

St. Patrick Catholic Church

July 16, 2023

15th 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

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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

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Brian Moore
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Deacon Rick Soria

Deacon (retired)
Deacon (retired)
Principal, Mt St. Mary's
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Fr. Alexander Estrella
Colleen Deneen
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RCIA
Young Adult Coordinator
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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Family,

This past week there was a comment made by a Portuguese bishop that the goal of World Youth Day is not to convert young people to Christ or to the Catholic Church. He later clarified that he was misquoted and the larger context of that statement was that World Youth Day is meant to be an encounter with God. I was questioned about what he meant and from there found the topic for this week's column. What this bishop said is true in that a true encounter with God will ultimately lead to an encounter with Christ who is God made man. It is the mission of the Church to help with one experience that encounter and through both the doctrine and sacramental life of the Church come to know our Lord more fully.

On Wednesday, I assisted Bishop Soto at funeral Mass of a deacon in Sacramento, as he often does, at the end of the Mass (the preacher was a close deacon friend of the deceased deacon) Bishop Soto offered his own words about the deacon and offered some consolation to the deceased. He began by reminding us of the centrality of the Incarnation and how our God, because of that Incarnation shares in our human experience. I would suggest that in the Eucharist, the Incarnation and the Death and Resurrection of our Lord meet. This is why devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament is such an integral part of our faith and why so many experience conversions through Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

There is a closeness between God and His people that is at the heart of our religion and God's own self-revelation. If we can find ways to share that closeness with others, then we have found the way we are supposed to share the gospel. It can be scary because sharing our faith makes us vulnerable. Will people laugh at us? Mock us? Will they stop being our friend? If there is a real fear that anything like these are true, then perhaps we don't need that friendship. If it is a close family member, we must love them more and pray for them more as well. Sometimes we can engage with them but many times it is our prayer and the work of others that will bring them to faith.

In just under two weeks I will leave for World Youth Day with 23 other pilgrims from our parish. We might end up with St. Joseph's Lincoln and join 32 pilgrims from there to go to Portugal. Please keep us in your prayers so that we all might benefit from our encounter with our Lord in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. While it seems daunting, I am eager for the experience and grace it brings. As we spend these days on pilgrimage, we will be praying for you all as well. I will remember you all as I offer Mass in these holy places and at the closing Mass when I have the great privilege to concelebrate with the Holy Father.

Your Father in Christ,

Father Estrella

WE PRAY FOR:

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

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



CULTURE OF LIFE



Plan B: The morning-after emergency contraception pill is being made available on college campuses via vending machines. Since the overturn of Roe there has been a push on college campuses to expand the availability of cheap, discreet emergency contraception. Plan B One-Step (levonorgestrel) has been approved by the FDA and is available as an over-the-counter drug in all 50 states. It is usually sold at a pharmacy where instructions and side effects could be provided however that doesn't meet the above criteria of cheap and discreet. According to the Mayo Clinic website,

levonorgestrel does not end a pregnancy that has implanted, but it works primarily by delaying or preventing ovulation. "Primarily"? There are conflicting opinions as to whether it is an abortifacient that prevents a fertilized egg from implanting. It does have possible side effects such as nausea or vomiting, breast tenderness, unusual bleeding and abdominal cramps. At best it is 89% effective, it must be used within a specific window of time and is not designed as a primary form of birth control. These and more important details and cautions are not readily available and more than likely overlooked when the drug is purchased from a vending machine.



Plan A: Where can a young person find information on Chastity on a college campus? Not likely at the health office, Personal Health classes or Planned Parenthood. Do our children and grandchildren know that the Catholic Church advocates chastity outside and inside of marriage and that outside of marriage it is expressed as sexual abstinence. Are they taught that the use of artificial contraception is considered intrinsically evil as it usurps the natural way of conception? Are they aware that premarital sex and the use of artificial contraception are grave sins?

