

St. Patrick Catholic Church

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

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

Office Hours
Mon - Fri : 9:00 - 2:00 PM
**CLOSED HOLY DAYS
OF OBLIGATION**



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
First Saturdays	7:40 AM
Communion of Reparation	

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

Adoration with Rosary

Tuesday	5:30-6:30 PM
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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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Traci Jagger
Kellen Lake
Colleen Deneen
John Evans
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Deacon Rick Soria

Deacon (retired)
Deacon (retired)

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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Family,

One of my worst enemies as a child was the dictionary! If I wanted to know how to spell a word or what a word meant I was told "Look it up!" I will admit that it was a better lesson than simply being told what I wanted to know but it frustrated me. Today, as an adult, I belong to group chat with some priest friends, most of the time it's typically sophomoric boy behavior, many times we share the events of priestly life either rejoicing or seeking support or counsel. And yes, we often turn to each other to have questions answered. Even with the internet on that same phone, we turn to each other instead of following that sage advice from childhood, "Look it up!"

In fairness, one has to be sure an internet answer is trustworthy. I recently saw some old information that I wanted to be the center of my article and spent more time trying to find that information than writing this actual bulletin column. Some of what I saw even made me rethink my own position. As Christmas draws closer arguments for and against December 25th as the date of our Lord's birth surface. Each person can decide which he or she finds most compelling. I personally believe our Lord was born on December 25th. I'll explain why.

St. Luke's gospel begins with Zechariah being told that his wife, Elizabeth, in her old age will bear a son. This is during his time serving as priest in the temple. From the Book of Chronicles we know the rotation of priestly service, and so Zechariah would have most likely served around the time of the Day of Atonement which is roughly September in our calendar. We also know from St. Luke's gospel that our Lady received her annunciation when Elizabeth was in her sixth month. Further, our Lady left Nazareth to attend to Elizabeth and stayed until John was born roughly for three months. From September to March is 6 months, from March to June (When we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist) is 3 months and again, from June to December is 6 months. So this makes sense for the birth of our Lord to be in December.

Some will make the argument it was too cold for shepherds to be out in the fields but this famous observation from 1967 by Dr Harry Mulder speaks to that. "During the brief Christmas vacation my wife and I traveled from Beirut to Jerusalem . . . On Christmas Eve in Shepherd Field a crowd had gathered to sing Christmas carols. We joined this crowd and took part in the singing. Right near us a few flocks of sheep nestled. Even the lambs were not lacking. It was a moving sight. It is therefore definitely not impossible that the Lord Jesus was born in December."

One of the most famous objections, that the Church appropriated the pagan Roman celebration of Saturnalia only arose nearly 1,000 years after the Church had been celebrating Christmas. Other similar arguments are made. But there are answers to those arguments as well. Is it a matter of faith that Christ our Lord was born on December 25th? No, what matters is we know, believe, celebrate and find hope in that second person of the Blessed Trinity, the eternal Son of the eternal Father was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin and was made man, living among us, teaching us, and ultimately redeeming us.

Your Father in Christ,

Father Estrella

WE PRAY FOR:



Frank & Dora Cividino, Conchetta Greco, Mike Blake, Karen Colwell, Geri Lampman, Richard Tumilty, Juan Gutierrez, Kathy Smith, Michaels family, Diana Boyarsky, Vida Santos, Bonnie Burke, Diane Damron, Marilyn & Tom Falls, Cathie Fideli, Gary & Linda Grube, Jack Harris, Jeff Hill, Dee Lavrador, Wayne McHone, John Mercurio, Kathleen Montavon, Susan Roberts...and their families.

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

Christmas Schedule



Confessions:

St Patrick : Tuesday / December 19, 4-5:15 PM

Wednesday / December 20, 6:30-8 PM

Thursday / December 21 3:30-5 PM

Friday / December 22, 5-6 PM

Saturday / December 23, 9:30-11 AM

St. Canice: Wednesday / December 20, 4-5 PM

Friday / December 22, 8-9 AM

and 5-6 PM

Saturday / December 23, 9:30-10:30 AM

There will be no Saturday afternoon confessions at either parish this week.

Masses:

4th Sunday of Advent — Saturday, Dec 23

St. Patrick: 5:00 English; 6:30 PM Spanish

St. Canice: 5:30 PM

4th Sunday of Advent — Sunday, Dec 24

St. Patrick: 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 AM

1 PM Spanish Mass is cancelled this day

St. Canice: 9:00 AM

Vigil Masses for Christmas — Sunday, Dec 24

St Patrick: 5:00 PM and Midnight English;

9:00 PM Spanish

St. Canice 5:30 PM

Masses on Christmas Day - Monday, Dec 25

St. Patrick: 8:30 and 10:30 AM

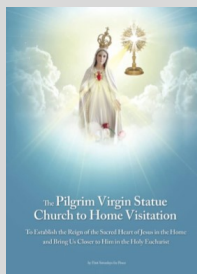
St. Canice: 9:00 AM

Donut Sunday Canceled



For the month of December only, Donut Sunday will not occur. The Donut Sunday team wishes you all a very blessed and joyful Christmas season. We will be back in January.

