

St. Patrick Catholic Church

June 18, 2023

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Office Hours
Mon – Fri : 9:00—2:00 PM



stpatrickgrassvalley.org

info@stpatrickgrassvalley.org

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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, Tu, & Fri after Rosary
Devotion to Our Lady	Wed. after Rosary
Liturgy of the Hours	Thurs after Rosary

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

Adoration

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

Rosary & Adoration

Tuesday	Rosary @ 5:30 PM Adoration 6:00 –7:00
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Confession

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

Clergy and Staff

Fr. Alexander Estrella
Fr. Jossy Vattothu CMI
Richard Soria

Pastor
Parochial Vicar
Deacon

frestrella@stpatrickgrassvalley.org
frjossy@stpatrickgrassvalley.org
Faithformation@stpatrickgrassvalley.org
Faith Formation #: 273-2336 x3201

James Chatigny
Brian Moore

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

Deacon (retired)
Deacon (retired)

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

info@mtstmarys.org 273-4694
faithformation@stpatrickgrassvalley.org
admin@stpatrickgrassvalley.org
frontdesk@stpatrickgrassvalley.org
rcia@stpatrickgrassvalley.org
youngadults@stpatrickgrassvalley.org
frestrella@stpatrickgrassvalley.org
colleen_deneen@hotmail.com
facilities@stpatrickgrassvalley.org 277-2934

PASTORS PONDERINGS

Dear Family,

On June 3 we had the ordination of Fr. Eric Patrick. A good number came from our parish which was a delight to see. I typically serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the Ordination of priests, an unseen job is ushering the new priest to the reception so he can give first blessings. I also become the security guard to ensure the priest's family are the first to get his blessing. Since I often have to come back to the parish shortly after I use this special role to receive his blessing before the crowds rush the hall.

This I made me think about the concept of blessing; what it means and why we do it. It is almost instinctive to bless things that are used for devotion and the liturgy but there are countless formal prayers of blessings. Grace before meals, blessings for farms and fields, flocks and herds, butter and bacon, beer and wine, herbs and flowers.

The first thing a blessing does is it calls to mind God's gracious generosity in the use of created things for our good, how and what God created was intended to do good. This is meant to be a thanksgiving, a reminder that it is only by the providential and merciful hand of our Heavenly Father that we have anything good in this life, that we are meant to be grateful recipients of His goodness. Our modern culture attributes good things to one's ability and success to one's efforts, blessings remind us of the words of the Psalmist "If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do the laborers toil" and "prosper the works of our hands, O Lord, prosper the works of our hands."

Along with that is a petition for a greater grace to be granted in the use of the object. The blessing of a car asks for God to bless the car and send His holy angels to be with those who ride in it. It recalls how the Ethiopian reading Scripture in his carriage came to faith and was baptized by the Apostle Philip and then asks His servants be shown the way to salvation and be intent on good works so as to arrive to the happiness of life everlasting. The blessing uses the image of traveling and journey inherent to what a car is used for, and asks for something greater-the joy of eternal happiness. A blessing reminds us that we and the created things we enjoy are meant to be used for our good and God's greater glory. We ask the grace to conform ourselves and all aspects of life to God's holy will and law.

Lastly, a blessing takes something ordinary and reserves its use for building up the Kingdom of God. Just as we don't drink orange juice from a chalice, we shouldn't use our bodies or the things we have in ways that are contrary to our ultimate goal, purpose and desire: life with God in heaven. Whether we ask a priest for his blessing for ourselves or for something we own, it is a reminder that the God who loves us is present to us at all times and places.

Your Father in Christ,

Father Estrella

WE PRAY FOR:

Vida Santos, Bonnie Burke, Pat Chargin, Diane Damron, Marilyn & Tom Falls, Cathie Fideli, Gary & Linda Grube, Jack Harris, Jeff Hill, Joan & Tom Jacobs, Linda Kilass, Dee Lavrador, Wayne McHone, **John Mercurio**, Kathleen Montavon, Cheryl Riopel, Susan Roberts, Chuck Ryan, Frank Santos, Sue Schrag, Larry Schmidt, Dcn Rick & Maureen Soria, Stella Spring, Barbara Stephens, Maddie Testa, ...and their families.

Names are automatically included for 3 months, please call the office if you would like a different time frame.





ILLUMINATE

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 7:00-8:30 P.M.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SPEND AN EVENING IN PRAYER AND
ADORATION OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST IN THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT.

THIS IS OUR 14TH ANNUAL ILLUMINATE GATHERING
OFFERED TO ST. PATRICK PARISHIONERS and THOSE OF
SURROUNDING PARISHES. PLEASE BRING OTHERS.

OUR PRAYER WILL CONSIST OF BEAUTIFUL
MUSIC, SPECIALLY SELECTED SCRIPTURE READINGS AND REFLECTION BY FATHER
ALEXANDER ESTRELLA.

Confession will be available
~Hosted by St. Patrick Youth and Young Adults~

STEWARDSHIP

"Without cost you have received; Without cost you are to give."



