

St. Patrick Catholic Church

May 14, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter

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
facebook.com/stpatrickgv/



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
or by appointment

Clergy and Staff

Fr. Alexander Estrella	Pastor	frestrella@stpatrickgrassvalley.org
Fr. Jossy Vattothu CMI	Parochial Vicar	frjossy@stpatrickgrassvalley.org
Richard Soria	Deacon	faithformation@stpatrickgrassvalley.org
Faith Formation #: 273-2336 x3201		
James Chatigny	Deacon (retired)	
Brian Moore	Deacon (retired)	
Edee Wood	Principal, Mt St. Mary's	info@mtstmarys.org 273-4694
Deacon Rick Soria	Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@stpatrickgrassvalley.org
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John Evans	Facilities Manager	facilities@stpatrickgrassvalley.org 277-2934
Edgar Lozano	Seminarist	edgar@stpatrickgrassvalley.org

PASTORS PONDERINGS

Explanation of Medallions Continued

Dear Family

Week before last, I explained the meaning of the medallions on the right wall of the Church (Sacred Heart side) and this week I will do the left side (Holy Family side). Hopefully knowing the meaning of these symbols will not only help us appreciate them more but serve as a means of prayer. I explain these symbols from front to back.

The first one looks like an "X" with an "P" behind it. We call that a "Chi-Rho." In Greek the letter "X" is pronounced like a hard "c" or a "k," "Rho" is the equivalent of our letter "R" so these two are the first letters in the *Kristos* or Christ. On one side is a capital "A" for Alpha and the other side is an upside down "U" or maybe it looks like a horseshoe, that is the letter "Omega," Alpha and Omega are the first and last (respectively) letters of the Greek Alphabet. Our Lord calls Himself the Alpha and Omega or beginning and end.

The second symbol is more obvious, it is a chalice and Host surrounded by stalks of wheat and clusters of grapes. An important part of the symbolism in this one is that it takes many grains of wheat and many grapes to make the hosts and wine we need for Mass. It also takes many people to produce these same things. This reminds us that the bread and wine we offer to God is an offering of ourselves and all His creation. Bread and wine also represent the ordinary and extraordinary aspects of our life, all of which with our very selves we are meant to offer to the Lord.

The third symbol is the Sacred Heart. Again, this is an easy one to understand. But let us remember that it was from our Lord's pierced heart that blood and water flowed from the Cross. The symbols of The Most Sacred Eucharist and Baptism. In a recent Eucharistic miracle it was determined the Host-turned-flesh was heart tissue from a man who underwent great physical torture and exhaustion. Not only does our Lord feed us with His very flesh, but His very heart!

The fourth symbol is the pelican, the same image on our altar. This beautiful image with its profound symbolism is also in one of our stained glass windows. It was believed that the pelican, when there was no fish, would pierce its breast to nourish its young with its blood. One of the best ways to enter more deeply into the graces of Holy Communion is to frequently contemplate the great gift our Lord gives us in the Most Blessed Sacrament but also in all the Sacraments.

The fifth symbol is a Celtic Crucifix. The Crucifix reminds us that there is no Sacrament without the Sacrifice. It also reminds us of our Lord's great love for us; we mean-as individuals-each one of us personally, so much to Him, God loves us so much that He would go to that length to buy us back, to redeem us. The choice of the Celtic Crucifix is a subtle reminder and tribute to the great many Irish priests and nuns who left family and home to share the gospel and serve the people of our diocese and parish.

The sixth symbol is a picture of our church but I will explain the one across from it. In the first set of explanations, I used the layout provided by the artist but I didn't catch how these two images were swapped when placed in their spots. Opposite the image of our church is the Diocesan coat of arms. This reminds us that our local parish is united to our Bishop and by him to our Holy Father who, as the Vicar of Christ, is the visible sign of our communion with our Blessed Lord.