PILGRIM VIRGIN OF FATIMA HOME VISITATION



The Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima statue is looking for a home to visit over Christmas, just as Mary and Joseph looked for a place to stay to bring Jesus into the world. Mary's statue represents Mary herself as she brings Jesus into the home to spread the message of Fatima and to bring peace.

Our Lady of Fatima's statue will remain in the home for at least nine days so that a novena can be prayed. Is she asking to stay at your home? For information, please call Helen, 530-210-1721.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION



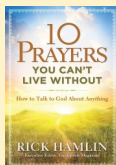
Today's readings on this Second Sunday of Advent can be summed up as equal parts comfort and warning for the Christian steward. We serve a merciful and patient God — in His kindness and Love for each of us, He gently warns us that we will be called to make an account one day for the way in which we made use of the gifts He has given us.

How are we to assimilate these two truths — the merciful love of God and the responsibility that comes with the privilege of living as His disciple? St. Peter tells us we should conduct ourselves "in holiness and devotion". In addition, our gospel from Mark reminds us that we Christian Stewards must make good use of the gift of Time: Prayer, Mass, Confession, Daily reading of Scriptures, and Service. Let us take time from our busy schedules to use this gift of Time to help us prepare for most precious gift He has given us - His own Son, whose birth we are preparing to celebrate in a few short weeks.

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Parish Book Club Gathering

Monday, January 22, 2024



All Parishioners are invited to a meeting of the St. Patrick and St. Canice Book Club on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 1:30 P. M. in St. Patrick's Small Hall. We will be discussing *10 Prayers You Can't Live Without: How to Talk to God About Everything* by Rick Hamlin. The book is not about learning new prayers, but about how to pray. 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:



There are small steps that everyone can take towards the care of our earth. This Christmas, consider buying local and buying quality; avoid fast fashion or poor-quality

purchases. This will reduce the carbon spent on transporting/producing goods, as well as the need to frequently replace items. "As individuals, as institutions, as a people, we need a change of heart to preserve and protect the planet for our children and for generations yet unborn." (*Renewing the Earth*, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1991, p. 3.)

CATHOLIC LADIES RELIEF SOCIETY



**HELP THOSE
IN NEED**



Provides charity and assistance to those in need, supports charitable organizations, and assists the bishop and clergy in their work. CLRS meets the first Thursday of each month, September through June, in St. Patrick's small hall after morning Mass.

Contact: Sue Petersen, 530-906-4707, kspete@pacbell.net

The Latest IFM Updates - November 2023 Newsletter



Dear Beloved Community, As the season of Thanksgiving approaches, we are thrilled to share the latest happenings and endeavors of Interfaith Food Ministry with you.

Sponsor A Family for the Holidays! The holiday season is upon us, and with it comes our annual "Sponsor A Family for the Holidays" fundraiser. At IFM, we serve a remarkable 10,000-13,000 individual clients each year. As we prepare for the festivities, our mission is to create memorable holiday moments for every client family. To accomplish this heartwarming task, we rely on the boundless generosity of our community. A complete holiday meal includes

essentials like turkey or ham, potatoes, vegetables, soup, and cranberry sauce. With a mere \$25, you can contribute to providing a delightful holiday dinner for one family. Your donation to IFM ensures that families can enjoy the warmth of a delicious meal during this special season.

We Need Volunteers! Our dedicated IFM volunteers embody friendliness and helpfulness. Hailing from various denominations, these volunteers form an inclusive team committed to serving our community. We currently have a range of volunteer opportunities available, with a particular need for checkers and drivers.

Drivers: If you own a truck or van and possess a strong back, we need your assistance in picking up perishable food items from local markets, starting at 7:30 am. The commitment spans two to three hours, and you can choose the dates that work for you. Training is provided, and a helper will be assigned if needed.

Checkers: Volunteers for this role engage with clients, discuss food choices, and log their visits into the computer. Shifts are available from 9:30 am to 1:15 pm on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, and from 8 am to 1 pm on Saturday. You have the flexibility to select your working dates, and comprehensive training is provided. We can always use extra volunteers during this busy season.

