monks only eat one full meal and a light supper in those days) , give some sleep and read a book from cover to cover. A monk's Lenten observance would then include bodily self-denial, prayer, and reading. With these three St. Benedict says that we can "wash away the negligence of other times. His final injunction is that each monk submits to the abbot his proposed Lent observances for approval by the abbot. This list is called the "bona opera" or "good works."

How do we fully engage in Lent and how do we profit from it? Do we simply bear the burden of sacrifice for 40 days, looking for a chance to cheat here and there with a clean conscience? Is Lent meant to make us miserable so we can be happy when Easter comes?

How should we keep Lent? Do we give something up or do we do something? The answer is both. We must atone for our sin and we must turn toward the Lord. Conversion and repentance mean not only turning toward the Lord but turning away from something else, namely sin. Everything we do, right or wrong, we perceive as something good. How many mothers haven't asked a child "What in the world were you thinking?" Junior did something that seemed like a bright idea, but in the end was a disaster. The idea to do something is governed by the intellect. Once we make our minds up, we have to do it; it becomes an act of the will.

The traditional acts of penance: prayer, fasting and almsgiving affect our intellect and our will. They affect our intellect in that we decide to offer up this temporal good for the greater good Who is the Lord. They affect our will in that we keep choosing the greater good over the lesser good. Lent is both boot camp and special training. The practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are best combined with the loftier acts of charity and increased spiritual practices.

As we consider what to do for Lent this year, I encourage us all to incorporate both aspects of Lenten practices. A very helpful idea is to make your own "bona opera" and write it out, leave it in a place that you can see and be reminded of these practices. Pick a spiritual book, plan to do some self-denial and fasting, add some extra prayer time or develop new habits, meditate on the Passion of the Lord and do good for others. All of these will combine for a fruitful Lent.

Let us pray for each other as we journey with the Lord to Calvary.

Your Father in Christ

Fr. Estrella

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Come together in the charity of Christ to restore dignity and hope to others 25% comes back to our parish for our own outreach to those in need. The weekend of February 25th and 26th, we will have the opportunity to accompany those who are suffering through the Annual Catholic Appeal. Each of our gifts, no matter the amount, makes a difference in someone's life. Catholic Charities can respond to the greatest needs in our communities. Seminarians receive support as they prepare to serve our local parishes. Catholic schools in economically-challenged neighborhoods can provide tuition assistance. Prayerfully consider what you can give this year.



CREATION CARE TEAM

As a member of St. Patrick's Parish, you soon will be participating in reducing carbon in the atmosphere. The solar panels currently being installed on the Parish Hall will provide about 65,000 kWh/year, which is 98% of the electricity needed for the church and the Hall! How about your homes? Check out the many solar companies in our area that can help you do your part for a cleaner future.



RCIA INQUIRY SESSION

Have you been worshipping with us, but never taken the step to become Catholic? Have you been Catholic all your life, but never celebrated the sacraments of initiation? Are you from a different faith background, and would like to learn more about the Catholic faith? If you, or someone you know, answered yes to any of these questions, please join us at our first of this year's Inquiry session of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) on Saturday, **Feb. 18**, from 9-11 am in the RCIA room at St. Cecelia's Center.

Contact Traci at 530-575-0176, 530-237-2336 or rcia@stpattickgrassvalley.org for any questions.



LENT RETREAT COMING IN MARCH

for St. Canice and St. Patrick

Where was Jesus on Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and what was He teaching? What is the significance of Holy Saturday for us? Please join us for reflection and scripture time, prayer, and sharing on Friday, March 24, 6:30 to 8:30 pm and Saturday, March 25, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at St. Canice Hall in Nevada City. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Registration forms will be available soon.

For more information, contact Barbar Burns, laburns10793@gmail.com or 530-432-2119.





STEWARDSHIP

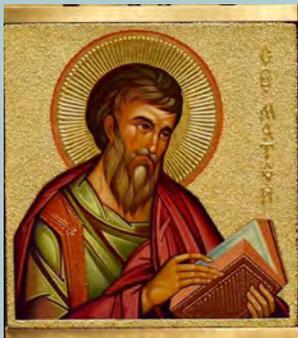
Managing God's Gifts To Us

Today's readings challenge us to reflect on the true state of our hearts. Do we think of stewardship as a decision we take care of once a year or rather, do we choose to embrace it as a daily spiritual practice and a way of life? Do we look at Stewardship as a way to grow closer to Christ?

The concept of stewardship helps us to live out the fundamental the choice to put God first, everyday. Moreover, it involves a constant conversion of heart, over and over again. "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus illustrates the difference between an external observance of the law and a true conversion of heart, saying, "You have heard that it was said... you shall not kill... But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment." Our Lord is asking us not only for exterior acts, but for a true change of heart. In stewardship terms, that means seeing everything as a gift from Him, to be used for His glory and the good of others.

