

# St. Patrick Catholic Church

December 17, 2023

## The Third 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](http://stpatrickgrassvalley.org)

[info@stpatrickgrassvalley.org](mailto:info@stpatrickgrassvalley.org)

[facebook.com/stpatrickgv/](https://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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**Faith Formation #: 273-2336 x3201**

**James Chatigny**  
**Brian Moore**

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

**Deacon (retired)**  
**Deacon (retired)**

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Bookkeeper  
Receptionist  
RCIA  
Young Adult Coordinator  
Music Director  
Facilities Manager  
Hispanic Ministry  
Director of Faith Formation

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## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Family,

This week on Thursday we see a shift in our Advent Season, from the start of Advent until Thursday we have been focusing on Christ coming at the end of time and in the many small ways He comes in grace or in mystery. Thursday the gospel at Mass will be the genealogy of our Lord from St. Matthew's gospel, day by day we will read through events leading up to Christ's birth until we come to Christmas Day. But there is a change that is much more exciting than that, or at least I think so. The 17th of December begins the ancient "O Antiphons" at Vespers, the evening prayer of the Church. These antiphons are used to start and end the Cantic of Mary or the Magnificat from when our Lady visited St. Elizabeth in St. Luke's Gospel (1:46-55). The beautiful Hymn "O Come O Come Emmanuel" is taken from these same antiphons. They are repeated the next day in the morning Mass before the Gospel is read.

### December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High,  
guiding creation with power and love:  
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

### December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel,  
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

### December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem,  
sign of God's love for all his people:  
come to save us without delay!

### December 20

O Key of David,  
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:  
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

### December 21

O Radiant Dawn,  
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:  
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and  
in the shadow of death.

### December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:  
come and save the man, whom you formed from the dust!

### December 23

O Emmanuel,  
our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

Each title by which the Lord is invoked comes from a reference to the Messiah in the Old Testament. What makes this fun is that the Latin letters, beginning with the last and ending with the first form the acrostic ERO CRAS, which is translated as "Tomorrow I will be (there)." For these 7 days leading up to the feast of Christ we cry out night and day for the Lord to come. Then on Christmas Eve we pray in the morning "Today you will know the Lord is coming and, in the morning, you will see His glory." And First Vespers of Christmas will tell us: When the Sun rises in the morning sky, you will see the King of Kings come forth from the Father." As Christmas draws near, let our preparation increase so that when He comes forth from the Father, we are made ready to welcome Him not only in the cribs of our manger scenes, but in our homes and our hearts.

Your Father in Christ,  
Father Estrella

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

The Christian steward is characterized by a spirit of Joy.

In our First Reading, Isaiah writes, "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul." It is God who is the source of our joy and contentment — not things or achievements or comfort, but our relationship with God. This is why stewards can share so freely of their time, talents and material possessions — because ultimately, we are not attached to these things. Rather, we are attached to the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves. With this spiritual understanding in mind, we begin to cultivate Joy and Peace in our lives.

As the season of Advent quickly comes to the end and Christmas is almost here, remember, when God Himself is the source of our Joy, it cannot be taken away from us. Remain detached of the things that distract you from your Spiritual Joy.

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**A Joyful Sunday.** The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as *Gaudete* Sunday. The word "gaudete" is derived from the Latin words "gaudium," joy, and "gaudeo," to rejoice or be glad.

## CULTURE OF LIFE

The Third Week of Advent:

JOY

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be for all the people."

Luke 2: 10-11

How wonderful to hear those words year after year. But do we take them to heart when we face challenges, when we experience failure, hardship, illness, unexpected life-changing events? Women and couples who learn of an unexpected pregnancy may focus on the fear that they may be robbed of their

joy, that their life and plans will be disrupted yet they miss the message that joy is to be found in the wonder and awe of the unique child they have conceived.

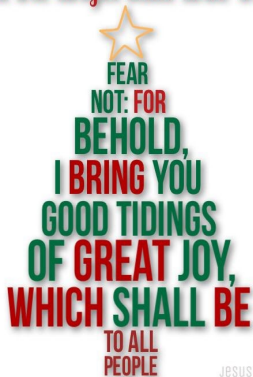
Do not be afraid. I bring you good tidings of great joy...

There are those who may experience illness, old age, or misfortune. When it comes into their lives fear can take center stage. Fear of the unknown, fear of misery, pain, loss of control or even fear of death can silence the message of joy. But there is joy in the news that a helpless, poor, vulnerable child born in a humble stable might wipe away every tear from their eyes. That through him "there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things have passed away." (Rev. 21:4) They may miss the message that the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes is more than the child who advanced in wisdom, age and favor before God and man, more than a prophet mighty in word and deed, but that JESUS IS LORD!

