St. Patrick Catholic Church

September 17, 2023 24th 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 A

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

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

James Chatigny Brian Moore

Edee Wood
Deacon Rick Soria
Ruth Collins Smith
Maria Beltran
Traci Jagger
Kellen Lake
Fr. Alexander Estrella
Colleen Deneen

John Evans

Pastor Parochial Vicar Deacon

Deacon (retired) Deacon (retired)

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Principal, Mt St. Mary's
Director of Faith Formation
Bookkeeper
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Young Adult Coordinator
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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Family,

On Sunday, September 3rd at the 11 o'clock Mass we were serenaded with the sounds of many young children. At the 9 o'clock Mass there was a parishioner I know well holding an infant car seat. He quipped, "We got a new one, I stole her." I quickly connected with whose child she was and we all laughed. We have been blessed the last few years to see a beautiful increase of young families at the 9 and 11 o'clock Masses. A sign of life and the future of our faith and the church. Many times people share their delight with me at hearing and seeing this growth in our parish.

Sadly, however, there are many people in our community who, for a variety of factors, are unable to find hope in their own lives and make the devastating decision to end their lives. In particular, the Foresthill Bridge in Auburn is a site where this happens with regularity. For nearly a decade there has been an effort to reach people before they make that decision irreversible. The program is called "Notes of Hope," and our Culture of Life ministry is working to support this great effort to make a difference for so many others.

Next weekend they will pass out note cards after Mass so that we can add to these "Notes of Hope." There will be examples in the bulletin so that you can come up with your own message. Perhaps you know a child who might be able to draw a picture or decorate the card before you write your note of hope. I think we can all recall a time where our Good God sent us some encouragement or hope when we were struggling; what a blessing we can do that for our brothers and sisters!

As you write your notes of hope, say a prayer for whomever might read it or need a little boost of hope. I often recall the words of Archbishop Sheen, "when we get to Heaven we will be greeted by a great many saints whom we don't know. They will tell us that they are the souls we helped move from Purgatory to Heaven." I believe this project will add to that number, not only the poor souls in Purgatory but also those souls who have been affected by this beautiful project.

I am writing this in anticipation of my departure for Italy, and wish I could be there to be a part of this great effort. I am confident that there will be a great response and join my prayers to yours. Please keep me in your prayers. I am grateful to God that I have this opportunity to travel, but as the old saying goes "There's no place like home." I look forward to being back with you all again.

Your Father in Christ,

WE PRAY FOR:

Geri Lampman, Richard Tumilty, 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...and their families.

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

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION



Last week in our Stewardship reflection, we were reminded that the stewardship way of life is a grateful response to all the blessings or gifts that we have received from God. Did you make a list of your gifts? Additionally, we learned that stewardship is a special way of following the Lord. It is truly a disciple's response to the blessings of life, gifts and talents, resources, faith, and so much more.

When we acknowledge that everything we are, and have is truly God's, we can enter into Stewardship. We have been entrusted with so much. And as with any gift, the appropriate response is to say, "thank you."

As Fr. Estrella frequently says, "once we are aware of our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, we cultivate them and intentionally use them to glorify God and share our gifts with others." The needs of the world are great, but the gifts that we share are even greater!

Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts and love of God with our neighbor.

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Fairfield

Fairfield Planned Parenthood (1325 Travis Blvd, Fairfield)

Planned Parenthood (303 Sacramento St, Vallejo)



For more information: www.scd.org/family-and-faith-formation/40-days-

An Ecumenical Service

MEMORIAL FOR THE UNBORN



Help us recognize and honor the lives lost due to miscarriage, stillbirth, and abortion. The memorial service will include prayer, scripture, and reflections from the local faith leaders. Representatives from Pregnancy Centers and local healing ministries will provide resources for grief care.

Lifecenter 50

Saturday, October 14, 2023

Sacramento Memorial Garden

Reflections by Faith Leaders

on grief, mourning, and loneline and the journey to finding hope and healing

Fr. Loreto "Bong" Rojas Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Sacri

> Pastor Jeff Axtell Lead Pastor New Hope Christian Fellowship

Tanya Flores

Pastor Robert Jones Lead Pastor Powerhouse Christian Mini

Deacon Patrick Mahan

A Memorial Book for the Unborn will be available to Sign

Join in a Communal Planting of a Memorial Tree

Morning hospitality available at 9:30 AM Register at SacLife.org or by QR Code:



SIERRA

Donut Sunday, September 17



We will have donuts, juice and coffee after all the Sunday morning Masses. Please join us and meet your fellow parishioners.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Creation Care Team: From a water perspective, using



From a water perspective, using simple mathematics, it is much more efficient and cost-effective to eat plant foods than animal foods. From a greenhouse gas emissions perspective, it is without a doubt significantly better for the environment to eat plant-based foods, even for just a few meals each week. (UCLA sustainability study).

Please see the flyer in this week's bulletin about Mt. St. Mary's Garden Open House after all Masses on 9/24/23! The students and staff have been working hard to showcase the garden.