With sincere appreciation, Victoria Lindsay Marketing & Communications Manager Interfaith Food Ministry

440 Henderson Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Phone: 530 273-8132 E-mail: info@interfaithfoodministry.org Web: interfaithfoodministry.org

A clean diaper is a basic health need.



DONATE TODAY

CULTURE OF LIFE / Diaper Drive for LivingWell / Dec 16 and 17

There is an ongoing need for diapers and basic children's necessities at the LivingWell Embracing Families Boutique. In this season of giving please join the Culture of Life Ministry in helping our local moms in need by donating to our DIAPER DRIVE. **Please see the flyer about the DIAPER DRIVE for more information.**

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR KIND DONATIONS!

CULTURE OF LIFE

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the dignity of the Human Person



Father Paul Schenck shares his insights as a Priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA and founding Director of the National Pro-Life Center on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

"Luke tells us that Mary was full of Grace. For the Church throughout the ages this meant that she possesses every aspect of God's Grace, all the moral and theological virtues, all the extraordinary gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. And Luke says that she was blessed among women. The Church embraces Mary as unique and unrepeatable. Among women she is singular. As daughter, virgin, wife and mother, she is the supreme example of woman and the fulfillment of every woman's aspirations. The Immaculate Conception teaches us that everything that Mary would become she already was in the first moment of her conception. Mary was not less than Mary before her birth. She possessed, albeit in a hidden way, all the Grace and spiritual attributes granted her by the merits of Jesus Christ the Redeemer, from the first moment of her conception. What does this teach us about ourselves? That we possess our full potential - our full personhood- from the first moment of our conception. (...) Everyone of you has always been who you are today. You have grown in knowledge, experience and even faith - but you have never been anyone but yourself, you have never been anyone other than you, you have never, ever been anything less than a unique, unrepeatable, human person. The Immaculate Conception demonstrates that God created each one of us with a unique purpose and plan for our lives, and that plan began the first moment of our conception."

"If any human being can be deprived of the right to life, then all human beings can be deprived of life."

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASSES

If you want to have your child baptized in the next 3 months, the 2 Session of Preparation needed for parents & Godparents will be offered either:



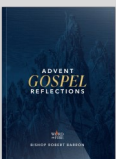
The Welcoming Session for Parents/Godparents will be on December 15th at 6:30pm in the Small Hall in St. Patrick's Hall & the Catechesis class for both will be on December 16th at 10:00am in St Cecilia's Hall

Or

The Welcoming Session for Parents/Godparents will be on January 12th at 6:30pm in the Small Hall in St. Patrick's Hall & the Catechesis class for both will be on January 13th at 10:00am in St Cecilia's Hall.

Please contact the parish office to register or call Deacon Rick at 310-626-5673

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOK



This year's books are now available in the foyer. We hope you will find them to be a fruitful

tool of study, reflection, and growth as you journey through Advent.

Opening Doors Ministry meets on Sundays

9:30-10:30 am at Mt Saint Mary's School in the library.

Thank you, Helen Albano, (530) 210-1721



WIDOWS' WISDOM CIRCLE

Friday, December 15 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 3th Friday of the month.

Reflecting on the Gospel



For the next two Sundays, the gospels encourage us to encounter Christ through the ministry of John the Baptist. The great prophet, clothed in camel's hair and munching on locusts,

prepares the way of the Lord with a singular focus. John does not worry about his appearance. He does not worry about upsetting those in power as evidenced by his eventual beheading at the hands of Herod. As the son of a priest, John could have proclaimed his message from the ritzy steps of the temple. Instead, John humbly preaches from the banks of the Jordan River. He goes to the place where the Israelites made their journey into the Promised Land and made another promise: the Mighty One is coming. Prepare your hearts.

John exemplifies humility. Mark notes that "people of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him," yet John never loses his focus on Jesus. He knows God did not call him to preach the good news of John. Rather, the Baptist uses his popularity to point the way to Jesus the Christ, whose good news will bring salvation to the world.

The prophet Isaiah assures the returning exiles of God's faithfulness in today's first reading. The people suffered greatly and even lost faith that God would rescue them. Hard times can do this to people. Difficulties can lead to doubt. Yet Isaiah promises that God will carry the people to safety and lead them with care like a shepherd who tends to their sheep.

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 faithdirect.net (Code: CA1104).