Our secular society enthusiastically steps in after the sexual activity has taken place providing Plan B to artificially prevent pregnancies and even worse terminate them through free abortions (Plan C?) But what is being done to teach and support Plan A? There is so much more that can be done, that must be done.

The Culture of Life Ministry typically meets on the first Monday of the month. We would welcome your thoughts and suggestions regarding this most distressing and frightening situation. Doing nothing just does not seem an appropriate option. We hope you will feel compelled to join us with any of your ideas.



Teacher Position

Mt. St. Mary Academy is seeking a Fifth Grade Teacher and a First Grade Teacher for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. If you are interested in joining the MSM team, send your resume to ewood@mtstmarys.org.



Donut Sunday

July 16

Come socialize with your fellow parishioners and enjoy a donut, coffee, tea, or juice after all Sunday Masses this week!



Sponsor the 23rd Annual Fr. Phelan Golf Classic



The Knights of Columbus will host the 23rd Annual Fr. Phelan Golf Classic at the Alta Sierra Golf Course on September 10th. This fun event will benefit Mt. St. Mary's Academy and Sierra Roots. **If you would like to be a sponsor and have your company's logo or your name on the upcoming flyer, please contact Bert Tomasino at radarnav52@yahoo.com or (530) 615-6262 as soon as possible** as we plan to have the first edition of the golf flyer published very soon.

FAIR TIME!

Great opportunity to help at the Knights of Columbus Fair Booth!

The Knights will be selling hamburgers, etc. as part of their annual fundraising. There are 135 shifts that we need to fill and we would love to have your help. The shifts are 4 hours long and when you sign up you are entitled to, free fair entry and a free lunch or dinner at the booth! Such a great deal!

The dates are **August 9th through August 13th and the shift choices are 10am-2pm, 2pm-6pm or 6pm-11pm.** No experience necessary and the camaraderie in the booth is great fun. Bring friends, family, kids, grandkids (children must be 12 or older) groups of teens, etc.

Since we have many slots to fill, it works well to start to fill in the schedule early—for further information or to sign up, please contact:

Marilyn Peters
Email: marilyn@petersdrilling.com
Call or text: (530) 913-6583
OR

Greg Peters
Email: greg@petersdrilling.com
Call or text: (530) 205-7011

SIGNUPS AVAILABLE at
<https://tinyurl.com/3j4sc254>



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Reflection on God's Divine Word

Practicing Christian Stewards are instructed in today's readings that God's divine word ought to be the central, organizing power and principle of our lives. Otherwise, we will bear no fruit.

Do worldly concerns take a dominating presence in your mind? Do activities of daily living choke off your interest and curiosity in the Word of God? Are you too busy to pray? When the sower spreads His divine word, is our soil rich and ready to receive the gift of God's word?

The rich soil in today's parable is characterized by our ability to understand the faith. The rich soil is also marked by perseverance discipline, and practicing the faith everyday so as not to fall away. And finally, the rich soil processes a keen sense of prioritizing the word of God, so that it comes first, not to be neglected, while the rest of our priorities are positioned in the right order. Rich soil is cultivated in daily Prayer.

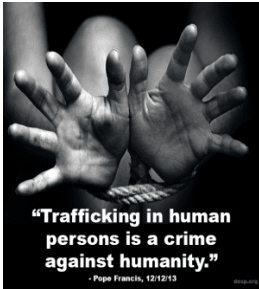
When that rich soil is embedded in our hearts, then the seed and soil will yield great fruit a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. This is the vision of Stewardship way of life - an orchard of abundant Fruit that we share with the world.

- Bishop Robert Barron/ Word on Fire

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MAKING A COMMITMENT TO SPIRITUALLY ADOPT AND PRAY FOR TRAFFICKED CHILDREN



In response to the movie, "Sound of Freedom" in making aware the plight of trafficked children, please make a commitment to spiritually adopt and pray the following prayer daily for a trafficked child known to God alone:
"Through the mercy of Jesus and with the Father and Holy Spirit, I spiritually adopt this child, this victim of trafficking, and ask through your mercy and love, that you send your angels to release her/him into your protection. Jesus you said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.' Through the intercession of your Blessed Mother Mary and St. Joseph, and all the holy saints, I pray. Amen."