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.

Come and See!

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@stpatrickgrassvalley.org, or 530-575-0176 for more information or directions.

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. For more information see the FOL website: www.flameoflove.us or call 530-559-7488.

Baby Bottle Drive



The Baby bottle drive is underway and continues through the month of October. Please pick up your empty baby bottle from the basket in the vestibule and fill with your spare change!

There will be a basket in the vestibule during the weekends of September 30/October 1st and October 7/8 for you to place your filled baby bottles. Be sure to write the name of your church on the tag.

LivingWell Medical Clinic inspires hope to those with an unexpected pregnancy, a struggle with a past pregnancy decision, or a sexual health issue. Your spare change through the Change for Hope baby bottles makes BIG CHANGES in the lives of men and women in Nevada County. Bottles are available and can be returned by October 8. Or you may donate online

at: www.livingwellmedicalclinic.com/cfh



Our St. Patrick and St. Canice Joint Parish Picnic will start at noon with lunch, followed by family friendly activities and fellowship, concluding with Mass at 4:00 PM. Please watch the bulletin for more details.

As a reminder we will not have confessions or a Saturday night Vigil Mass at either church location that evening. We hope to see you there!

CULTURE OF LIFE

Notes of Hope Project



The Culture of Life Ministry is collaborating with the **Notes of Hope** project of Auburn to provide positive, life affirming note cards that will be laminated and attached to the Foresthill bridge. The bridge, a landmark just outside Auburn is a location where too many people have chosen to end their own lives. Will you help us write and decorate a few 4"X5" cards with uplifting and caring sayings that might help change the mind of a person looking to end their life at the bridge? Blank cards will be available after masses at both St. Canice and St. Patrick churches next weekend. Please bring your finished cards to mass on the following weekend of Oct. 1st.

Here are some saying ideas but consider praying for inspiration and letting the Holy Spirit speak through you:

You are loved, wanted and needed! Give your troubles to God. He's listening. You are awesome, the world needs you. You are not alone, call 988 to talk to someone.

Several articles and news reports on the Notes of Hope project and the Foresthill Bridge can be found on YouTube.

LUAU TICKETS ON SALE

St. Canice Church

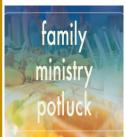


The St. Canice Men's Guild Annual Luau Dinner is coming October 1st at St. Canice Center. Doors will open at 4:00 PM and dinner will be at 5:00 PM.

Ticket sales after Mass will begin this weekend. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children 5-11.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Hebert at jkjhebert@comcast.net or 916-508-5744.

FAMILY MINISTRY POTLUCK



Family ministry will be having their first meeting of the year September 17th in St Cecelia from 4 pm - 7 pm. Potluck.

Please RSVP to Paula via text at 520-309-5082.

We are a faith community of families coming together to share our faith, struggles and create stronger catholic families.

Please join us.

MAINTENANCE/CUSTODIAN POSITION



We are looking to recruit a custodian for St. Canice Church. The role is 5-10 hours a week.

For more details and a job description, please email

Father Estrella frestrella@stpatrickgrassvalley.org



Your generosity to St. Patrick Church is greatly appreciated. Donations can be placed in baskets during the collection at Mass, mailed to the office, or online through Faith Direct. September 10 \$5,515

THE OPENING DOORS MINISTRY



The Opening Doors Ministry will soon begin a new season of classes, and will continue until May 2024, breaking for the summer. We are a faith formation and Sacramental program for adults who have special needs or developmental disabilities. Our focus is

always on God's love shown to us through stories from the Bible, through the Sacraments, music, prayer and through the lives of the saints. Our doors are always open to both Catholics and non-Catholics. We meet on Sundays, 10-11am, beginning on Sept 24th. For more information, or if you would like to join us, please contact Helen Albano, (530)210-1721.

BILL'S WHEELS



Bill's Wheel's is currently open for those in need of power wheel chairs, manual wheel chairs, walkers, crutches, etc. We are open by appointment only and our hours are Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 9:00 - 11:30.

Please call 273-1550 to set up an appointment. Bill's Wheel's is located at 425 Dalton Street.

Reflecting on the Gospel

Jesus practiced forgiveness that knew no bounds. Time and time again, he forgave people who hurt him or his disciples. Jesus

even forgave those who sentenced him to death, crying out from the cross, "Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do." Today's gospel challenges us to practice this same spirit of forgiveness, a spirit that is generous and ongoing.

BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, AS GOD IN CHRIST FORGAVE YOU.

Typesians 4:32

Jesus poses a tall task. Forgiveness is rarely easy. The need for it only comes about because of harm inflicted on another (or many others). Forgiveness reminds us that we are far from perfect. Pain is part of our realities. Given the sensitivities surrounding forgiveness, let us consider a few key points about the type of forgiveness advocated for by Jesus.

