# St. Patrick Catholic Church

April 16, 2023

### Second Sunday of Easter— Sunday of Divine Mercy

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

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

www.stpatrickgrassvalley.org

info@stpatrickgrassvalley.org

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1st Thursday

1st Sunday

3rd Sunday

Tuesday

Saturday

Friday

Tuesday

Friday

### 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

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

2:00 - 7:00 PM 2:00 - 6:00 PM

Confession

7:30 AM-8:15 AM 5:00 PM-6:00 PM 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

or by appointment

### Clergy and Staff

Fr. Alexander Estrella Fr. Jossy Vattothu CMI Richard Soria

### James Chatigny Brian Moore

Edee Wood
Deacon Rick Soria
Kathleen Hardin
Maria Beltran
Traci Jagger
Kellen Lake
Fr. Alexander Estrella
Colleen Deneen
John Evans
Edgar Lozano

Pastor Parochial Vicar Deacon

# Deacon (retired) Deacon (retired)

Principal, Mt St. Mary's
Director of Faith Formation
Business Manager
Receptionist
RCIA
Young Adult Coordinator
Hispanic Ministry

Hispanic Ministry
Music Director
Facilities Manager
Seminarian

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### **PASTOR PONDERINGS**

Dear Family,

Christ is Risen! This Sunday which we call "Divine Mercy Sunday" has a lot of other names. In some places it is called, "Low Sunday," because we return to the more subdued tone of the Mass, fewer candles, fewer flowers, simpler vestments and so on. It is also called "Quasi Modo Sunday" from the Entrance Chant. The chant begins "Quasi Modo infantes" or "in the same way as infants..." and is meant to be an instruction to the newly baptized and confirmed to continue seeking spiritual nourishments and therefore us as well.

The Second Vatican Council describes the Sacred Eucharist as the "source and summit of the Christian life." The Holy Mass is not simply a prayer service or a sermon with Holy Communion. It is a real encounter with the Risen Lord by celebrating His one saving sacrifice of the Cross, and being drawn into the mystery of His Death and Resurrection. All the Sacraments are given power from this one reality and are meant to bring us back to this great mystery as well. In working on the church, I had two points of focus, one that the design and set up be liturgically correct and that the sanctuary space would be functional for the most solemn functions.

This is one of many reasons why the tabernacle was returned to the center of the sanctuary with the crucifix above it and all in line with the altar. The stained glass window of above connects the supper to the sacrifice via the crucifix and the sacrifice to the Sacrament via the tabernacle. Our previous altar will be returned soon refashioned into an altar of repose for the tabernacle. But there are other details of this as well.

The center aisle is beautifully done so that our line of sight is carried to the altar and sanctuary area as well. It also connects the baptismal font to the sanctuary. As one enters our church, you dip your hand in the baptismal font to take holy water and we see the altar. Our life in Christ is born in Baptism and comes to maturity in and through the Sacred Eucharist. It is a wonder! If we had not been baptized we could not share in the Sacred Eucharist! It always fills me with wonder as I stand at the altar and see the baptismal font. I hope my reflection offers you that same opportunity and we all grow in appreciation of the great gift given to us in Baptism and the other Sacraments.

On a separate note, next Monday the priests of our diocese will go on retreat, please keep us in your prayers that week. Next Sunday we will announce how the retreat will affect the schedule for the week.

Your Father in Christ

Fr. Estrella

COMING UP THIS WEEK						
Day		Saint/Feast	Readings	Gospel		Intention
Mon	4/17	Saint Benedict Joseph Labre	Acts 4:23-31	Jn 3:1-8	8:30	Fr. Michael Cormack (d)
Tues	4/18	Blessed James Oldo	Acts 4:32-37	Jn 3:7-15	8:30	Cilione family (d)
Wed	4/19	Saint Gianna Beretta Molla	Acts 5:17-26	Jn 3:16-21	8:30	Kathleen Montavon (si)
Thur	4/20	Saint Conrad of Parzham	Acts 5:27-33	Jn 3:31-36	8:30	Fr. Michael Cormack (d)
Fri	4/21	Saint Anselm	Acts 5:34-42	Jn 6:1-15	8:30	Godofredo Verduzco (d)
Sat	4/22	Saint Adalbert of Prague	Acts 6:1-7	Jn 6:16-21	8:30 5:00	Jennifer Johnson (si) Shawn Carnahan (d)
Sun	4/23	Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14, 22-33 1 Pt 1:17-21	Lk 24:13-35	7:30 9:00 11:00	Timothy Buus (d) Attilio Cividino (d) & Santa Riva (d) For the People