Thank you,
Helen Albano (530) 210-1721

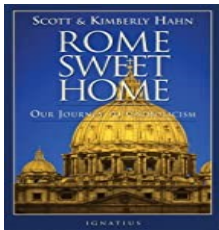


CREATION CARE



Creation Care Team: With the warmer weather under way, consider drying your laundry on a clothesline. They save energy and your laundry will smell fantastic! Many umbrella styles are now available online, and some can even be stored in your garage or shed when not in use. Don't have a yard to put a clothesline? You can still reduce your electricity or gas usage by only running your dryer when it's full (every 2-3 loads).

PARISH BOOK CLUB



All Parishioners are invited to a meeting of the Book Club on Monday, July 24, at 1:30 P.M. in the Angel's Nest. We will be discussing Rome Sweet Home: Our Journey to Catholicism, by Kimberly and Scott Hahn. 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 and cookies will be served.



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- *Full day program (8am-3pm) after school care available beginning August 16th.

Call 530-272-4694 to schedule an interview.

(Summer office hours Tues, Wed, Thurs. 9am-3pm)

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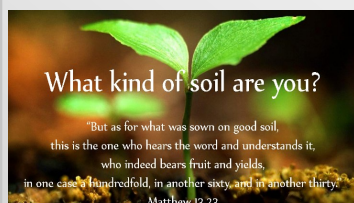


FUNERAL

July 21 @10:30am:
Sharon Henry

Reflecting on the Gospel

Today's readings teach us about the word of God. Three characteristics stand out. First, the word of God is expansive. The prophet Isaiah offers a beautiful image of the word of God coming down from heaven like rain and snow, with enough strength to nourish the whole world. God sends out God's word to the ends of the earth. Like rain and snow, God's word gets to work sparking growth and new life in all who encounter it. God's reach knows no bounds. Where do you experience the expansiveness of God's word?



The word of God is also contextual. In the gospel parable of the sower and the seed, Jesus lays out a variety of options for where the seeds can land and image for how people can receive God's word. Some people are not prepared to absorb the word of God, like seeds on the path. Others find great joy in God's word at first but cannot sustain it. They are like seeds sown on rocky ground. Still others deal with anxieties and temptations that make it nearly impossible to truly take in the word of God, like seeds sown among thorns. The word of God does not change, but the context of the hearer makes a big difference in how well it will be received. How might you cultivate rich soil to truly hear the word of God this week?

Finally, today's readings show the connection between the word of God and the natural world. Both Isaiah and Jesus use nature imagery to teach about God's word for it is not stuck somewhere in the heavens out of reach. Rather, the word of God is all around us, ready to be discovered and engaged. Spend some prayerful time in nature this week and listen for God's revelation.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Day	Saint/Feast	Readings	Gospel	Mass Times	Intention
Mon 7/17	Saint Alexius	Ex 1:8-14,22	Mt 10:34-11:1	8:30 am	Joseph Bassig(D)
Tues 7/18	Saint Camillus de Lellis	Ex 2:1-15a	Mt 11:20-24	8:30 am	
Wed 7/19	Saint Vincent de Paul	Ex 3:1-6. 9-12	Mt 11:25-27 (391)	8:30 am	Sharon Henry(D)
Thurs 7/20	Saint Apollinaris, Bishop	Ex 3:13-20	Mt 11:28-30 (392)	8:30 am	Geri Mendola(SI)
Fri 7/21	Saint Lawrence of Brindisi	Ex 11:10-12:14	Mt 12:1-8 (393)	8:30 am	Jack Valentine(D)
Sat 7/22	Saint Mary Magdalene	Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17	Jn 20:1-2, 11-18(603)	8:30 am 5:00 pm	Jeffrey Harman(D) Sharon Henry(D)
Sun 7/23	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wis 12:13, 16-19 Rom 8:26-27	Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30 (106)	7:30 am 9:00 am 11:00 am	Tom Bonivert(SI) Antonio Avelar(D) For the People

DEACON'S CORNER

Thus says the LORD: Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."