In today's gospel, Jesus is moved with compassion as He sees the crowds who are like sheep without a shepherd. He commissions His disciples, empowering them to continue His mission of healing and preaching the Kingdom of God. Like the Good Shepherd and His disciples, we Christian stewards are also called to have hearts filled with empathy and concern for those who are suffering or in need. Stewardship challenges us to extend a helping hand.

By living a life of stewardship and discipleship, which recognizes that our faith is not just a set of beliefs, but a way of life, we are challenged to move beyond our comfort zones. Rather, we embrace the call to serve and witness to the transformative power of Christ's love. This requires a willingness to step out in faith, be empowered by the Holy Spirit, and to be instruments of God's grace and healing.

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CREATION CARE



In order to be climate conscious, we don't necessarily need to give up doing or having what we love – just be more mindful of how we live, and be willing to make a few changes, if need be. "Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations." (Laudato Si' 67)



Your generosity is greatly appreciated!
June 11th \$6,280

**CEMETERY RESTORATION
& CLEAN-UP DAY
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10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
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BOOKKEEPER POSITION

We are looking to recruit a bookkeeper to support our office team.

The role is 15 hours a week to do the bookkeeping for St Canice and St Patrick's church.

For more details, please email Father Estrella

frestrella@stpatrickgrassvalley.org



THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED NEXT WEEK ON:

Monday June 19 Juneteenth

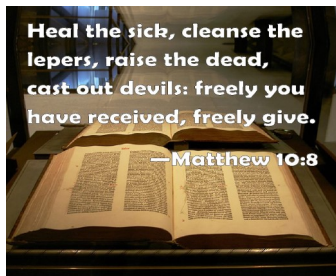
Thursday June 22 In service

OPENING DOORS MINISTRY

Ministry Update

We are a Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation Program for adults who have special needs or developmental disabilities. We have just completed our 38th year serving those in St. Patrick and St. Canice parishes. Our lessons this past season focused on the family tree of Jesus from the Old Testament, and on the Holy Seasons of the Church. Music, storytelling and prayer are an important part of this program. Our "doors" are always open to both Catholics and non-Catholics. The class will be starting up again in September 2023 with meetings on Sundays from 10am-11am. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact Helen Albano, (530) 210-1721.

Reflecting on the Gospel



God wants the Israelites to stay close. "Hearken to my voice and keep my covenant," God tells the Israelites through Moses. At the time, the Israelites had pitched camp right at the foot of the mountain where God dwells. They believed they were in close proximity to God in a special way, perhaps similar to how we feel when we gather in church for Eucharist. The Israelites journeyed toward God and God journeyed toward the Israelites. The relationship between God and God's beloved people goes two ways. Just as we desire closeness with God, God also desires closeness with us. God delights when we carve out time for prayer, serve our neighbors in need, advocate for justice, and take part in the myriad of other ways

we keep the divine covenant.

God delights in us. Savor that truth for a moment. God lifts us toward God's very self. God embraces us just as God embraced our ancestors in Israel. God draws us close and then remains with us as we go into the world to labor the divine love into being.

Today's gospel tells of Jesus calling disciples to help enact the gospel work of curing the sick, raising the dead, cleansing the lepers, driving out demons, and proclaiming to the lost: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Jesus calls disciples to labor for the harvest of the Lord. The Son of God is all powerful and could take care of everything on his own. But like God the Creator, Jesus wants his people to be part of the mission too.



DONUTS WITH DAD

Join us on Sunday June 18th, Father's Day, and celebrate our dad's with donuts and coffee, tea or juice after all the Sunday Masses.



Happy Father's Day

The Good: Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, storytellers, and singers of song." - unknown



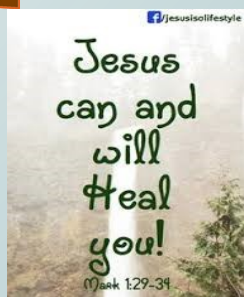
The Bad: In 1950 94% of America's children lived in a home with a father. Today it is only 60%. In fact, the United States is the world's leader in fatherless families.

The Indispensable and Irreplaceable: Fatherhood is "society's most important role for men" according to David Blackenhorn, author of *Fatherless America: Confronting Our Most Urgent Social Problem*. Pediatric Associates of Franklin state that, "Fathers play a role in every child's life that cannot be filled by others. Children look to their fathers to lay down the rules and enforce them. They also look to their fathers to provide a feeling of security, both physical and emotional. Children want to make their father proud, and an involved father promotes inner growth and strength."

