

St. Patrick Catholic Church

August 20, 2023

20th 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

facebook.com/stpatrickgv/

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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Faith Formation #: 273-2336 x3201

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Brian Moore
Edee Wood
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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Receptionist
RCIA
Young Adult Coordinator
Hispanic Ministry
Music Director
Facilities Manager

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Family,

I can hardly believe that the month of August is almost over! School has started, the slower pace of summer slowly yields to the normal bustle of life and (disappointingly) my summer garden will start winding down. The yield of the garden also seems like it will be less this year than last. I could try and reason why, did I miss something? I have to admit, I am always happier when I have a large yield in my garden and can share and freeze the harvest to enjoy in the months ahead. But, thanks be to God, the harvest doesn't determine whether or not we will have food in the rectory. And while I don't eat "organic" I do enjoy knowing where my food comes from and those meals when most of it is local and home grown. But I plant a garden for a bigger reason, a reason that might seem to be impractical.

Gardening, for me, is more than food production or even a hobby. It's a way to remember how reliant we are on God's goodness. In my garden I have a statue of St. Isidore the Farmer. I'll ask him for his help and God for a fruitful yield. The mindless tasks of water and weeding give me a chance to think out problems or how to approach a situation. Memories come back and I can delight in them as I work through the garden. Also, watching it grow and give fruit reminds me of the work and patience it takes to obtain the goods in life. My time in the garden isn't prayer time per se but it is definitely a spiritual experience.

St. Benedict, in his rule for monks, writes about the importance of manual work. Idleness is an enemy of the soul and so needs to be fended off through work and reading and prayer. In a monastery there are periods of time for work, for reading, for prayer, for community, for everything. Something that is important for us to consider as well. Perhaps the daily schedule of work and family demands much of us and makes it hard to fit in these things, perhaps the activities of retirement fill up as much of the day as when you worked or raised your family. I knew a man who never got up before 8:30 because he woke up so early during his career. St. Benedict invites us to be mindful of the whole self, our soul, our mind, our body.

We don't need to make every minute of every day productive, we just need to be intentional with our time making sure we have a balance. Balance isn't the same amount of time for everything or every one but the right amount of time for each thing. Far too often, I find myself writing these ponderings in the early morning the day of the printing deadline. During the summer, it is enjoyable because I sit at my desk with a cup of coffee and see the sun rise through the trees and shine on the rooftops. Perhaps that this is the great lesson of summer, we must learn to ponder and savor the day, the week, the month, the year, the whole of life.

Your Father in Christ,

Father Estrella



Knights of Columbus

Fr. Phelan 23rd Annual Golf Classic

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

ALTA SIERRA COUNTRY CLUB

BENEFITING MOUNT SAINT MARY'S ACADEMY AND SIERRA ROOTS, WHOSE VISION IS TO FOSTER A RELATIONSHIP-BASED COMMUNITY IN WHICH EVERYONE HAS A CHANCE TO HEAL AND A PLACE CALL HOME.

Please consider being a part of this amazing event that is hosted by the Knight of Columbus.

Sign-up forms can be found in vestibule or in St. Patrick's Office

WIDOWS' WISDOM CIRCLE

Friday, August 25th at 9:00 AM

We invite all widows to join us to share the experience and wisdom we, as widows, have been given through our loss and new calling to greater strength and wisdom. We meet in the hall on the 4th Friday of the month.



**THE OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED NEXT WEEK ON
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23**

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

***NOW IS TIME
REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN & FAMILY FOR
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**Open to families with children from Pre-K
through High School**

**Family Faith Formation begins Sunday,
September 10th
after the 9:00 Mass.**

**For more information contact Dcn Rick at
530-273-2336 x3201
faithformation@stpatrickgrassvalley.org**



CLRS September Meeting -

Thurs, September 7th at 10am

Catholic Ladies Relief Society (CLRS) meets on the first Thursday of each month. Our September meeting will be on **September 7th following the 8:30 am Mass.**

We enjoy refreshments and conversation before our meeting which starts at 10am. All ladies of our parish are invited to join us.