Jesus calls his disciples to forgive their sisters and brothers "from your heart" a practice of transformation. Forgiveness is not about forgetting, despite what the popular adage says. A real harm has been perpetrated. Jesus would never want a person to put themselves back in an abusive or

dangerous situation. Rather, the act of forgiving frees a person to begin healing. Forgiveness does not always happen overnight. Sometimes the response is immediate, like when the king in today's gospel forgave the servant on the spot. But oftentimes, forgiveness is a longer process of acknowledging the harm, working through the feelings and thoughts that were provoked, and praying for God's help.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

| Day | Date | Saint/Feast | Readings | Gospel | Mass Times | Intention |
|-------|------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mon | 9/18 | Saint Joseph of Cupertino | 1 Tm 2:1-8 | Lk 7:1-10 (443) | 8:30 am | Marie Benevento (D) |
| Tues | 9/19 | Saint Januarius | 1 Tm 3:1-13 | Lk 7:11-17 (444) | 8:30 am | Jack Hutchinson (D) |
| Wed | 9/20 | Saint Andrew Kim Tae- Gon | 1 Tm 3:14-16 | Lk 7:31-35 (445) | 8:30 am | Monte Cazazza (D) |
| Thurs | 9/21 | Saint Matthew | Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 | Mt 9:9-13 (643) | 8:30 am | Larry Turner (SI) |
| Fri | 9/22 | Saint Thomas of Villanueva | 1 Tm 6:2c-12 | Lk 8:1-3 (447) | 8:30 am | Jean Love (D) |
| Sat | 9/23 | Saint Pius of Pietrelcina | 1 Tm 6:13-16 | Lk 8:4-15 (448) | 8:30 am 5:00 pm | Carlos Rodrigues Sr. (D) |
| Sun | 9/24 | 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Is 55:6-9 Phil 1:20c-24, 27a | M† 20:1-16a (133) | 7:30 am 9:00 am 11:00 am | Amber Haldane (D) For the People |



Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name.

For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord; love one another as I have loved you.



Two little brothers, Tom & Jim, had finished supper & were playing until bedtime. Somehow, Tom hit Jim with a stick, & tears & bitter words followed. Charges & accusations were still being exchanged as their mother prepared them for bed. She said, "Now boys, what would happen if either of you died tonight, & you never had the chance again to forgive one another?" Jim spoke up, "Well, OK, I'll forgive him tonight, but if we're both alive in the morning, he'd better look out."

The ability to love is such an amazing gift that creates community, family, friendships. It is ultimately the source for the joy we experience. It is a unique power that we have because we are made in the image & likeness of God. But as that wise old philosopher, Spider-Man's Uncle Ben shared: "With great power comes great responsibility." It is our responsibility to forgive, not just once, not just twice but 7 X 70, in other words.... always. Forgiveness never means remaining

in an abusive, dangerous situation but it does mean learning to let go of the hurt & the desire to "get even". I don't know about you, but for me it is often a slow, frustrating, difficult process.

These 2 stories by Fr. Fuller seems to depict how I have often responded when I have been hurt. "A little boy was sitting on a park bench in obvious agony. A man walking by asked him what was wrong. The boy answered, "I'm sitting on a bumble bee!". "Then why don't you get up?" the man asked. The boy replied, "Because I figure I'm hurting him more than he is hurting me!" The healing process begins when we get up off the park bench. French author Victor Hugo has a short story titled, "93." In the midst of this tale, a ship at sea is caught in a terrific storm. Buffeted by the waves, the ship rocks back & forth, when suddenly the crew hears an awesome crashing sound below deck. They know what it is. A cannon they are carrying has broken loose and is smashing into the ship's sides with every list of the ship. Risking their lives, 2 brave sailors manage to go below & fasten it again, for they know that the heavy cannon on the inside of their ship is more dangerous to them than the storm on the outside."So it is with people. Problems within are often much more destructive to us than the problems without. Sometimes the reason I can't forgive is my fragile little ego & sense of pride.

This final story by Fr. Lobo is a wonderful parable of where the power to forgive comes from. Once upon a time 2 brothers, who lived on adjoining farms, had their 1st serious fight in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery, & trading labor & goods without a conflict. Then their relationship fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding, & it grew into a major conflict. Finally, it exploded into angry & bitter words followed by weeks of silence. One morning there was a knock-on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days' work," he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here I could help with?" "Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you." "Look across the creek at that farm. That's my younger brother's farm. Last week there was a meadow between us & he took his bulldozer to the river levee & now there is a creek between us. He did that to spite me, but I'll do him one better." "See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence, an 8-foot high fence, so I won't need to see his place or his face again." The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails & the post-hole digger & I'll be able to do a job that pleases you." The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready & then left for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, and nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, & his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge — a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails & all—and his younger brother was coming toward them, his hand outstretched. "You are guite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said & done." The two brothers met in the middle of that bridge, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter walking away. "No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother. — "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have many more bridges to build." A question for you. What bridge do you need to build?



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