Adoration
This Sunday
April 16th
2:00 — 6:00 PM



# CULTURE OF LIFE Healing After Abortion Rachel's Vineyard Retreats: 916-733-0161, 888-456-HOPE, projectrachel@sdc.org Brenda's Story

After being raped on prom night, Brenda kept the incident and resulting pregnancy hid from everyone. Feeling alone and desperate she looked up the local abortion provider and made an appointment. She explains, "I didn't stop to think, to pray, to question. I didn't consider any other option – I didn't think I had another choice." After the abortion she put away all of her feelings about what had happened. She graduated from college, worked, got married then got pregnant with her first child. Although joyful she also felt fear. She worried that, "I didn't deserve to have a baby. I had killed my baby – God would take this baby away from me as a punishment." He did not, and she went on to have three children. She took on the role of mother, rocking her children to sleep, pushing them on swings, and taking them for swim lessons but all the while felt a hole in her soul, not so much for the loss of her first child, but for God. She felt separated from Him.

Through her thirties Brenda was outwardly a wife and mother but descended further into depression, anxiety and ultimately active alcoholism. She struggled with alcoholism for almost a decade. She sought treatment but said, "Nothing was touching it." Brenda also went through mental health treatments for the trauma of the rape and abortion but she still suffered, still drank. "ii constantly weighed on my mind that I was in a state of mortal sin - I had killed my baby". Even after going to confession and receiving absolution she did not feel forgiven and continued to drink.

Somewhere along the way she leaned about Project Rachel and 22 years after the rape and abortion, she summoned the courage to call. "I attended a one-day retreat in May, 2009. I was a mess, sick with fear and anger. I even took a few drinks that day to get myself to the retreat. Sitting in a room with other women who were in as much pain

The Project Rachel/Rachel's Vineyard retreat was the beginning of Brenda's journey back from the depths of alcoholism. She found her path to sobriety and a relationship with God. She said she, "found peace and forgiveness and mental wellness."

(Condensed from her story on Project Rachel website, hopeafterabortion.com)

### **WE PRAY FOR:**

We pray for: Baltazar Andrade, Richard Borlik, Bonnie Burke, Mike Casey, David Cerrona, Pat Chargin, Diane Damron, David & Wendy Detweiler, Cathie Fideli, Marilyn & Tom Falls, Bob Galletta, Wayne Garth, Gary & Linda Grube, Jack Harris, Virgina Hedges, Sharon Henry, Joan & Tom Jacobs, Annette Krulisky, Gere Lampman, Dee Lavrador, Sharon Mahar, Wayne McHone, John Mercurio, David Mott John Peregoy, Susan Roberts, Gary Ross, Pat Rutter, Frank Santos, Sue Schrag, Larry Schmidt, John Schwaebecher, Dcn Rick & Maureen Soria, Maddie Testa, Amber Turner, Skip & Trudy Tyrrell, Margie Wagner and all of their families.



### **CLRS FLEA MARKET**



Catholic Ladies Relief Society is sponsoring the Annual Flea Market, Friday and Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Time to clean out the closets and garages and reserve your space!

Cost is \$40 for a 10' by 10' space with a 8' table and chairs for 2 days. Please text Kathy at (530) 263 5767 or ksouders@gmail.com or Sue at (530) 906 4707 or kspete@pacbell.net.

### **CREATION CARE**



Pope Francis urges us to take care of our common home. So, for Earth Day, the Creation Care Team is planning a litter pickup at Condon Park from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 21. Please join us!

This event is for all ages; children must be accompanied by parents. We'll meet at the first parking lots on Minnie Street, as you enter the park, and fan out from there. We'll supply the litter bags, pizza and cookies!

Bring litter pickers and gloves if you have them. For further information, contact bobbie@h2tonps.org.

### **ELECTRONIC GIVING**



Can't find your checkbook or envelope Sunday morning? Join the parishioners who are using *Faith Direct* for automated giving to St. Patrick Parish. It is secure and convenient. There is no cost to you, and the program provides a great benefit to our parish.

Sign up by visiting faith.direct/CA1104.



YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE/GUEST ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR ST. PATRICK AND ST. CANICE PARISH COMMUNITY!

### STEWARDSHIP IN THE FAMILY

Saturday, May 20, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish

Our call to holiness most often begins right in our own homes — by taking care of our family. This retreat will help you discover the spiritual transformation that takes place when we make stewardship central to family life. We have a God of abundance, Let Him show you all He has in mind for you — to receive and to share!

