

# 119th ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S PARTY

**The 119th Saint Patrick's Party is rapidly approaching - Saturday, Mar. 17! Don't miss this annual event!**

The party begins with Matthew Tyson singing Irish ballads at the Blessed Sacrament Church starting at 12:30pm followed by Mass at 1:00pm celebrated by Fr. Lou Nichols. After Mass, the Love Choir will perform some great gospel music. Then the party moves to the Greenwood Community Center where corned beef and cabbage with all the trimmings, topped off by a delicious chunk of rum cake, will be served from 3pm– 8pm. Dancing begins at 9pm to the music of Jim Corbett and his band and will last until midnight. Prices are \$15 for adults (includes dinner and dance) and \$6 for youth under 12. Fee for the dance only is \$6. Door prizes will be drawn every 1/2 hour. Tickets for the grand raffle prizes will be drawn at 10:00pm. There will also be a silent auction again this year with some wonderful items to bid on.

Last year's raffle winners were: R.D. Beacon (cedar chest); S. Green (\$100 gift certificate to Safeway; Karen Sjolund (sawzall); Marty Jones (youth bicycle and toaster oven); George and Betty Tyrell (afghan); Norma Harrison (table top BBQ); Frank Gill (disc golf).

While in Elk/Greenwood for this exciting event, take time to visit our wonderful little museum across from the Elk Post Office as well as the Greenwood Art Gallery which features paintings, sculptures, photographs, handmade cards, and much more created by local artisans.

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## PARISH NEWS

Blessed Sacrament Mission Parish was truly "blessed" this past year. Spiritually, we aged and death took Will Edelbrock from us. However, three young people were baptized and Finn Schaner made his First Communion. No one can remember our last First Communicant. The Parish remains fortunate to have a priest, Father Lou Nichols, serving us from our host Parish, St. Anthony, in Mendocino.

Several major projects were completed in 2011. The Church and Rectory sparkle with new paint. Our resident termites were "gassed" and old cypress stumps ground into planter bed mulch. The church doors were re-hung to open outward so we are now in compliance with safety regulations. However, much remains to be done. Our historic Church Bell needs a new base and the redwood timbers are on site ready for installation. The fence between the Church and school grounds in is abysmal condition. As time permits this year the parish will rebuild it. Drainage work still needs to be done at the front of the complex to protect the foundations of the Church and Rectory. The Parish is also intending to do some landscaping at some point in the future. All together the Parish spent over \$20,000 on projects. Since 1995 the collective total of expenditures on the church complex plus the cemetery now comes to about **\$306,019.00.**

For years community residents recognized the “scary” highway parking at the cemeteries. Safe cemetery parking got a big boost with recent verbal approval from the land owner and conservancy to develop off-highway parking adjacent to the cemeteries. Written approval, survey work and preparation of an easement deed are next steps. Grading, rocking and improving the entrance to the Community Cemetery will follow. Fence rebuilding on the south side of the Druid Cemetery was temporarily shelved as negotiations for the easement intensified. Hopefully, significant improvement to safety concerns are realized in early 2012.

The continuing success of this small congregation of worshippers results from the involvement of “all hands”, the generosity of visitors and tourists, and the Elk Altar Society’s ability and willingness to help finance major Parish projects.

The Parish was blessed in 2011 and thanks to all who helped in those successes.

Parishioners do general maintenance at the cemetery twice a year –prior to Memorial Day and Labor Day - at which time American flags are placed on each veteran’s gravesite. General maintenance includes mowing and weed control in and around the gravesites. If you wish further information about the cemetery or to purchase a site, contact Gene Cady at (707) 882-2349.

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## **ELK ALTAR SOCIETY YARD SALE**

Over the 4th of July weekend, the Elk Altar Society held its annual Yard Sale on the church lawn. The sale was a moderate success. The Altar Society has concluded that due to the plethora of events up and down the coast on the 4th of July weekend it must hold the yard sale at another time. In 2012 EAS will hold its yard sale the same weekend as the Elk Volunteer Fire Department BBQ which is anticipated will help both events. Although a firm date has not been determined for the BBQ as of this writing, it will probably be the 4th weekend in July (July 28 and 29).

EAS fundraisers enable us to continue to provide outreach to the community, such as scholarships, food for the needy, lodging for those passing through if necessary, grants to the Blessed Sacrament Church, as needed, for maintenance and repair of the church complex, etc. A wonderful group of volunteers, many not even members of EAS, are always on hand each day to carry out and assemble all of the items, man the cash registers and answer customer’s questions. We appreciate the support of our extended community. And, once again we ask our friends to check garages and storage areas for any items that can be donated to us. Your discards will be someone else’s treasures plus help us with our outreach programs. In turn, we will send you a tax deductible receipt and our everlasting gratitude. If you need us to pick up furniture or other items, just give us a call and we will make the necessary

arrangements. You may contact Gene Cady. at (707) 882-2349 or Dorothy Cong at 877-3275.

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### **ELK ALTAR SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Elk Altar Society awarded two \$500 scholarships in 2011 to Samuel Fish and Vincent Longo, 2011 graduates of Mendocino High School. Samuel is attending San Jose State University studying art and animation. Vincent is enrolled at Ithaca College, New York, majoring in radio and television broadcast journalism.

The Elk Altar Society grants two scholarships each year for attendance at an institution of higher learning: community college, four year college or university, or trade school. Applicants living in the Elk Zip Code 95432 are invited to apply for the 2012 scholarships. For information and application forms contact the Elk Altar Society at PO Box 17, Elk, CA 95432; Ruth Cady at (707) 882-2349 or your high school guidance counselor.

The Elk community can be very proud of its young people who have gone on to higher education. Several have graduated from prestigious universities within California as well as out of state. We even have a Rhodes scholar attending Oxford University this year and another who earned a Fullbright Fellowship!

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#### **Prayer for 2012**

**Dear God, My prayer for 2012 is a fat bank account and thin body. Please don't mix them up like you did last year.**