Catholic Stewardship Consultants



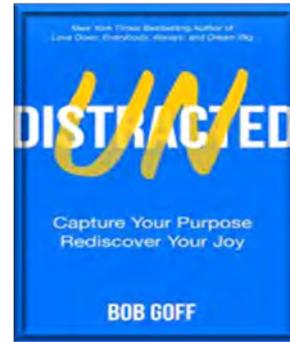
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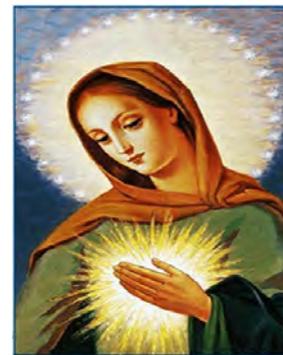
Wednesdays from 9:00 - 11:30.

Please call 273-1550 to set up an appointment. Bill's Wheel's is located at 425 Dalton



BOOK CLUB GATHERING

All are invited to a meeting of the St. Patrick and St. Canice Book Club on Monday, March, 13th at 1:30 P.M. at a Church location to be determined. We will be discussing *Undistracted*, by Bob Goff. The author will show us how to live a beautiful and purposeful life. In addition to stimulating conversation, coffee, tea and cookies will be served.



FLAME OF LOVE

The Flame of Love prayer Cenacle meets on Thursday, @ 9:15 am for meditation of the Rosary in the church hall. During the weeks of lent, this will include meditations from the 24 HOURS OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, by Luisa Piccarreta of the Divine Will. All are welcome to join.



Making your donations automatically means relief from the hassle of locating your offertory envelopes as you run out the door on Sunday morning, and guarantees that the church will receive your gifts even if you are unable to attend Mass. Automatic contributions greatly benefit St. Patrick by providing a predictable cash flow as well as decreasing the time and money the church expends dealing with the envelope system.



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Visit our website for more information or pick-up a brochure in the vestibule near the stairs.

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Bonnie Burke	Veronica Jones	Frank Santos
Mike Casey	Annette Krulisky	Sue Schrag
David Cerrona	Anita Lesch	John
Pat Chargin	Gere Lampman	Schwaebecher
Daria Cividino	Dee Lavrador	Maddie Testa
Linda Colombo	Sharon Mahar	Amber Turner
Diane Damron	Annie McDaniel	Skip & Trudy
David & Wendy	John Mercurio	Tyrrell
Detweiler	Susan Merport	Margie Wagner
Cathie Fideli	David Mott	Doloris Vasquez
	John Peregoy	

And all of their families

Please contact the office for additions to the list. Requests will be included for 8 weeks automatically, but for another 8 week extension, please just let us know.

CULTURE OF LIFE

Happy World Day of Marriage

Feb. 12, 2023

For the Catholic Church, married life is more than the union of a particular man and a woman. Rather, it is the foundation of humanity and the cradle of civilization. World Marriage Day provides us with an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love by supporting and promoting marriage and the family. And very importantly, it reminds us to celebrate the marriages in our midst. ***Congratulations to all married couples in our parish and a profound Thank You for your witness. May God shower blessings on the widows and widowers with happy memories of their cherished spouse and their years together. And to the children of parents whose chosen vocation was to love each other and their families, rejoice in their love for you.***

St. Teresa of Calcutta recognized that the world needs strong and loving families when she said,

"If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family."



Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

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Sir 15:15-20 1 Cor 2:6-10

The first reading affirms that God's commands are trustworthy and true; obeying them is a source of life and goodness. The Law is not an obligation to be lived in begrudging obedience; it is a gift from God, an assurance that goodness and righteousness are within our reach. The second reading acknowledges that God's wisdom is distinct from human wisdom; it often seems to us to be mysterious and hidden. Even so, it is worthy of trust.

Many of us at some time or another struggle with the moral teachings of the church, especially when leaders teach them without integrity. It is demoralizing to receive challenging teachings from people who themselves are not able to live by them. But what Jesus really wants for us is healing and freedom from the things that hold us back from the fullness of life with him. As you read this gospel, can you hear Jesus reissuing these teachings not as a way to control but as a loving invitation?

Mt 5:17-37

"Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes' and you 'No' mean 'No'.

This gospel can feel damning and demanding. Jesus affirms that the commands of Mosaic Law still stand, and also reveals that by-the-book obedience to them is not enough. Righteousness is not just a checklist we can tick off; it is unfortunately, not a measurable accomplishment. The orientation of our hearts matters more than the externals of our actions. This is challenging. But really, Jesus is issuing a loving invitation. He is calling us to health and wholeness as we live out God's Law. Changing our hearts is hard to measure, but it helps us more than it helps anyone else. Leaving behind sinful actions is one thing, but when we are able to move past the anger and lust that motivate such actions we are able to live in fuller freedom and joy.



