

# St. Canice Catholic Church



# St. Patrick Catholic Church



## December 24, 2023 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

#### 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



Fr. Alexander Estrella  
Fr. Jossy Vattothu CMI  
Richard Soria

Pastor  
Parochial Vicar  
Deacon

Edee Wood  
Ruth Collins Smith  
Maria Beltran  
Traci Jagger  
John Evans  
Kellen Lake  
Colleen Deneen  
Cynthia Weir

Principal, Mt St. Mary's  
Bookkeeper  
Receptionist  
RCIA  
Facilities Manager  
Young Adult Coordinator  
Music Director St. Patrick  
Music Director St. Canice

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## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Family,

After the Spanish Mass one Sunday, the young man who served asked me why priests are called "Father" if our Lord in the Gospel says, "call no man Father." Just a couple of Sundays before that same Gospel was read at Mass and so I explained to him the reason for, including how people will often come to the door of the rectory looking for help. I shared with him how one day a lady came and simply told me, "Father, I'm hungry, I haven't eaten in three days." Very quickly we warmed up some leftovers so she could have a hot meal and gave her some other food to keep along with a gift card for a grocery store. Like many of those whom we help, she needed a little bit of help beyond that one moment.

Not long ago I was thinking of her and then one day as I was out running some errands, I saw her clerking in one of the stores I was shopping in. I had to do a double glance and then she came over to greet me. I was happy to both see that she was doing well and had a job she could be proud of. On multiple occasions I get a phone call with a request saying, "I've looked all over town, and they told me, 'go to the Catholic Church, they help with that'." I could fill a volume with all the good works done by our parish, but I share this one because it has such a happy ending and I think we should all be proud and happy that we are making real differences to impact people's lives.

I often remember the story of St Martin, whose feast day is Nov 11, of how he helped a poor man and later was visited by our Lord in a dream. Our Lord told Martin that the man he had helped was, in fact, our Lord Himself. St. Martin's day in many places marked the beginning of a 40 day fast leading up to Christmas. Our works of charity, especially during Advent and Christmas are opportunities to meet our Lord in those whom we help.

I would like to express my gratitude for your own good works and your generosity which enable us to meet the needs of those who come to our door. I might be the face of that help but it is a work we all do together. This Christmas, because of this same generosity, we were able to provide more than \$3,000.00 of help to needy families and individuals. Some we helped have a happier Christmas with their families, others we helped navigate emergency situations.

Thank you and God bless you all. Wishing you all a very happy and holy Christmas,

Your Father in Christ,

Father Estrella



## ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**

#### **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

#### **Confession**

Tuesday 7:30 AM-8:15 AM  
Friday 5:00 PM-6:00 PM  
Saturday 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

## ST. CANICE CATHOLIC CHURCH

317 Washington Street

Nevada City 95959

Phone: (530) 265-2049

Office Hours

Tuesdays 9:00-12:00

Fridays 9:00-2:00

### **CLOSED HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION**

#### **Masses**

Weekday (M-F) 7:30 AM  
Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM  
Sunday 9:00 AM  
Immaculate Conception Church 11:30 AM

#### **Confession**

Friday 8:00 AM

Saturday 4:00 PM (or by appt)

#### **Eucharistic Adoration**

Fri 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

#### **Rosary**

Wednesday 8:00 AM



This fourth Advent Sunday we are reminded that **Jesus offers us peace in every season and nothing is impossible with him!** The fourth candle of Advent is called the "Angel Candle" and symbolizes peace. This name comes from the fact that the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace (Luke 2:14).

## Creation Care Team:



Merry Christmas! As we gather to celebrate Christmas with family and friends this year, take a moment to reflect on how our celebrations include and are enhanced by God's creation – conifer trees, holly, poinsettias, beeswax

candles, mistletoe, the fresh smell of the colder air. "Christians, in particular, realize that their responsibility within creation and their duty towards nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith." – Pope St. John Paul II, 1990 World Day of Peace Message, no. 15.