FAITH HOPE & CHARITY
1 Cor 13:13

Reflecting on the Gospel



The prophet Isaiah paints a picture of radical inclusivity in today's first reading. Throughout the Old Testament, we hear of God's special relationship with the Israelites, the people God called and claimed as God's own. Yet God's loving care is not bound to the Israelites or any one group of people. God welcomes all. God loves all. God creates a house of prayer for all people who join themselves to the Lord. God's embrace of the foreigner models how we are to approach people from different backgrounds today.

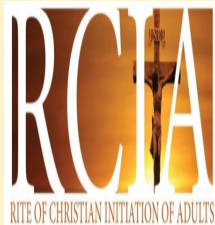
Every line of Scripture offers a well-spring of insights and opportunities for reflection. St. Paul is a particularly gifted writer who draws audiences in with his powerful observations. One such line from today's second letter to the Romans reads: "For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." Let us take a moment to soak in this reality. God gives us gifts that can never be taken away, gifts like love, mercy, and complete acceptance. God also calls each of us to lives of discipleship and within that, to a myriad of relationships, works, and service opportunities. The specific contexts may change as we move through life, but the presence of God's call will remain with each of us forever.

The Canaanite woman in today's gospel models an authentic, vulnerable way of interacting with Jesus. She recognizes Jesus as Lord and asks directly for help. She persists when Jesus rebukes and insults her. By the end, Jesus changes heart and praises the woman's faith. In what ways could this woman's witness inspire your own faith life?



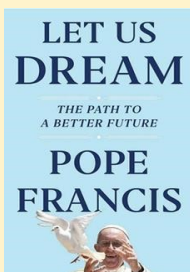
Flame of Love:

The Flame of Love is a growing apostolate in the church that facilitates prayer for the church and the world while understanding God's love coming from the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A prayer cenacle meets after the 8:30 AM Mass on Thursdays in the church from 9:10-10:30. All are welcome.



Come and Seel

RCIA, (Rite of Christian Initiation) joyfully extends an invitation to join us for evenings of learning about the Catholic faith in a comfortable, accepting atmosphere. We meet weekly on Thursday evening from 6:30-8:30 in the RCIA room, located in St. Cecelia's center. Contact Traci Jagger at rcia@stppatrickgrassvalley.org, or 530-575-0176 for more information or directions.



Another Exciting Book Club Gathering

Monday, September 25, 2023

All Parishioners are invited to a meeting of the St. Patrick and St. Canice Book Club on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 1:30 P. M. in the Small Hall. We will be discussing Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future, by Pope Francis. 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.



Creation Care Team

A sobering thought: Richard Parncutt in "Frontiers in Psychology" Oct. 2019, wrote a peer-reviewed report called "The Human Cost of Anthropogenic Global Warming". His conclusion: "It is estimated that there would be one premature death over the next one to two centuries for each additional 1,000 tonnes (1 metric ton) of carbon burned.... due to heat waves, dangerous storms, vector-borne diseases, and rising sea levels, caused by our warming climate." 1 Metric ton of carbon equals approximately 4 round trips in a jet. The world's annual coal use causes approximately 6,000,000 premature deaths each year. <http://www.parncutt.org/>

Study of The Acts of the Apostles



It's Not Too Late - - -

If you have not yet registered for our St. Patrick/ St. Canice Bible Study of The Acts of the Apostles, you can still get a late registration by contacting Phyllis Arroyo at parroyo10@yahoo.com or 530-274-8828. The Book of Acts is the story of the Church's development as a Spirit guided community. Sessions begin September 6, 2023. All details are on the Registration Forms which are available in the Church vestibules.

JOIN FR. STEPHEN BORLANG IN THE HOLY LAND

12 Day Pilgrimage to Austria, Hungary, and Germany

July 2, 2024 – July 13, 2024

AND

14 Day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Egypt

October 15, 2024 – October 28, 2024

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CULTURE OF LIFE

Scientific Research and Respect for the Human Person



Catechism of the Catholic Church 2294

It is an illusion to claim moral neutrality in scientific research and its applications. (...) They must be at the service of the human person, of his inalienable rights, of his true and integral good, in conformity with the plan and will of God.

