

St. Patrick Roman Catholic Parish

St. Patrick Church • St. Michael Mission



NEWSLETTER

December 2015

Website:
www.stpatsbisbee.com

P. O. Box 164
Bisbee, AZ 85603

E-mail: stpatricksc@cableone.net
(520) 432-5753

WELCOME, FR. MATTHEW THAYIL!



St. Patrick Parish welcomed Fr. Matthew Thayil as our new Sacramental Minister beginning July 1. He is a member of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, an international missionary religious congregation. Fr. Matthew was born and raised in India, and ordained a priest in 1967. After coming to the United States, he served in Norcross, GA, and Tyler, TX before being transferred to the Diocese of Tucson in 2011. Fr. Matthew served at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Tucson, and St. Joseph Parish in Hayden prior to being assigned to St. Patrick Parish.

Fr. Samuel Jandeh, who served at St. Patrick Parish for 3 years, began his new diocesan assignment as administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Superior AZ July 1.

ST. MICHAEL MISSION

Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Mass is celebrated in Spanish on the first Sunday of each month. Spanish prayer group meets every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., led by Dcn. Ricky Pinzon.

Cursillo School of Leaders:

A School of Leaders class has begun at St. Michael's this year. We are in need of individuals who have lived their Cursillo to become leaders to help work in the next Cursillo scheduled in Oct 2016. In order to meet this requirement, you must be attending the School of Leaders for 6-months prior to the Cursillo date. Beginning in January there will be a joint class at Our Lady of the Mountains Church on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Please watch the bulletin for an upcoming Grande Ultreya in February with Bishop Kicanas as the guest speaker!

OUR SUPPORT MATTERS!

As 2015 draws to a close, remember St. Patrick Parish. Your contributions, whether weekly, monthly, or annually, are critical to the parish budget. Your contributions, whether financial or as a volunteer, support not only the operation of our facilities, but also the work of the church and our service to the community. Please encourage your family and other parishioners to prayerfully consider increasing their active participation in the life of our parish, both financially and as a volunteer to strengthen our ministries.

ST. PATRICK CHURCH CENTENNIAL



The Centennial Steering Committee (CSC) has been hard at work this year, developing plans for our Centennial Year, Oct 1, 2016—Oct 1, 2017. Watch the church bulletin and website for updates.

Mr. Larry Milam of Bisbee was selected as the winner of the Centennial logo contest in March, 2015. The logo has already been featured on a variety of T shirts and it will be used often as other Centennial plans develop throughout the year.

Is it a snake? Is it a river? The top of a mountain range?

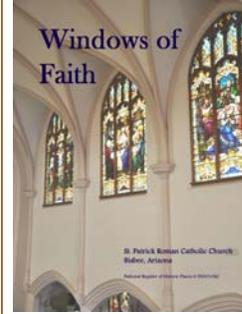
No, what you see beginning to take shape is the "vein of the vine". The unsightly-for-many-years wall below the ball courts (80 ft. from the corner to the driveway into the parking lot) is serving as a canvas for a large grape vine that will have leaves approx. 4' x 4' and grape clusters 2 or 3' in length. Later in this year-long project, symbolic graphics will be added representing the seven sacraments. The mural will be finished in soft tones to keep the graphics subtle and respectful of the natural tones of the existing wall. Design artist/project director is Shirley Mac, with Roxan Cooper as her assis-



tant. Time-lapse photography and interviews with passers-by is being done. Anyone who can help with editing the time lapse footage and interviews is asked to call Shirley at 432-4555.

Windows of Faith has Arrived!

The CSC is pleased to announce the availability of our first Centennial publication, *Windows of Faith*. This 60 page book features large color photographs of each of the church windows, historical information about the families who are memorialized in the windows, and the symbolism in the window designs. Social justice reflections by Pope Francis and other Catholic theologians parallel many of the lessons of the window scenes. An excellent value at \$20 per copy, the book may be purchased at the church office or on the church website. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be directed toward the Centennial expenses and the upcoming restoration work on the windows.



