

Dec. 20, 2015
The Fourth Sunday
of Advent



St. Patrick's Episcopal Church and Day School

1 Church Rd.

Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

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www.stpatschurch.org

Our St. Patrick's Mission Statement:

"To love and obey God, to love each other and others and to let our light shine from this holy hill."

All are welcome to join us each and every Sunday morning for worship and to receive communion.

Rite I Worship Service: 8:00 AM

Rite II Worship Service: 10:15 with Choir & Sunday School

At St. Patrick's: **Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**

Interim Rector

Fr. John Crean

Children's Ministry Director

Patty Buffaloe

Sr. Warden

Bob Wichmann

Youth Ministry Director

Robert Galletly

Jr. Warden

Ruthanne England

Financial Administrator

Kathryn Walters

Music Director

Dr. Eric Kinsley

Parish Administrator

Janet Enriquez

St. Patrick's Postulant

KC Robertson

Church office hours: Monday—Thurs from 9 AM to 3 PM

Please contact the Church Office for appointments w/Fr. John

For pastoral emergencies after hours, please contact

Fr. John on his cell at 626-372-5898

Altar Flowers

*The Altar Flowers are Dedicated
to the Glory of God*

John's Jottings

Well, we're almost there! Advent IV and in a few short days, Christmas Eve. I really love Advent. It may be short, the month of December may be jam packed with events, the pace may be frenetic, more drivers may drive erratically, if not discourteously—well, what's it all about, Alfie?

It's about the reality that everyone somehow gets into the December holiday season big-time. It is the season of seasons . . . and then there's New Years.

I have to say, I have always loved the week between Christmas and New Year's. It is a blessed down time, where we can regroup and re-gather our strength. I hope you will take some time to do just that. At the parish we will be closed on the Monday and Tuesday after Christmas, December 28th and 29th. Both Janet and I will be away, trying to recapture some of the extra hours we needed to put in during December.

And **you** rest, too! Advent is supposed to be a time for serious reflection. But often it's anything but that. So now let's set aside some time to regroup. New Year's is coming. And January is no cruise month in church. And oh, sorry to break it to you, but Ash Wednesday is February 10th!!

So catch your breath. Take a deep breath. Breathe in the peace of the Holy Spirit.

God bless, always with love, Fr. John+

Altar Flowers

Honor a loved one (birthday, anniversary, memorial, etc.) with a floral dedication. Sign up on the flower chart at the back of church. The suggested donation is \$40.00.

Checks to St. Patrick's Altar Guild with 'altar flowers' in the memo may be placed in the offertory plate.

For Those We Love

Shirley Bland, Geoff Buck, Jane Calcante, Dorothy Collins, Diane Cotter, Sara Dale, Stacey Davison, Emma, Barbara Fielding, Carrie Grisom, Ray Elizabeth Herkner, Marion Jeffrey, Jack Kinsley, Haleigh Love, Joe Luce, Lucy Martin, Lois Osbourne, Fred Palmquist, Bob & Mary Pearson, Nancy Primo, John Rushton, Susan, Michael Schuler, Beth Sorensen, Tony Stephens, Evelyn Szpet, Margie Treichler & Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

KC Robertson and Ryan Macias for Discernment

Repose of the Soul

Arthur Beaven, Edward Brewton, Ricardo Galvez, Lily Jensen, Rev. George Luthringer, Janet Lynn Westlund and Kimberly Ann Westlund

Children's Ministry

Care for preschool children aged 2 1/2 - kindergarten is available in the sacristy wing. K-5th grade children are welcome to our Sunday school program each Sunday morning. Children gather in church at the start of the 10:15 worship and process to their SS classes.

Youth Ministry

Middle & high school youth meet Sundays at 10:15 in the youth room, in the church office wing. Middle and high school classes meet each week from 10:15 to 11:00 and return to worship for communion.

Enjoy cocoa in support of the mission trip during fellowship on Sundays during Advent.

There is no Youth Group Sunday, Dec. 27th. Youth Group resumes Sunday, Jan. 3rd,

Sunday Service Participants

8:00

10:15

Lector

Lois Robinson

Evan Stephens

Crucifer

Mary Buffaloe

Acolytes

Amy and Christine
Buffaloe

LEMs

John Sahlman
Susan Sahlman

Travis Tokuyama
Bob Wichmann

Ushers

Joe & Joan Maskrey

Greg Gerardis
Ken Cox
Doug Holmes
John & Marilyn
Chavez
Bernie Honey

Coffee Hosts

8:00 Eric Kinsley

10:15 Sharon Lexau

Altar Guild ALL TEAMS

Micah 5: 2-5a

Psalms 80: 1-7

Hebrews 10: 5-10

Luke 1: 39-55

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Youth Ministry Amazing Chase—Saturday, December 19th

All youth are invited to The Amazing Chase: In Search of the Real Meaning of Christmas Scavenger Hunt! Meet at church. 5:00-7:30pm. Pizza & refreshments will be provided.