What are synthetic human embryos?

Synthetic human embryos come into being from stem cells (obtained from conceived human embryos left over from IVF procedures or aborted fetuses) which assemble to mimic the natural process of early human development. Initially in this field of organoid research stem cells were used to create clumps of cells that form mini organs such as the brain, lungs or intestine. These organoids allow scientists to see how they react in real time to drugs or genetic modifications and to examine how living cells develop and function. As research has progressed these synthetic embryos are now capable of 'gastrulation', a key step in the life of any embryo. This stage of development has been described by biologist Lewis Wolpert as "**truly the most important time in your life.**" During this time, at just 3 weeks of life, cells migrate to form cell layers responsible for the development of different tissues that become the functioning organs of the 12-week fetus. Upon learning of this scientific advancement, one must be amazed at the wonder of it all but must also sit back to ask, can this be right? What about the human embryo or fetus destroyed to obtain the stem cells? Is this newly created embryo a person? What will become of these embryos once the research is done? Are they thrown in the trash, does someone pray over their souls? How will this research be applied in the future? Will this be a way to grow organs for transplant? What about designer babies?

CCC 2270 Human Life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person – among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.

STEWARDSHIP

Our Gospel today from Matthew reminds us.... How are we Christian Stewards biblically taught to respond to the many unearned graces or gifts God gives to each one of us?

In today's gospel, the Canaanite woman's request to cure her possessed daughter is rejected by Jesus three times. He even refers to her as a dog. But why? Jesus seems to have a gut feeling that this woman knows who He is despite being a foreigner. Somehow she knows that Jesus is the Son of God, who comes exclusively for Israel. "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." She agrees. However, because of her faith, she understands that His graces are not meant just for Israel, but for the world. She has insight to God's mission for Israel, God's chosen people.

The key principle being taught is that the table of grace was set for the children of Israel, but the food is not only for Israel, but all who come to the table

So what are we stewards to make of this key principle? Once again, it's the loop of grace. Yes, we Catholics have been chosen by God to be part of His mission. Yes, we receive His many graces every single moment of our day. And yes, we are called to be grateful. But then what? Give it away! God's gifts to us are meant to be given away for His purposes. And then, you will be give more ..abundantly! This is the Stewardship way of life.



WE PRAY FOR:



Richard Tumilty, Joyce Regan-Gear, Juan Gutierrez, Kathy Smith, Michaels family, 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, 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.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

It's that time of year again to reserve your booth at the CLRS annual craft fair. Booth fee is \$40 for the two day event. Craft fair dates are Saturday Nov 4th & Sunday Nov 5th.

For questions or to reserve a booth please contact:

Kathy Souders
ksouders@gmail.com
(530) 263-5767



Donut Sunday this Week: August 20th



We do have donut lovers in our parish, and we want you to mark your calendars once again for *August 20th* to fill your donut cravings.

We will have donuts, juice and coffee after all the Sunday morning Masses.

Please join us and meet your fellow parishioners.

Upcoming SPY (St Patrick's Youth) Meetings



Join us **August 22nd and 29th** in the small hall at 7 pm for a bible study and gospel reading.

All youth **grades 8th-12th** are welcome. James Mabry will be leading these two meetings. We hope to see you there!



Your generosity is greatly appreciated!
August 13th— \$5,275



Thank you for your generous support in the last week's Latin America Church collection! As a parish, we collected \$982!

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Saint/Feast	Readings	Gospel	Mass Times	Intention
Mon	8/21	Saint Pius X, Pope	Jgs 2:11-19	Mt 19:16-22 (419)	8:30 am	Fr. Liam McSweeney (D)
Tues	8/22	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Jgs 6:11-24a	Mt 19:23-30 (420)	8:30 am	Amber Haldane (D)
Wed	8/23	Saint Rose of Lima	Jgs 9:6-15	Mt 20:1-16 (421)	8:30 am	
Thurs	8/24	Saint Bartholomew	Rv 21:9b-15	Jn 1:45-51 (629)	8:30 am	
Fri	8/25	Saint Louis, Saint Joseph Calasanz	Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22	Mt 22:34-40 (423)	8:30 am	Julia Malaspina (D)
Sat	8/26	Saint Mary of Jesus Crucified	Ru 2:1-3, 8-11, 4:13-17	Mt 23:1-12 (424)	8:30 am 5:00 pm	Carmen Collins (D)
Sun	8/27	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Is 22:19-23 Rom 11:33-36	Mt 16:13-20 (121)	7:30 am 9:00 am 11:00 am	Frances and Yolanda Reader(D) Virginia Hedges (D) For the People