Fr. Constant Mandin in Bronze

At the first parish Centennial meeting, local sculptor Thomas Enriquez presented a clay model of Fr. Henri Constant Mandin, founding pastor of St. Patrick Church. After CSC considered concepts about developing the statue into bronze, Mr. Enriquez has completed the bronze artist's proof. The Committee will be considering a promotional campaign to market a limited edition of the bronze Fr. Mandin statues, popular with collectors of fine bronze statuary. These pieces would be available to the public on a pre-order basis only. The bronze statue would be accompanied by an informational booklet about Fr. Mandin. Anyone interested in more information about the bronze statuary is asked to contact Shirley Mac 520-432-4555 for details.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are blessed to have 24 students enrolled in our 1st Communion/Reconciliation class this year, joining our 2 teachers and 2 additional volunteers. In the first semester we taught the Sacrament of Reconciliation — the 10 commandments, what prayers to pray, what is sin, and the steps to forgiveness. The parents join the class on the first Sunday of the month, which equips them to continue the students' learning in the home environment. We appreciate this participation by the parents. Next semester we will be teaching about First Communion. You will see our students' presence more at the 9:30 Mass next semester as they sit with their teachers to learn about church etiquette and what is occurring during Mass. We also appreciate the patience of the clergy as we teach our students. We look forward to the completion of another successful year.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Bible study group meets on Wednesdays in the parish rectory from 5:30-7:00 p.m. For information, contact Sandra Bernal at 234-1322 or bernal100@hotmail.com.

ST. PATRICK WOMEN'S CLUB

Each year the Women's Club grows by welcoming numerous volunteers and being an active part of parish life. The two annual fundraisers, the 'Christmas in July' and the December Christmas Bazaar support the Club's mission of supporting and promoting activities and services of St. Patrick Parish.

The Club continues its monthly support of Bisbee's St. Vincent de Paul food bank, and has supported several other parish ministries/organizations throughout the year: The Knights of Columbus, Sisters of St. Agnes, Bisbee/Naco Youth C.R.E.W. and the parish Fall Festival. Every May, two scholarships are awarded to qualify-

ing Bisbee High School Seniors. Support is also provided to other organizations/persons, outside the parish community, as part of the Club's community outreach.

As one of their main services to the church, Club members, along with several non-members, take great pride in assisting the parish families with funeral luncheons. Our goal is to deliver excellent service to the families when they need to feel at ease and not troubled with the details of feeding their guests.

The Club has been pleased to host a variety of dinners for visiting priests and parish dinners for special occasions. The potluck dinner/dance to celebrate St. Patrick's day will be held on March 19. Parishioners are encouraged to save that date and join in a great family night of fellowship and fun.

Women's Club potluck meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, with annual dues of \$15 for the year. All women of the parish are welcome to join as members. If attendance at the meetings is not possible, we encourage those women to assist with other Club activities. Non-parish women are also welcome to assist in annual Club activities.

ST. PATRICK PARISH GIFT SHOP

If you haven't been in the Gift Shop lately, you're missing out on all the wonderful items that are available for your own use or for gift items for general or special occasions.

New to the gift shop are St. Patrick T-shirts with our Centennial Logo. Shirts are available in a variety of sizes and colors, either with the logo only, or with appropriate slogans on the back. Prices range from \$15 to \$21, depending on size and style. They would make great Christmas gifts too!

SACRAMENT STATISTICS

These statistics are from December 2014 through November 2015

Baptisms	22
First Communion	
Children	12
Adults	2
Confirmation	
Teens	12
Adults	1
Deaths	35

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



The parish Christmas greeting on the fence takes on a bit of a modern look this year as our familiar "Peace Be with You" greeting during Mass has a 'social media' flavor. Thanks to all who participated in the Thanksgiving weekend project, placing thousands of cups, hoisting the greens and placing the outdoor trees. A fun day of hard work, chili dogs, and fellowship results in our message of love, joy and peace to the entire community—and beyond! Call 432-4555 if you can help with taking the display down in January.