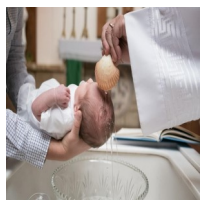
Do not be afraid. I bring you good tidings of great joy ...

Let us remember those who due to the unexpected, fear rather than find joy in the good tidings of Christmas. Let us lift up in prayer those with difficulties and burdens, illness and loneliness. Let us share where we can the tidings of great joy which shall be for all people.

And the angel said unto them,



## 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 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Small Hall in St. Patrick's Hall & the Catechesis class for both will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in St Cecilia's Hall

Or

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

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

### Creation Care Team:

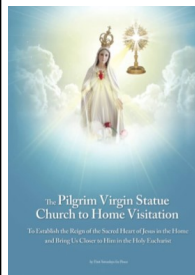
#### Donate to Charity



Struggling to figure out what gift to give that person in your life who has everything and don't want to waste resources on giving them something they don't need? Donate to a charity in

their name instead. A few websites offer great possibilities: Catholic Charities ([www.CatholicCharitiesusa.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesusa.org)); or Catholic Relief Services (<https://support.crs.org>). Heifer International ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)) allows you to purchase all or portions of different livestock for indigent people living in underdeveloped countries.

### PILGRIM VIRGIN OF FATIMA HOME VISITATION



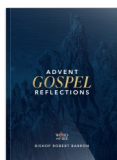
The Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima statue is looking for a home to visit over Christmas, just as Mary and Joseph looked for a place to stay to bring Jesus into the world. Mary's statue represents Mary herself as she brings Jesus into the home to spread the message of Fatima and to bring peace.

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.

The office will be closed  
from Dec 25, 2023, to  
January 1, 2024.

*Church Office  
Closed*

### 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

### WE PRAY FOR:



**Teresa Kachmarsky, Frank & Dora Cividino, Conchetta Greco, Mike Blake, Karen Colwell, Geri Lampman, Richard Tumilty, Juan Gutierrez, 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...and their families.**

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

### WITH OUR CONDOLENCES

St. Patrick Parish community extends our deepest sympathies and condolences to the family of John Mercurio who passed away on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Please remember him and all the Faithful Departed in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



### 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](http://www.flameoflove.us) or call 530-559-7488.





## 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



### YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello Everyone,

This is Kellen Lake, your youth minister here at Saint Patrick. I am excited to inform you of our upcoming 2024 Youth ministry kickoff on Sunday, January 7th right after the 11 AM Mass to 4 PM in the afternoon. We will be having games, a potluck and a movie with prayer to end the day.

The purpose of this event is to bring together our parish family and gather in a day of fellowship with those around us. Our goal is to make our youth disciples of Christ and to form them into the great individuals they were always called to be. Helping guide our youth is our main focus and we want to see them grow in their journey with Christ. Please feel free to bring drinks or anything homemade to your liking! This is an awesome opportunity for our parish to meet and come together as one to support our youth today. I hope to see you all there!

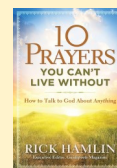
God Bless,  
Kellen Lake



### 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.

## Reflecting on the Gospel



The prophet Isaiah announces a year of the Lord's favor in today's first reading and it could not have come at a better time for the Israelites. Still reeling from their experience of exile, the Israelites longed for signs of the steadfast love promised by God. Isaiah declares that God's

vindication will shine forth in a time of jubilee. The poor will receive glad tidings. The brokenhearted will be healed. Liberty will go to the captives and release them to the prisoners. God's generosity blooms in the face of sorrow. God's justice grows before all the nations. Such is cause for great rejoicing for the Israelites then and for us now.

Imagine a jubilee happening today. How might God's blessings transform lives? What might God do to relieve the sorrow and suffering of creation? We need not wait passively for a jubilee to happen. The prophet Isaiah paves a way for dreaming of a year of favor from the Lord. We too can imagine the freedom of jubilee time and work to make it happen. In ways big and small, we can be people of jubilee. We can tend to the needs of people who are vulnerable and hurting. Through our words and actions, we can bring about rejoicing in the name of God.

Much of the northern hemisphere is in a time of extended darkness due to movements of the sun. Communities all over are also facing the darkness of injustice and sin. John comes to testify to the light. We too are called to reflect the light of Christ to the world. Where will you shine in these days leading up to Christmas?