Your Father in Christ

Fr. Estrella

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, Gary & Linda Grube, Jack Harris, Virginia Hedges, Sharon Henry, **Jeff Hill**, Joan & Tom Jacobs, Linda Kilass, Annette Krulisky, Gere Lampman, Dee Lavrador, Sharon Mahar, Wayne McHone, John Mercurio, Kathleen Montavon, David Mott John Peregoy, **Cheryl Riopel**, Susan Roberts, Gary Ross, Chuck Ryan, Pat Rutter, Frank Santos, Sue Schrag, Larry Schmidt, John Schwaebecher, Dcn Rick & Maureen Soria, Stella Spring, Barbara Stephens, Maddie Testa, Amber Turner, Skip & Trudy Tyrrell, Henry Vasquez, Margie Wagner and their families.



CREATION CARE

Nearly half of all food in the U.S. never gets eaten, while one in eight people in the U.S. suffer hunger. Food waste is a significant contributor to CO2 emissions, because it causes methane gas in a landfill. Methane is a greenhouse gas 25 times as potent as CO2 at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Spend some time problem-solving on reducing food waste at home and while dining out.



ANNUAL SHRED DAY— IFM Fundraiser!

Owen's Estate and Wealth Strategy Group is once again hosting their Annual Shred Day on Saturday, May 20, from 10:00 am - 2:00pm. The location is in Owens Plaza, 426 Sutton Way, Grass Valley. Suggested donation is \$10/box or bag. IFM is the recipient of the proceeds. There will be several shredding trucks on site and will shred while you wait (if you want).



COMING UP THIS WEEK

Day	Saint/Feast	Readings	Gospel	Intention
Mon 5/15	Saint Isidore the Farmer	Acts 16:11-15	Jn 15:26—16:4	8:30 Legion (Floresca) McNelly (si)
Tues 5/16	Saint Margaret of Cortona	Acts 16:22-34	Jn 16:5-11	8:30 Robert Allison (d)
Wed 5/17	Saint Paschal Baylon	Acts 17:15, 22—18:1	Jn 16:12-15	8:30 Marie Floresca & Family (si)
Thur 5/18	Saint John I	Acts 18:1-8	Jn 16:16-20	8:30 Conception Chavez (si)
Fri 5/19	Saint Theophilus of Corte	Acts 18:9-18	Jn 16:20-23	8:30 TBD
Sat 5/20	Saint Bernardine of Siena	Acts 18:23-28	Jn 16:23-28	8:30 David Jewett (d) 5:00 TBD
Sun 5/21	Ascension of the Lord	Acts 1:1-11 Eph 1:17-23	Mt 28:16-20	7:30 TBD 9:00 Jack Valentine (d) 11:00 For the People

Note from Deacon Rick: You might find it interesting how the chance meeting of two parishioners impacted Seth's life.

My Journey to Baptism

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

My name is Seth Baxter and I'm originally from Texas. I'm the gentleman with all the tattoos you've probably been seeing at the 11am Mass sitting in the front row with my wife and young children. My journey into the Catholic Church was a completely unexpected turn in my life for many reasons, and to fully understand the context of this, I'll need to start from the beginning.

I was adopted at the age of 7, and my adoptive parents me raised as a Southern Baptist. I remember going to Church with my mom and grandmother almost every Sunday. I was even baptized at the church they attended for generations. I wish I could say that I remained a Christian throughout my life, but as a child, I didn't know what it really meant to have a relationship with God. Looking back, most of my early childhood involvement in Church was based upon parental approval, and this was not a sustainable enough reason to continue attending at a young age.

After I stopped attending Church, I started hanging out with some troubled kids and my priorities got extremely mixed up. The younger version of myself wanted to be noticed for something other than being the adopted, ethnically ambiguous kid at my school. When I became old enough to start getting in trouble, I learned that doing things for shock value would get me attention. It didn't matter if the attention was good or bad at the time, it just mattered that people noticed me. I created a personality based upon chaos and unpredictability in spite of being raised way better than I turned out.

This was essentially an early onset spiritual illness, and it led me into the arms of the evil one. Most of my teenage years and adult life have been scarred by tragedy, sinfulness and my own degeneracy. I abandoned any trace of the beliefs that my parents tried to teach me, and I spiraled out of control for many years. I would read literature by anti-theists such as Richard Dawkins, nihilists like Nietzsche, some works of the occult, and many others. I believed that I was smart; much too smart to accept a concept of what I would call "blind faith." The liar (Satan) told me that I had life figured out, and that I was "free" compared to the people who follow Christ. But just as the insane person likely doesn't know they're insane, in my core, I was not free. I was a sick young man who was angry, afraid, and broken; all hidden under the mask of "shock value."