Your Father in Christ.

In Setrella

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Traci Jagger at 530-273-2336 x 3204 or rcia@stpatrickgrassvalley.org by May 13.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided and there is no cost to attend.

Lisa McArdle is one of the co-founders of Catholic Stewardship Consultants (CSC) and currently serves as Vice President of Client Services. For over 24 years, Lisa and her husband, CSC President Eric McArdle, have worked with hundreds of parishes across the country on every sepect of stewardship development. Together, Lisa and Eric co-authored the 2019 book Stewardship Success: A Practical Guide for Catholic Parishes, and her second book, Stewardship Sucs at Home: Using God's Clifts to Grow as Disciples of Christ in our Damestic Church, was published in 2022. Lisa has been married to Eric for 27 years, and the couple has five daughters ranging in age from age to 11 to 26 years old, along with a son-in-law and three grandchildren. She his a member of St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church in Augusta, Georgia, where she serves in various parish ministries.





# **STEWARDSHIP**

Managing God's Gifts To Us

Thomas Aquinus famously said, "Divine Mercy is the compassion for someone else's suffering." Like Jesus, the **Response** of Christian Disciples is to be agents of compassion, service, and comfort to a suffering world - in our homes, church, work, and to the world. In today's gospel, Jesus breathes the gift of the Holy Spirit on his disciples and instructs them to go and serve.



### **FAITH FORMATION**

On the weekends of April 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> our Faith Formation will be collecting donations to prepare grooming bags to share with our brothers and sisters living without a roof over their heads.

Your donations will allow our children begin to hear and live our call to reach out and care for our brothers and sisters.

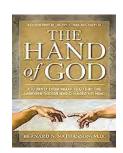
Thank you in advance for your generosity.



# PARISH BOOK CLUB Monday, May 15th

All Parishioners are invited to a meeting of the St. Patrick and St. Canice Book Club on Monday, May 15 at 1:30 P. M. in St. Patrick's small hall. We will be discussing *The Hand of God*, by Bernard Nathanson. The book deals with abortion.

The discussion, which will last about an hour and a half, will be led by Michael Moreland. The book is available at your favorite book store or online. In addition to stimulating conversation, coffee, tea, and cookies will be served.



### **SOCK DRIVE**

Sierra Roots reports that they are in need of socks. You have been so very generous in the past years, and we are asking for your support once again. Please place socks in the box provided in the foyer and accept our sincere gratitude for your kindness.

If you have any questions, please call Mercy Assoc. member Carlie (530) 305-3150. Thank you!



### My Journey to Baptism

This is the first of 5 reflections we will be sharing during the Easter season from our neophytes who just received or completed their Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Viail.

My name is Christianne Harries, and this is my story about joining the Catholic Church. I'd like to thank the St. Patrick's community for welcoming me, especially the Mount Saint Mary's staff & families, for their steadfast love and support. I grew up quickly in a loving yet complicated household with no religion. As a child, I was curious about God, but I also dealt with personal traumas from a young age that weighed heavily on me. Every morning I put on what felt like my invisible suit of emotional armor to shield me from any chance of vulnerability. I was always



searching for greater meaning in my life; I just wasn't sure what that was or if I deserved it. At 22 my husband and I were blessed to have our daughter IIa, a precious, healthy baby girl. She made our whole world bloom and blossom, yet somehow my armor grew thicker still, as I was determined to protect her from becoming "damaged" like me.

As the years went by, I maintained this practice of self-protection, but something else would come along to create a pivotal transition in my journey. Fast forward to 2020, when the Covid pandemic hit. Like many, my depression and anxiety went into a tailspin in isolation. My autoimmune treatments ceased, and my health greatly suffered. My faithful, once mighty armor now felt tissue-thin, and I realized I needed a new set of tools to help me. We then adopted a spirited puppy! The sudden change of routine helped me push on and kept my busy mind out of trouble. Our daily walks brought me a quiet inner peace, reminding me of God's glorious presence in nature. I was still a lost and searching soul, but developing hope and grace. God was leading me in such a gentle way! Following the disruption of Covid, we enrolled Ila in Mount Saint Mary's Academy and loved it. She brought such joy home with her in learning about Christ! I was intrigued and inspired. I later became an aide at Mount Saint Mary's. During morning assembly and Mass, I was so moved by the entire school praying and singing together that I was often brought to tears. I had also just endured the devastating loss of my grandmother, my nearest and dearest, my soulmate. When I attended church with school or on Sundays, I felt my grandmother's presence and that of the Holy Spirit. While dealing with her estate, I attended Mass at the Mission of San Jose. It was then that I realized I felt so at home in the warmth of the Catholic Church. My heart soared when it all finally clicked that this was what I had been missing all along!