## CULTURE OF LIFE

### CHRISTMAS JOY



"I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Luke 1:10 "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt...Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Matt 2:13b

Great joy was then followed by great sadness and tragedy. For soon after receiving gifts from the Magi, Joseph receives the message that he must flee with his wife and child to Egypt. Jesus, in the care of his family, escapes the massacre of the Holy Innocents ordered by Herod but not so the remaining male babies two years and younger. St. Matthew later proclaims that the deaths of those innocent babies fulfills these words from the prophet Jeremiah, "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentations; Rachel weeping for her children, and

she would not be consoled, since they were no more." Matt 2:18 in a letter to the world's bishops on the Feast of the Holy Innocents and Martyrs, Pope Francis said, "Christmas is also accompanied, whether we like it or not, by tears." He reminds us that still today we hear the heart-rending cry of pain, the lamentations of so many mothers, and families for the exploitation, abuse and deaths of their innocent children. Pope Francis, using St. Joseph as a model, says we are not to be robbed of joy but are asked to protect this joy from the Herods of our own time who devour the innocence of our children through slave labor, prostitution and exploitation. He continues noting that thousands more children are shattered by wars and forced immigration or who fall into the hands of gangs, criminal organizations and merchants of death. Yet Pope Francis goes on to lift our spirits and resolve by reminding us that Christian joy does not ignore the pain and suffering of the world but rather it is a joy born from the same call St. Joseph received – to embrace and protect human life, especially that of the holy innocents of our own day. Christmas then is a time that challenges us to protect life, to help it be born and grow, while ensuring that the dignity of all God's children will not only be respected but, above all, defended.

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Today is the last day of Advent.



Our Gospel passage from Luke details God's plan for our Blessed Mother. She will be the mother of God. Her response, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Mary says Yes to God's plan.

Like Mary, each of us Christian disciples receive from God our own "God Plan", but it likely will not be from an encounter with an angel. Rather, it will no doubt be in Prayer, Mass, Adoration, or Contemplation. When we each receive our own particular God Plan, like Mary, we go in haste. We respond.

This Christmas, may we each receive and recognize God's gift of His plan for each of our lives. Ultimately, when we each discover our vocation to God's Kingdom, we, both individually and as a church, grow closer to Him and each other, which is the ultimate goal of the Stewardship way of Life.

## 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.

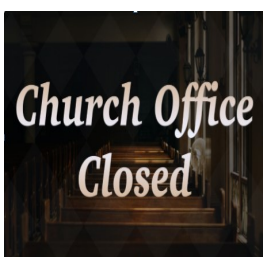
## Reflecting on the Gospel



Advent is a season of surprises. God's Spirit shows up in a myriad of unexpected places: in a raggedy man dressed in camel's hair, in the hope of the long suffering Israelite people, in the blind who can now see, in the deaf who can now hear, in the dead who are now raised. There is perhaps no greater surprise in human history than when God's Spirit appears to a young, poor, unwed woman in Nazareth and asks her to carry God's Son. God finds Mary--Mary!--to be full of favor and grace. She holds none of the characteristics that society deems favorable, yet she is entirely worthy in God's eyes.

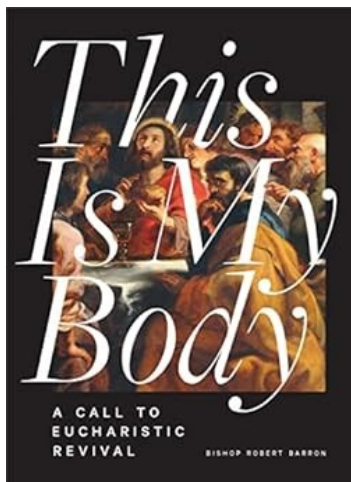
Mary's story can inspire us to also see ourselves as worthy in God's eyes. It can be easy to doubt our worth, particularly during the holiday season. Perhaps you are struggling to find meaning after a divorce, a family dispute, or a layoff. Maybe you are deep in the throes of a mental health crisis, cannot afford the gifts you want to give, or are feeling lonely while everyone else looks merry and bright.

Mary empathizes with our pain. She asked similar questions. And in the end, the young girl from Nazareth trusted in God's almighty power. She believed that indeed nothing is impossible for God. She believed God could lift up the lowly and bring the holiest of holies to life within her. On this last day of Advent, spend some time in prayer with Mary. We ask her to intercede for us so that we might come to see ourselves as worthy.