Dear Jesus, we thank you for and ask you to bless our fathers, grandfathers and sons who are now fathers. Guide them, protect and encourage them. And for the young men in our families and community who are not yet fathers, we ask that their hearts will be open to marriage and fatherhood. Help them to recognize that family is a masterpiece of God and children are a reward from Him. Amen

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Day	Saint/Feast	Readings	Gospel	Intention
Mon 6/19	Saint Romuald, Abbot	2 Cor 6:1-10	Mt 5:38-42	8:30 Ellen Kaipust(d)
Tues 6/20	Saint Vincent Kaun	2 Cor 8:1-9	Mt 5:43-48	8:30 Judd Eagles (d)
Wed 6/21	Saint Aloysius Gonzaga	2 Cor 9:6-11	Mt 6:1-6	8:30 Rep for sin and sacrilege
Thur 6/22	Saint Paulinus of Nola	2 Cor 11:1-11	Mt 6:7-15	8:30 Rep for sin and sacrilege
Fri 6/23	Saint Marianne Cope	2 Cor 11:18-21	Mt 6:19-23	8:30 Rep for sin and sacrilege
Sat 6/24	The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist	Jer 1:4-10	Lk 1:15-17	8:30 Frances & Yolanda R 5:00 James Langdon
Sun 6/25	12th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jer 20:10-13 Rom 5:12-15	Matthew 10:26-33	7:30 Rose and Sharon R 9:00 Atilio C & Santa R (d) 11:00 For the People



DEACON'S CORNER

Therefore, if you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my

special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine. You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation."

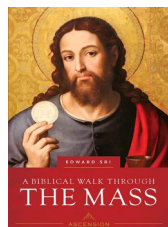
At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd.

Earlier this week I read this article by Jack Elbaum in the Washington Examiner, entitled The Cost of Secularism. Although my response to the studies in this article and Jack Elbaum's conclusion was "Duh....." I think it might provide a wonderful way to open a discussion with our older teen and adult children about the beauty of living our faith. I ache for them as they struggle to find meaning in this secular society that worships the narcissistic gods of progress, pleasure and individualism.

On Saturday the Wall Street Journal published an essay entitled "Is Religion Good for Your Health?" In it, Northeastern University Professor David DeSteno, details the academic research that consistently shows a "strong association between being religious and good health." Some of the conclusions were striking. For example, he writes about a Mayo Clinic analysis that found higher death rates "among people who never attend religious services compared with those who attend several times a week is comparable to that associated with smoking a pack of cigarettes a day.

He also discussed a massive study, led by a Harvard epidemiologist and published in JAMA Internal Medicine, which found "that those who attended religious services at least once a week had a 33% lower mortality rate, from any cause, over a 16-year period. In particular, deaths due to cancer or cardiovascular disease were 75% the rate among non-attenders." Also "using data from large scale longitudinal studies, VanderWeele found religiosity improves mental health." Even more remarkable seems to be the finding that those attending services at least once a week or more cut the suicide rate by 80%, even when controlling for diagnoses of cancer, depression and cardiovascular disease."

As the author notes, researchers are asking if these benefits "are due to religious observance itself or some related factor." These factors could include socioeconomic status or age, but also involvement with civil society, social support, meeting and making friends at houses of worship, or a sense of meaning. The question is whether there is something inherent in religion that improves health outcomes or whether better health is an indirect consequence of religious observance. But the question seems to be missing something important: It is almost impossible to separate religion from the social factors associated with it because, in many ways, the benefit of religion is its intentional cultivation of community, altruism, and meaning. These are not secondary factors, as academics seem to suggest. Civic involvement, charity, and community have such a deep and intimate connection to religion that it is almost pointless to ask which one causes the practical benefit. In the real world, they operate as one and the same. For example, research shows that religiosity is significantly associated with gratitude, involvement in civic society, happiness and charity. In some cases, religion is the best predictor of these favorable attributes. This is not to say those who aren't religious do not engage in charity, and cannot be part of a strong community. It is well-documented that this is possible. But rather these findings point to religion's unique position vis-à-vis these important societal characteristics. Interestingly, one study found that even after controlling for a variety of different factors such as "reduction in smoking and increase in social support.... The data suggested that religion worked through other, as yet unexplained avenues too." In other words, religion's total benefit is greater than the sum of its parts. This suggests that the modern view of religion (by secular society & academia) is deeply flawed. If one believes, as many today do, that religion is anachronistic (belonging to or appropriate to an earlier period of time,) and nothing more than superstition, then religion's rapid retreat from American life is a sign of moral and intellectual progress. However, this research points us to a different reality. It instead indicates that when we lose religion, we lose something much deeper as well. We lose strong communities, social support, charity and civic society involvement. The late Rabbi Johnathan Sacks pointed out that we now live in a world where "every function that was once performed by religion can now be done by something else." However, he writes, "Religion survives because it answers 3 questions that every reflective person must ask. Who am I? Why am I here? How shall I live? We will always ask these 3 questions because homo-sapiens are the meaning-seeking animal and religion has always been our greatest heritage of meaning." American society may well continue down the path of decreased religiosity, which includes ever-decreasing rates of religious services attendance and other forms of engagement with religious communities. However, we should not be naïve, as it does not come without a cost.



A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS

Wednesdays Morning June 28th to August 16th 9:30-11:30 AM

At St. Canice Center

Thursday Evenings June 29th to August 17th 6:00-8:00 PM

At St Patrick's Hall

Registration online at St Patrick Website or contact Dcn Rick at 273-2336 or 310-626-5673

Registration Fee \$35 paid at first class

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