After this life-changing experience, I contacted Traci Jagger with RCIA, who was very welcoming and down to earth. I grew and learned so much from classes each week; in history, life lessons, and tools to go through life as a dedicated Catholic. I was blessed with the best sponsor I could ever dream of, Doris Balog. She radiates such love and positivity that I instantly knew we would be friends forever. Her abundance of hearty spirit, rich faith life, and generous, loving support intensely nourished me. I cherish her and thank God daily for bringing her into my life.

At the Easter Vigil Mass this past Saturday, I was baptized, confirmed, and received Holy Eucharist, and as I write this, my soul feels as light as a feather. Bright and early on Easter morning, when my husband walked into the room I was in and first saw me, he said in surprise, "You look different!!" He could see I had finally hung up my invisible armor for good. I am now fully protected by God's grace, and it shows. As we celebrate Easter Sunday, we honor the forgiveness bought by the blood of Jesus. I celebrate that without Him, I wouldn't be blessed with this life, with my beautiful family and the opportunities shown to me under God's hand of provision.

Lord, thank you for sending your one and only Son down to pay the debt for our sins, not only to receive forgiveness but even more so that we may have life. Amen!





### DEACON'S CORNER



"Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him "My Lord and my God!"



Surrounded by Your glory What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You Jesus Or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in Your presence Or to my knees, will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine, I can only imagine

The lyrics above are from the song <u>I Can Only Imagine</u>, sung by the Christian group, Mercy Me. I wonder what it was like in that moment for Thomas. Did his heart explode with joy, or did he step back in shame because he had run away and then doubted? Did he fall to his knees in awe or stand there dumbfounded? Did he weep tears of shame that grew into tears of joy as Our Lord's Peace settled into his being? In that instant did he feel his very being embraced by Love? I can only imagine.

One of the gifts of being a deacon is that I have walked with people who because of grief, struggle, the experience of being forgiven, or being the beloved have wept tears first of grief, then tears of acceptance that they are Blessed and Beloved. Ronal Rolheiser in his book <u>The Fire Within</u> shares these thoughts by Marilyn McEntyre. "Tears release me into honest sorrow. They release me from the strenuous business of finding words. They release me into a childlike place where I need to be held and find comfort in an embrace—in the arms of others and in the arms of God. Tears release me from the treadmill of anxious thoughts and even from fear. Tears are a consent to what is. They wash away, at least for a time, denial and resistance. They allow me to relinquish the self-deceptive notion that I am in control. Tears dilute resentment and wash away the flotsam left by waves of anger."

"Not insignificantly, tears are saltwater. Human life originated in the oceans. Tears connect us to the source of all life on this earth within which prodigal fecundity trumps all barrenness." Like Thomas we are often so entwined with the expectations and values of our world that we miss the peace Jesus offers us in this moment. We need to find ways to become part of parish life that will allow us the opportunity in this moment to see Jesus the "Wounded Healer" and in awe proclaim: "My Lord and my God!"

### Jn 20:19-31

The gospel tells the story of one of the first encounters with the risen Christ; the first reading tells us about a community living in the wake of such an encounter. They respond to the gospel with awe and generosity, with prayer and communal living. The second reading is written to a community slightly more removed from immediately witnessing the resurrection; while they (and we) need to rely on the testimony of others, it affirms that joy and hope are at the heart of their response.

Most of us do not get to experience the risen Christ as tangibly and viscerally as Thomas does. Our encounters will more likely be encounters of the heart, more subtle and less subject to the proof that he asks for. Our firsthand encounters usually need to be contextualized by the tradition we have inherited; we are dependent on the testimony of those who came before us.

### Acts 2:42-47 1 Pt 1:3-9

"We have seen the Lord"

Poor Thomas here gets such a bad reputation, known mocking as "Doubting Thomas" when in reality he demonstrates great faith. His need for proof is only human; the other disciples were shown Jesus's hands and side before they came to believe, too! In fact, Thomas's questioning demonstrates an intelligent and responsible engagement with his faith. He ponders the truth of what he hears and brings his questions to the table, not shutting down when something does not immediately make sense to him. At the same time, he does not blindly accept what he has been told, even though it is something he deeply hopes is true. And when he does encounter Jesus, his response is immediate: "My Lord and my God!" He gives over his heart and life to the one who has risen from the dead.



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