DEACON'S CORNER



*Thus says the LORD: Observe what is right, do what is just;
for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed.*

May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us.

*Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for
you as you wish."*

An Australian Marist Brother told his friends the story of his spirituality. It came from watching trapeze artists performing in a circus a few years ago. Trapeze artists are those who perform in a circus with swings, 20-40 feet off the ground. One of the artists had explained to him, "As a flyer I must have complete trust in my catcher. He has to be there for me with split-second precision & grab me out of the air as I come to him in my jump." The artist explained that the flyer does nothing & the catcher does everything. When the artist flies, he has simply to stretch out his arms & hands & wait for him to catch him & pull him safely over the apron behind the catcher. The flyer needs do nothing. The worst thing the flyer can do is to try to catch the catcher. The flyer is not supposed to catch the catcher. If the flyer grabbed the catcher's wrists, he might break them, or the catcher might break the flyer's wrists, & that would be the end of them both. A flyer has to fly & the catcher has to catch, & the flyer has to trust with outstretched arms, that his catcher will be there for him." — This is the trust we should have in Jesus, & the woman in today's story demonstrated such a faith. This story reminds me of a story my friend Charlie often tells. For weeks he had been praying to God to save his business. For months he had been working 7 days a week fighting to keep his business open. One Sunday he was working alone trying to get a make-or-break shipment out the door. His main piece of equipment jammed, when he went to fix it, the blade kicked & cut his hand to the bone. Undaunted, he wrapped his hand with a towel & resumed working. Twenty minutes later he lost all electrical power. He fell to his knees & screamed: "Okay God you win, if I lose the business, I lose it." He locked the door, went to the ER & then home to his wife & children. He never worked another Sunday & focused on his family. He often shared: "I realized I was praying for God to change His mind & give me what I wanted, now I pray to accept what God wants for me." His business thrived for decades more until he retired & sold it

I would like to share with you this reflection on gratitude from Henri Nouwen. "In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of a gift received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. **The Discipline of Gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have, is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy.** Gratitude as a discipline involves a conscious choice. I can choose to be grateful even when my emotions & feelings are still steeped in hurt & resentment. It is amazing how many occasions present themselves in which I can choose gratitude instead of complaint. I can choose to be grateful when I am criticized, even when my heart still responds in bitterness. I can choose to speak about goodness & beauty, even when my inner eye still looks for someone to accuse or something to call ugly. I can choose to listen to the voices that forgive & to look at the faces that smiles, even while I still hear words of revenge & see grimaces of hatred.

There is always the choice between resentment & gratitude because God has appeared in my darkness, urged me to come home & declared in a voice filled with affection: "You are with me always, & all I have is yours." Indeed I can choose to dwell in the darkness in which I stand, point to those who are seemingly better off than I, lament about the many struggles that have plagued me in the past, & thereby wrap myself in my resentment. But I don't have to do this. There is an option to look into the eyes of the one who came out to search for me & see therein that all I am & all I have is pure gift calling for gratitude. The choice for gratitude rarely comes without real effort. But each time I make it, the next choice is a little easier, a little freer, a little less self-conscious. Because every gift I acknowledge reveals another & another until finally even the most normal, obvious & seemingly mundane event or encounter proves to be filled with grace. There is an Estonian proverb that says: "Who does not thank for little will not thank for much." Acts of gratitude makes one grateful because step by step, they reveal that all is grace."

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting.... The Lord is for me; I will not fear. Psalm 118:

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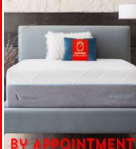


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