St Patrick's office will be closed from Dec 22, 2023, to January 1, 2024.

St Canice's office will be closed from Dec 18, 2023, to January 1, 2024.



## A CHRISTMAS GIFT

### This Is My Body

#### A CALL TO EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Please pick up a complimentary book. This book will help you to discover the profound truth flowing out of Jesus' words at the Last Supper: "Take, eat; this is my body. . . . Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant."

This Is My Body: Call to Eucharistic Revival is designed to accompany that revival. In this brief but illuminating text, Bishop Barron offers a threefold analysis of the Eucharist as sacred meal, sacrifice, and Real Presence, helping readers to understand the sacrament of Jesus' Body and Blood more thoroughly so that they might fall in love with him more completely.

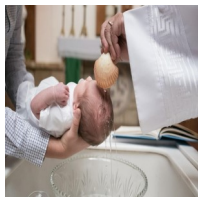
## MEN'S GUILD 13TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED / ST. CANICE CHURCH

RESERVATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED

Saturday, January 27th

See flyer in the vestibule in the church for more information or contact Jeff Hebert at 530-265-9510 or email [jkjhebert@comcast.net](mailto:jkjhebert@comcast.net) for further questions.

## 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:

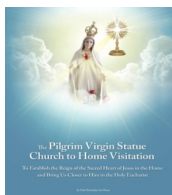
The Welcoming Session for Parents/Godparents will be on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Small Hall in St. Patrick's Hall & the Catechesis class for both will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in St Cecilia's Hall

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

## 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.

## 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.



## DEACON'S CORNER

Deacon's Corner 12.24.23



*Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*

*"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David, his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

***Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."***

In this scene so poetically described by Luke, God's meaning for creation was revealed, THE INCARNATION!



According to the great Franciscan theologian Blessed John Duns Scotus the Incarnation was not God's response to Adam & Eve's fall. Rather the Incarnation was the very reason creation occurred. The Incarnation is the manifestation of God's way of Loving. Blessed John Duns Scotus taught that since God is perfect, He is worthy of love more than anything else in creation. Creation would not be complete without God, Jesus, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, being part of it. Jesus is the pinnacle of God's creation; & His Incarnation was seen in God's eye as He conceived of the creation of Adam & Eve. Jesus, in becoming human, desired to raise our humanity to the divine. God, through Jesus' life on this earth, wants to show us how to be holy despite the weaknesses of our flesh. God would have become man even if Adam & Eve had not sinned, because He willed that in Christ, humanity & all of creation should be united to the Blessed Trinity in the closest possible way!

Sit with this reading for a little bit & ponder: the whole reason for creation came down to this moment, to this young teenage girl. God so humbled Himself to allow His great dream rest in the hands of this "child", to Mary's yes, her *Fiat*. *What went through her mind? How great was her fear at what could happen to her? Think of the doubt, confusion, wonder that swirled within as the Christ Child grew within her. Through all this she chose to trust. She trusted even as she first saw the Face of God in the Child that she held. Wow! What did she experience? Songwriter Mark Lowry, back in the 90's, had similar thoughts when he wrote Mary Did You Know?*

Mary, did you know that your baby boy Would one day walk on water?  
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy Would save our sons and daughters?  
 Did you know that your baby boy Has come to make you new?  
 This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you  
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy Will give sight to a blind man?  
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy Will calm the storm with his hand?  
 Did you know that your baby boy Has walked where angels trod?  
 When you kiss your little baby You kiss the face of God  
 Mary, did you know? The blind will see, the deaf will hear The dead will live again  
 The lame will leap, the dumb will speak The praises of the Lamb  
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy is the Lord of all creation?  
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy Would one day rule the nations?  
 Did you know that your baby boy Is heaven's perfect Lamb?  
 That sleeping child you're holding is the great, I Am.

God's design for creation & for us is alive because of Mary's yes. I deeply believe that God is not a "one & done" type God. God repeats this "moment" over & over again in each one of us. He comes to each of us & asks us if we will bring His Son into our world. He waits for our *Fiat*.

***Merry Christmas to All, & to All a Blessed & Holy Night***



**hb.**  
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