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](http://faithdirect.net) (Code: CA1104).

**December 10 — \$8,049**

**Retirement for Religious \$ 1,600**



### Upcoming 2nd Collections

**Dec 17 Parish Restoration**

**Dec 25 St Francis /St Claire**



### Adoration



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

### 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 .

## COMING UP THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Saint/Feast	Readings	Gospel	Mass Times	Intention
Mon	12/18	Saint Gatianus of Tours	Jer 23:5-8	Mt 1:18-25 (194)	8:30 am	Russell Cummins(D)
Tues	12/19	Saint Anastasius	Jgs 13:2-7	Lk 1:5-25 (195)	6:30 am	Riopel Family (SI)
Wed	12/20	Saint Dominic of Silos	Is 7:10-14	Lk 1:26-38 (196)	8:30 am	Deanna Curley (D)
Thurs	12/21	Saint Peter Canisius	Sg 2:8-14	Lk 1:39-45 (197)	8:30 am	Roland Bresler(D)
Fri	12/22	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini	Sm 1:24-28	Lk 1:46-56 (198)	8:30 am	Victoria Mitchell (D)
Sat	12/23	St. Thorlak Thorhallsson	Mal 3:23-24	Lk 1:57-66 (199)	8:30 am 5:00 pm	No morning mass Increase in vocations
Sun	12/24	Fourth Sunday of Advent	2 Sm 7:1-5	Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38 (11)	7:30 am 9:00 am 11:00 am	



## DEACON'S CORNER



**Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.**

*I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul;*

*For he has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, Like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels.*

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.*



I had to go down to Los Angeles last week for a family emergency. As we drove by a Christian church in Redondo Beach, I saw this on their billboard: "Merry Christmas to our Christian friends. Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish friends. And to our atheist friends,.... good luck." Joy born of a Hope that flows from a Faith in a future that will transcend this moment is a uniquely human quality. It ultimately was the reason we crawled out of caves & built communities. It is the quality that allows us to see the possibility of tomorrow & of what could be. It is the quality that allows us to share with others rather than just take. But this quality without Jesus would be meaningless because ultimately everything would end up in the darkness of the earth. But with Christ the darkness gives way to the light & the "belovedness" we yearn for can be experienced in this moment. We cannot help but share that hope, that joy that comes from our faith in Christ. Not only does He lift our hearts but we in turn can lift the hearts of others by our lives as Kent Nerburn shares in this story.

In his book, *Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace: Living in the Spirit of the Prayer of St. Francis*, Kent writes about his "Santa ministry": Every holiday season he dons the red suit & flowing white beard and goes out into the streets to bring the presence of Old St. Nick to whomever he meets. [He says] "I never know what is going to happen. I have found myself in nursing homes where men & women lifted themselves from their wheelchairs to sit on my lap. Fights in bars have stopped simply because I walked through the door. I have had mentally challenged people burst into song when they saw me pass. I have had a mother stop me on the street & lead me to her home so I could sit & hear the Christmas wishes of her sick child. ... When I am Santa there are no barriers of race or age or wealth or faith. One Christmas, "Santa" Kent was going to a community center in a violent part of town, near a housing project notorious for gangs & drugs. Getting out of his car, he began walking to his destination when he was followed by a group of teenage boys who started to taunt him. This was not mere joking – it was blood sport. Something bad was going to happen. Then a car pulled up, 6 young men, in their 20's, got out & headed toward him. Santa thought he had seen his last Christmas. But the 6 older men walked straight past Santa to the teenagers. The biggest man grabbed 1 of the teenagers by the scruff of the neck: "You don't mess with Santa." The he turned to the trembling St. Nick; "Sorry, Santa. These kids are ignorant. Come on. You got work to do." The older guys – & the teenagers – led Santa through the neighborhood, calling children out to meet the jolly old elf. The young toughs who minutes earlier were harassing poor Santa were now organizing the children into lines, telling them to behave & to wait nicely for their chance to meet Santa. It turned out to be an incredible afternoon. There is not a person living on that street who would not tell you that it is a dangerous place, filled with drugs, crime & hate," Kent writes of the experience. "But on that day, doors were opened, & we all had a glimpse into the unprotected human heart. And what we saw was not hate, but the deep & unquenchable desire to give and receive love."

In this reflection by Jesuit Fr. Pedro Arrupe may the meaning of Christ's coming touch you. "Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in Love, stay in love, and it will decide everything."

**Rejoice & may we prepare our hearts to receive the Christ child & share His gift of love joyfully with others.**





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