The fruits of my actions were proof that my belief systems were killing me. I was the singer in a heavy metal rock band and I was fully committed to that lifestyle. On the outside, I presented myself like a rock star, but on the inside, I hated myself. I abused my body with drugs and excessive tattoos, destroyed my long-term relationships, and I never thought that I would be alive long enough to have to experience any accountability for any of my actions.

As I read and study the scripture and look back upon my life, as you can probably imagine, I find that I can relate in many ways to the story of Saul. The old me would have bullied the person I am today. Or worse.

Unlike St. Paul, I didn't have this beautiful transformation where light from heaven came down and beamed into my body, and a disembodied voice told me my saint's name and my holy mission. My turning point happened when I was the most broken and fell onto my knees, tore my shirt off my body and cursed the day that God gave me this life I didn't ask for, the day he made my parents meet, and for making me so different from the people around me. I asked God, why, if he loves me so much and has some kind of special plan for me, would he forsake me in such a way? I knew only victimhood, not understanding how I was the one cutting myself off from experiencing Him at every turn. I know now that He is merciful, and that He loved me and protected me from death, even when I did not love Him..

I only became open to experiencing a relationship with God after I was willing to completely surrender to his will, and that meant denying myself - almost everything about myself - as well as any destructive qualities and defense mechanisms that I picked up or created throughout my entire life in the name of self-preservation. As many say, I was sick and tired of being sick and tired. But even at this point in my life I still wasn't ready to become a Christian. I had a very loose concept of God, but today I understand that just like the story of the woman at the well, Jesus reveals himself uniquely to all of us, and he is always willing to meet us where we are at in life. My case was no different.

There was a specific moment when I realized I had to be a Christian again. After studying various world religions, I began to see the thread of truth woven specifically into the Bible,



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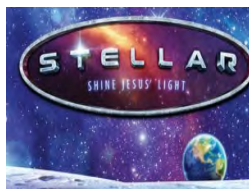


CULTURE OF LIFE HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Taken from the final day of the novena to St. Gianna Mola, mother and physician. For more information on St. Gianna go to catholic.org or saintgianna.org.

St. Gianna's sacrifice, to risk her own life for the health of her unborn child has inspired, and, in some cases, confounded those who hear her story. Yet almost all can agree that it was an extraordinary act of love. St. Gianna's husband, Pietro, maintained that Gianna did not sacrifice her life from a desire to attain heaven, but simply "because she was a mother." All mothers are capable of extraordinary acts of self-giving love, although these acts may take different forms. Mothers deserve our gratitude for the sacrifices they make in order to give and to sustain life. Today, we pray with thankfulness for all mothers.

Dear Jesus, on this day in which we honor mothers, may we love and cherish the special women who have born us, who have nurtured us, and who have prayed for our well-being. We ask you to bless them abundantly for all the years of loving care, encouragement, and forgiveness they freely and selflessly poured out upon us. And for new and young mothers, please bless them with faith, love and joy as they give so much in the care of their children. We ask this of the Son who loved his mother and our Blessed Mother so dearly. Amen



SUMMER FAITH CAMP

June 19th -23rd

9:00 AM -12:30 PM.

\$55.00 per child.

Register by June 1st.

Visit our website for registration forms. If you have questions, please contact stpatrick-faithcamp2022@gmail.com



KOC PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Returning this weekend!

Now that we are back in the church, we are excited that the Knight's monthly pancake breakfast will resume, starting this Sunday, May 14th. All mother's will be honored with a free meal and a rose. Mimosas will be available too!



and as I further began exploring on my own, I began to see how a Christian and biblical framework align perfectly with what I understood about the world around me. *I began to believe* - albeit still with a bit of reluctance. More was revealed to me as I began seeking answers. I began to see and understand the value of what my parents tried to teach me, and the absolute miracle of the Gospel, but even with this blossoming faith, I didn't really understand what to DO with all this.