November 26th — \$ 8,175



Upcoming 2nd Collections

Dec 17 Parish Restoration

Dec 25 St Francis /St Claire



Adoration



Sunday, December 17 from 2:00 –6:00 PM
Church



Good things are happening in RCIA over the next few months, and we are happy to invite any parishioner to come learn and share with our group of inquirers as we learn about the following topic:

December 14th- Jesse Tree and Christmas- presented by Traci Jagger

All are welcome in the RCIA room located in St. Cecelia's. The sessions run from 6:30-8:30pm

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Saint/Feast	Readings	Gospel	Mass Times	Intention
Mon	12/11	Saint John Damascene	Is 35:1-10	Lk 5:17-26 (181)	8:30 am	Marie Helm (D)
Tues	12/12	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Is 11:1-10	Lk 1:26-38 (182)	6:30 am 8:30 am	Marie Helm (D)
Wed	12/13	Saint Nicholas	Is 40:25-31	Mt 11:28-30 (183)	8:30 am	Cheryl Riopel (D)
Thurs	12/14	Saint Ambrose	Is 41:13-20	Mt 11:11-15 (184)	8:30 am	Nadine AnsselinBrana (D)
Fri	12/15	The Blessed Virgin Mary	Is 48:17-19	Mt 11:16-19 (185)	8:30 am	Jeanine Blanchard Buttazzinni (D)
Sat	12/16	Saint Juan Diego	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11	Mt 17:9a, 10-13 (186)	8:30 am 5:00 pm	Manny Rosales (sl) Jose Maria Avelar (D)
Sun	12/17	Second Sunday of Advent	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11	1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28(8)	7:30 am 9:00 am 11:00 am	Roland Bresler (D) Ryan Hardin (sl) For the People

DEACON'S CORNER

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated.

Cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord God

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."



These readings for the 2nd Sunday in Advent are so beautiful especially if we understand the culture & context they flow from. I will focus on the 1st Reading & the Gospel. Isaiah is talking to a generation of Jews who in the 6th Century B.C. are living in captivity nearly 900 years after their Exodus from the slavery of the Egyptians. At one level his words were fulfilled by King Cyrus of Persia who allowed the Israelites to return home. But at a much deeper level Isaiah was pointing to a 2nd Exodus, a procession led by the Lord God, Yahweh Himself. This procession is more than the procession in 538 B.C of the Israelites back to City of Jerusalem. It is a procession for the glory of God because His power has been revealed to all. His power resides in Mercy; for the Lord God, has forgiven the sins of

Israel. The Israelites are to take heart & be comforted for the Lord God leads us like a Shepherd, holding us close to His bosom. A Shepherd who knows His flock.

Mark immediately takes us to that moment in Salvation history; the life of Jesus begins in the Good News that God is once more leading His people through the wilderness of their lives in a new Exodus. John the Baptist is at the Jordan River across from Jericho for a reason. There were plenty of pools of water in Jerusalem. Why did people from Jerusalem walk over 20 miles to see & hear John preach & baptize on the Jordan? They understood that he was heralding a new exodus that begins with a baptism for the repentance of sin at the very spot where the original Exodus ended. Also, notice John never calls Jesus the Messiah, rather John uses the term "One mightier than I is coming". In the Great Shema, the Israelites would pray every day: "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is One." So Hear O St. Patrick, John proclaim: "As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." How can we respond to: prepare the way for Jesus to come (Adventus) into our hearts?

A few years ago, Episcopal priest Tom Ehrich, attended a church conference where spiritual writer Fr. Henri Nouwen spoke. Nouwen had dedicated much of his life to working with mentally handicapped people. He was a true servant in all he did. At this conference, Nouwen brought one of his mentally handicapped friends, Bill, up to the podium to help him with his speech. But Bill, in his nervousness, just laid his head on Nouwen's shoulder & began to cry. At this moment, Tom & all the conference attendees were reminded of the real purpose of a church. It was not about budgets, buildings, or special liturgies. He wrote, "Our work is to stand next to one another & provide a shoulder for weeping." Comfort begins, in our loneliness, when someone manages to reach into our private pains, & says: I care! John the Baptist, then, comes to ease our pain, our loneliness, by pointing out to us our Savior, our Messiah, and by compassionately telling us that we best prepare for him by our repentance.

But just what sort of comfort do we seek? Are we looking to "feather our own nests" or do we hear the "Cry of the Poor"? What changes do we want to occur in our world? What changes do we want in our own personal lives? Do we, in fact, really want any changes at all? The problem we face with our culture's materialism & wealth is that they are narcotics. They dull our sensibilities. John the Baptist's message was intended to disturb the comfortable & to prod the complacent. It likewise is a prod for those held hostage in fatalism, those who claim, "that's just the way things are" & thereupon do nothing to change both their lives as well as the conditions in the world in which they live. John the Baptist calls us to face change with expectant hope, rather than to face change in fear & dread. Advent is a time of looking ahead in expectant hope. Why? Because we need a savior.

Life is precious, live each moment going forward, knowing Jesus is coming & we are to prepare our lives for Him.



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