Hot Chocolate

Celebrate the season of Advent with a cup of delicious hot chocolate. Youth Ministry is selling hot chocolate to the congregation after both the 8:00 and 10:15 AM services during Advent to benefit the upcoming mission trip. See Robert for more information.

St. Pat's Angel Tree

If you took a tag to give a gift to a needy family member through our Angel Tree gift tag outreach, please return your wrapped gift with the tag attached by **Thursday, Dec. 17th by noon**. Thank you for your participation in this outreach. Many thanks to everyone who so generously took a tag and bought such wonderful gifts.

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettia plants will decorate the church for Christmas! Dedications in thanksgiving or memory of a loved one can be made on the clipboard at the back of the church. A donation of \$10 is suggested. Please place checks made out to St. Patrick's Altar Guild in the manila envelope or check 'paid cash' on the sign-up sheet. **Please signup no later than Sunday, Dec. 20th.**

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

5:00 PM - Family Service with Holy Eucharist

**8:00 PM - High Mass of Christmas Eve
with the St. Patrick's Choir**

There is no worship service on Christmas Day.

Holiday Office Closure

The church office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 28th and Tuesday, Dec. 29th. Fr. John will be available in the office on Wed., Dec. 30th from 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM and Thursday, Dec. 31st from 10:30 AM to Noon. Contact Fr. John at 805-495-6441 ext. 102. For pastoral emergencies after hours, please call Fr. John at 626-372-5898.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was admitted to the hospital after a "medical incident" while visiting Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, VA. In a statement issued following surgery, the Episcopal Church stated that "according to the Presiding Bishop, his family, and his medical team, the surgery went well, as had been expected. Bishop Curry is alert and awake, and a full recovery continues to be anticipated..." Please continue to keep him in your prayers for healing and his family in your prayers for comfort.

Children's Epiphany Celebration

Come join us for the Children's Ministry Celebration of the Epiphany on Sunday Jan. 10th during the 10:15 service. All children are invited to participate and costumes will be provided. Please see Patty Buffaloe for more information.

CCC 10 Year Anniversary

The Conejo Compassion Coalition is celebrating 10 years of service to the poor. This celebration will culminate with a gala on 11 Feb, 2016. So mark your calendars now and plan to join us on the evening of Feb. 11th.

In conjunction with this celebration CCC will be publishing a glossy full color magazine detailing the work of our organization over the last decade. If you own a business we would like you to consider placing an ad in our magazine. If you do not own a business consider asking your employer to advertise with us. The funds raised from these advertisements will be used to build the next home in Haiti. See a CCC member following worship for all the details.

For additional information on this, and on the CCC in general, see: Merley Greenidge, Jan Lyons, Jill Murch, Linda Coskun, Lynn Malfatti, Cathy Svitek or Bob Bland.

Jensen Memorial Service

A memorial service for Lily Jensen will be held here at St. Patrick's Church on Saturday, January 16, 2016 at 1:00 PM.

Winter Shelter Program

The Winter Shelter Program is now at St. Julie's Catholic Church in Newbury Park through the end of March. St. Pat's serves meals and overnights on the second Saturday of each month. See Bob Bland for more details.

Conejo Compassion Coalition

Visit www.conejocompassion.org or call Bob Bland, 805-498-5682, for more info regarding the CCC.

Manna

Please donate to Manna. Bring your gifts of non-perishable food and hygiene items on Sundays to the front of church.

Mad Attic Thrift Shop

The shop is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 to 4:00. Contact Barbara Powell or Gay Tortorici for information or to volunteer. MA: 805-497-1990. **Please bring donations directly to the MA during open hours.**

Studies & Groups**SPECL**

See Anne Van Cott for information on the St. Patrick's Ladies Group.

The Men's Group

The men's group gathers here for study, spiritual growth and fellowship. Contact Owen at 760-203-2422 for info and meeting times.

Bible Study

The Wed. Night Bible Study Group meets Wed. evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. For information, see Bob Bland or Ray Elizabeth Herkner.

Spiritual Reading Group

Friday's 1-3 PM: "An Adult Christ at Christmas" by Raymond E. Brown—Essays on the Three Biblical Christmas Stories, Matthew 2 and Luke 2
These infancy narratives represent a developed Christology proclaimed through a reflection on the origin of Jesus. The fruits of modern scientific approach to the infancy narratives, here presented in simple format, are intended for a wide ranging audience in search of inspiration for their spiritual life and for the celebration of the feast of Christmas. Call Ray Elizabeth Herkner for information.

Sunday Bible Discussion

Sunday Bible Study meets from about noon to 1:00 following the 10:15 service for a review of the books of the Bible, starting with the Old Testament. If you are a bit hazy on understanding of the Old Testament lessons, you are invited to join us. Contact Bob Wichmann for more information.

The Day School

Contact the Parish Day School at
805-497-1416 or
www.stpatricksdayschool.org

The **Day School's Words on Wednesday (WOW)** is available at the main entrance.