I had no idea what being a follower of Christ meant, in practice. I found myself like a child, asking the most basic questions, such as "What church should I go to?" "What does worship mean and look like?" and "What's my role as a Christian?" At this point in the restoration of my faith, the assignment felt like it was unclear. I would describe this as my awkward stage as I struggled to let go of the parts of me that were so deeply rooted.

I would literally pick churches to attend based upon what they looked like from their Google profile, and everywhere I would go, I would have the same, somewhat underwhelming experience. I would drink coffee, mumble the songs on the projector, and try - with everything I had - to not doze off during the sermon. I would leave with a small feeling of having done the "right thing" and I would give myself a little mental pat on the back for having attended church that week.

Fast forward to about a year ago. I was a Christian with no actual doctrine going through the motions at a local mega church. I was praying very little, and I was not producing good fruit, and that, along with other things, was causing me to have major problems in my relationship with my children's mother.

Then something unexpected happened. Every Sunday, on the way to my church, I would drive by St. Patrick's and see the parishioners walking into Mass. I would think to myself "I wonder what those guys believe?" My curiosity finally got the best of me one day, and the Holy Spirit guided me to attend Mass instead of going to my normal church.

I was extremely nervous, and I felt like there was a spotlight on me the whole time, even more so when Frank Ortiz asked me to help collect the offering my first time attending. What Frank also did was direct me to Sharon Mahar, who was the first person to be my guide during Mass and I couldn't have asked for a better person to give me my introduction. She would point with her finger to where we were at in the Missal so that I could follow along, and she would whisper to me what was going on to help me understand. I would look around and see mothers doing this same thing for their children. I laugh to myself when I think about it now. Sharon and Bill were

Continued next page

the first people that I met and connected with when I started attending St. Patrick's.

Before I even knew what the Eucharist was, I knew that I was in the presence of something special. It was a religious experience that I've never had before, and it was such a powerful enough experience that I felt like I never really knew Jesus Christ before I attended Mass. I knew after my first Mass that I would become a Catholic and that my life would change forever.

As a major student of history and a self-described amateur historian, I really dove into history of the Church and the works of the early Church Fathers, and it became an obsession. The part I enjoyed most about this was that as I began to learn and understand Catholic doctrine and the Catechism, I began to confirm how it was directly connected to scripture, and it was revealed to me that the Catholic Church was truly the Church of Jesus Christ.

Even knowing this, there were certainly some hesitations on my end. As I began to learn more about what would be expected from me as a Catholic, I felt intimidated by what this meant, and I knew I would have to change many things. Some things would be easier to let go of than others, but it still felt like a major shift. There were to be no more excuses for the sinfulness that remained in my life. I knew that at the very least I would attend Mass every Sunday, go to regular Confessions, and fast when required. As I began this journey, I only slightly understood what the Catholic life would really be like when lived in its fullness.

A non-religious member of my family once told me that life as a Catholic would be extremely "rigid." After giving it a bit of thought, I responded, and I said "I understand how from the outside looking in you might think something like that, but if you're able to experience it from a place of full and complete faith, you would discover a few things:

- All the things that you once perceived as rules become ways to serve God.
- All the things that once seemed like obligations become opportunities.
- The things that you "can't" do become things you don't want to do.

RCIA was an amazing experience. Traci and all the sponsors were so selfless with their time, and I'm humbled by how much they care about the people they're sponsoring. Traci set me up with someone who was the best sponsor I could have asked for, I learned so much during that time as we prayed, laughed and cried together.

My time spent as a Protestant wasn't because I actually subscribed to any form of Protestant theology. Aside from a decent

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STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

On this sixth Sunday of Easter, our readings remind us that God must come first in our lives, and that love of God shows itself in concrete actions — this is precisely why the stewardship way of life is so necessary.

Our second reading, from St. Peter, challenges us to, "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts." In other words, we are to put Christ first above all else in our lives. His role is not merely as Savior of our lives, as significant as that role is — He is to be "Lord" of our lives as well. As His disciples, we are called to make Him ruler of all aspects of our lives — our time, talent, and treasure.

The beauty of the stewardship way of life is that it offers us a concrete means to show that Christ truly is Lord of our lives, to "prove" our love, in a manner of speaking, because true love is not a mere sentiment. "Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me," Jesus tells us in our Gospel passage from John.