Day	Saint/Feast	Readings	Gospel	Intention
Mon 2/13	Saint Giles Mary of Saint Joseph	Gn 4:1-15, 25	Mk 8:11-13	8:30 John Stanly Ward
Tues 2/14	Saints Cyril and Methodius	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10	Mk 8:14-21	8:30 Rose & Louis Seghezzi (d)
Wed 2/15	Saint Claude de la Colombière	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22	Mk 8:22-26	8:30 Theresa Ward
Thur 2/16	Saint Gilbert of Sempringham	Gn 9:1-13	Mk 8:27-33	8:30 John Meyer
Fri 2/17	Seven Founders of the Servite Order	Gn 11:1-9	Mk 8:34—9:1	8:30 Increase in Vocations
Sat 2/18	Blessed John of Fiesole	Heb 11:1-7	Mk 9:2-13	8:30 5:00 TBD TBD
Sun 2/19	Saint Conrad of Piacenza	Lv 19:1-2, 17-18 1 Cor 3:16-23	Mt 5:38-48	7:30 9:00 11:00 Mary Mauck (si) Alanna Hardin (si) For the People

Deacon's Corner



"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill".



Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Episcopalian Priest, Rian Adams shares this story: On August 21, 1986, the villagers of Nyos in Cameroon heard a noise from the valley near Lake Nyos. The next morning, every person in the village (nearly 1800) was dead. The cattle were dead, the flies that would have been on the animals were dead too. Scientists rushed to Nyos to discover what happened. They finally realized that a build-up of carbon dioxide gas on the bottom of the lakebed caused the tragedy. Lakes near volcanoes are prone to have CO2 deposits under water. Most lakes release carbon dioxide very slowly. That night Lake Nyos released 1.8 million tons of CO2. It sat under the lakebed continually growing for decades. The gases formed a toxic cloud and when it reached the surface, the tragedy occurred. No one realized that what was below the surface was more dangerous than anything on top. That is why Jesus lists all kinds of sinful behavior but then says, The real issue behind the behavior is in the depth of the heart.

We hail the 10 Commandments as a unique set of laws and because of the first four they are. But 700 years before Moses received the 10 commandments from God, Hammurabi's Code of 282 laws was etched in stone, a 7' 6" 4-ton black diorite stone. Among those laws were the last 6 of the Commandments. But Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is unique because Jesus tries to bring us from the Ethics of life to the Ethos of life. He tries to bring us from the external: obeying laws, to the internal: what motivates us. Jesus' simple preface to His statements that begin with "But I say to you" points to an authority that lifts us above cultural norms. The first 4 commandments given on Mt Sinai, lift the 10 Commandments above cultural norms and points to the authority of God. Jesus in the Beatitudes and these "But I say" statements reveal to us simultaneously who He is and what is most important for eternal life. *And it begins in the heart.* Jesus calls us to live imitating the Ethos of His life.

St. Pope John Paul II shares that Christian Ethos is the blending of the forming of our conscience with the sensitivity of our hearts as we strive to live as Jesus lived, to imitate His life. I often think that if I make it to Mass on Sunday that I am being a good Catholic. But when I do, I think that is all it takes. Jesus just smiles sadly and shakes His Head because He wants me to bring this gift of His self-giving love out into the world with me. I say this because when Jesus gave this Sermon, He was on the Mount of the Beatitudes on the shores of Galilee, 123 miles from the only altar in Israel, in the Temple in Jerusalem. That is the distance from St. Teresa of Avila in Auburn to St. Mary's of the Assumption, the Cathedral in San Francisco. Can you imagine driving to St Mary's for mass and while you are there, realize that a friend is frustrated or hurt by you, getting back in your car and drive back to St. Teresa's and reconcile with your friend, AND THEN drive back to St Mary's to go to mass and receive Communion? Well, that is what Jesus was asking His followers there to do.... except they would have to walk! Jesus knows the source of joy flows out from within us when we listen to Him. *"Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* Jesus knows that if we let lust, anger, resentment, deceit, arrogance, greed, and envy sit in us and we brood or fantasize about them, they can grow and fester within us until, like that bubble of CO2 in Nyos, they come to the surface and create destruction.

Jesus so wants us not to see God's design for our lives as burdensome but as the way to live, even while we are in this world, in shalom, in harmony with our earth, our neighbors, ourselves so that we can feel the embrace of His love. Deuteronomy, one of my favorite books of the Old Testament, sets before us an invitation and Jesus, in this Gospel, shares how we can live that invitation and Paul reminds us of God's goal for us.

"I have set before you life and death, the blessing, and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live," Dt. 30:19b

What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him,

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