Fulfilling our Mission to Serve God's People St. Patrick Parish reaches out to meet the needs of our community

By the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, the faith community of St. Patrick Parish and St. Michael Mission is devoted to living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We strive to help all grow strong in faith by encountering Jesus in prayer, sacrament, and liturgy. We commit to nurturing our relationships with God and His people through service and works of charity, especially to those in most need, by bringing to life our Lord's Greatest Commandments: "Loving God, with all our heart, soul, and mind and our neighbor as ourselves" (Matthew 22:37-39).

The gospel calls us to share what we have received, and through our ministries our faith community does just that. We reach out to share with the homebound, the incarcerated, with all in our community who are in need, and with others around our diocese and around the world. Our financial support, our prayers, and our willingness to serve help us make our world a better place. May it ever be so.



BISBEE/NACO YOUTH C.R.E.W. Catholics Ready, Equipped, and Willing

The Bisbee/Naco Youth C.R.E.W, led by Jennifer and Mike Ratkovich, are just what their name indicates —Catholics Ready, Equipped, and Willing! We're seeing them everywhere! The group participates in the 9:30 a.m. Youth Mass the first Sunday of each month. They hosted the popular free movie nights for the community during the summer months. In January 2015 they began an important outreach event for the community, making a free meal available to anyone in the community who wishes to come. Whether the menu featured a baked potato bar, soup, hoagies, or breakfast items, the C.R.E.W. group served 150 people or more each month. The free Thanksgiving meal on November 21 included turkey & all the trimmings, and was served to over 300 people! This amazing group of young people, along with their parents and other supporters, have become a real moving force in our parish as they show us what it means to live the gospel and serve others. They deserve our support and our appreciation. They are learning important life lessons, and setting an example for all of us to follow. If you would like to participate in the group and/or future events, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Ratkovich at 520-227-3949 or email at jratkovich@diocesetucson.org You can also keep up to date with future events and meetings by liking their facebook page www.facebook.com/BisbeeNacoYouthCrew. Plan to attend the youth Christmas program on Saturday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

world. Filled with school supplies, hygiene items, toys and accessory items, the boxes will also contain a gospel booklet printed in the child's own language. This is an amazing program. Call Karen McNeal 432-8044 for more information. Just think what we could do if every family packed just one box.....



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Bisbee Conference

God continues to bless us at St. Vincent de Paul at St. Patrick Church. Donations from our parishioners & other supporters have been generous, plentiful, and heart warming. The Women's Transition Project (WTP) residents and staff (we call them "the angels from across the street") continue to bring us truckloads of food every 2 weeks—fresh produce & fruit, bread, cereal, canned vegetables & other food that are so welcomed & needed by our friends. In recent months the Coalition for the Homeless in Tintown has also donated bread & other foodstuffs. This wonderful partnership between the WTP, the Homeless Shelter & St. Patrick's SVdP has garnered some wonderful edible rewards for our friends. Our Soup/Sandwich Brigade, numbering nearly 20, continues to bless us when each week one of their volunteers brings soup, sandwiches, or the dish of their choice to serve to our friends. Our friends are warmed & touched every Thursday by our wonderful St. Pat's cooks, and the cooks, too, are blessed for their efforts and generous spirits.

Our friends also continue to grow in numbers—we average 120 per week. Most of them come to us with many needs—hunger, clothing, medical, housing, and utility assistance, but some come simply to enjoy a warm lunch served to them by welcoming friends. Most recently, we distributed 50 turkeys, 25 coats and 25 sweaters. Thank you to all of you who make this possible every week. God bless you!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Spreading God's Love around the World

St. Patrick parishioners and friends filled approximately 113 shoe boxes in November. Our shoe boxes joined thousands more from southern Arizona that were shipped to children around the