I came across this story that just needed to be shared; it is from Chicken Soup for the Baseball Fan's Soul. My father was an avid baseball fan. We lived in New York City. Many Saturdays were spent with my dad cheering on our favorite team. As much as I loved the game of baseball, alas, I was born female at a time when girls watched more than they played. Whenever he could, Dad took me out to the park where the neighborhood Little League played & pitched balls for me to hit. We played together for hours & baseball became a big part of my life. One day at the park, a woman pushing a young boy in a wheelchair stopped to watch us play. My dad was over to them in a flash to ask if the child could join our game. The woman explained that the boy was her son & that he had polio & wouldn't be able to get out of the chair. That didn't stop my dad. He placed the bat in the youngster's hand, pushed him out to home plate & assisted him in holding the bat. Then he yelled out to me on the mound, "Anne, pitch one into us". I was nervous that I might hit the child but could see the delight in the boy's eyes, so I aimed at the bat & let the ball fly. With an assist from my dad, the ball made contact with the bat & the child screamed with joy. The ball flew over my head and headed for right field. I ran after it and, as I turned, I heard my dad singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" while he pushed the wheelchair around the bases. The mother clapped and the boy begged to be allowed to continue the game.

An hour later we all left the field, very tired but very happy. The boy's mother had tears in her eyes when she thanked my father for making it such a special day for her son. Dad smiled that wonderful grin that I loved so much & told the mother to bring the boy back next Saturday & we would play another game. Dad & I were at the field the next Saturday but the mother & son never came. I felt sad & wondered what had happened to change their mind about joining us. Dad & I played many more games of baseball but never saw the two again. Twenty years passed & my beloved father died. Our family decided to move to Long Island. I decided to take one last walk around the park where Dad & I had spent so many happy moments. I stopped at the ball field where we played on Saturdays. Two Little League teams were just about to start a game. I sat down to watch for a while. I felt the sting of tears in my eyes as I watched the children play the game that I loved. I missed my dad so much.

I cheered the runner on when the ball was hit far into the outfield. The coach turned & smiled & said, "The kids sure love a rooting section, Miss." He continued, "I never thought I'd ever be a coach playing on this field. You see, I had polio as a child & was confined to a wheelchair. One day my mother pushed me to the park & a man was playing baseball with his daughter. He stopped when he saw us watching & asked my mother if I could join them in their game. He helped me to hold the bat & his daughter pitched to me. I was able to hit the ball with the man's assistance & he ran me around the bases in my wheelchair singing the song "Take Me Out to the Ball Game". I went home happier that night than I had been in years. I believe that experience gave me the desire to walk again. We moved to New Jersey the next day - that's why my mother had taken me to the park, so I could say good-bye to my friends. I never forgot that man and his daughter or that day. I dreamed about running around the bases on my own two feet & the dream, with a lot of hard work, came true. I moved back here last year, & I've been coaching Little League since then. I guess I hope that someday I'll look up in the stands & see that man & his daughter again. Who knows, I might find him on one of these fields pitching to one of his grandkids - a lot of years have come & gone. I sure would like to thank him." The tears ran down my face. That simple act of kindness that spring day had changed a life forever, & now twenty years later the memory of that day has changed my life forever. "Batter up, Dad," I said as I left the field, "I know you're still playing the game we love - baseball!"

This is our challenge: to take the Word & make it our own in the soil of our everyday life. We never know when our simple awareness & reaching out to another will bear fruit a hundred or sixty, or thirtyfold.

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