True love is an act of the will. It requires obedience to all of God's commandments. This requires courage, humility, and deep trust in Him.

But the rewards of this kind of love are indescribably wonderful. Christ tells us Himself, "Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

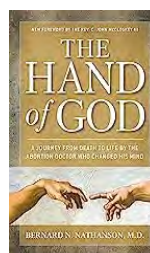


CLRS DEANERY MEETING

Join us Thursday May 18th at 10:30 at St. Thomas in Oroville. Registration \$10. We will have Mass, Lunch, & speaker and the meeting. RSVP to Maeva (530) 679-0704 or maevabarickman@yahoo.com.

PARISH BOOK CLUB

This 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 the Small Hall. We will be discussing *The Hand of God*, by Bernard Nathanson. Refreshments will be served!



Catholic Ladies Relief Society of St. Patrick would like to thank all the parishioners who attended and participated in our Flea market last weekend! It was a great success! Your support makes a huge difference in the charities we support. We hope to see all of you again in the fall at our Annual Craft Fair.

QUILT WINNER! Congratulations to Patti Wood who is the winner of the Flea Market Raffle.



Vespers and Dinner
with Bishop Soto
May 21st 5:00 PM
Watch for more info



WORLD YOUTH DAY

We're going to Lisbon!!! Several of our youth will be attending World Youth Day in July. The total cost of each pilgrim to attend is \$4,100. We'd be grateful for your prayers and if you'd like to help support our pilgrims financially, you may donate through our website, the collection basket, or by mailing your donation to the office. Thank you so very much for your generosity! We will pray for you!



Your generosity is
greatly appreciated!
May 6th \$13,265

Next Week: 2nd Collection for MSM



DONUT SUNDAY on Sunday May 28th

we will celebrate
Memorial Day and Donut



Sunday after all the masses. Please visit with your fellow parishioners in the Parish Hall, enjoy coffee, donuts and juice as we honor and remember all those who have given their all for our freedoms and those who are currently protecting those freedoms.



REMINDER:

Our retreat originally planned for next weekend is postponed until the fall.



COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday May 22nd at 5:00 PM

Join us in St. Patrick Small Hall for a wonderful hot nourishing meal and great companionship.

knowledge of scripture that I retained from my childhood, I didn't understand terms like justification, works, or Sola Scriptura. I had no idea what made one church different from another, and even when I began exploring Catholicism, there was loads of information that I was still yet to learn. Looking back, I can see that my life as a Protestant was likely a result of having no theological beliefs, and no denomination. It was just a default setting. It was a very simple relationship based upon emulating what I saw "good people" do, and what I felt like God could do for me. Clearly, I needed him, but the things I would ask from him went far beyond the gift of salvation; I would ask Him to make me comfortable. I would ask him for wealth. I needed my relationship with him to make me feel like I was a good person.

My journey into the Catholic Church came from a different place. After intensely studying scripture, theology, church history and the catechism, I realized that I wanted to build a relationship with our Lord that wasn't based upon my personal feelings about myself, nor would it be based on calling on Him only when I needed something. I wanted to serve God - because the truth is that I have much to offer Him, and I wanted to serve Him by living a life of devotion, service, and humble obedience. I wanted to honor Him and keep His Traditions, and when the call came, I made the decision to answer it.

I am, in almost every sense of the phrase, a changed man, and God has blessed me and my family beyond anything I could have ever dreamed. I have received the Sacraments. I've wept for Jesus during the Stations of the Cross. I've had the privilege of being married by Fr. Estrella to Desiray, the beautiful mother of my two children. Last but not least, I have a two-year-old daughter who wants to wear my rosary every day and tell everyone she meets about Jesus and Jesus' Mama.

I've done some ministry work in the past with a few different groups, and I currently volunteer as a mentor to men struggling with addiction and re-entry into society post incarceration as part of a local support group. I'm looking at what my future opportunities are to serve. There are a few different paths in front of me that I feel called to, and I'm interested to see where this takes me and my family. My life is one of many examples that demonstrate the power of God in our lives and in the world around us. There is nothing impossible for Him. We are all like clay that can be bent and shaped at his will and I am eternally grateful to be in His hands.

"For he says, 'At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation.' Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation"

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ and all His family and friends.

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