

# ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



[www.stmparadise.org](http://www.stmparadise.org) | 530.877.4501 | Email: [office@stmparadise.org](mailto:office@stmparadise.org)

## About St. Thomas More

**Pastor** *Fr. Chuck Kelly*

**Deacons** *Mike Mangan, Gary Zellmer, Ray Helgeson*

**Parish Steward** *Greg Kidder*

**Secretary** *Maresa Kelly*

**Religious Education** *Sandra Rodriguez*

*St. Thomas More Catholic Church*

*767 Elliott Rd. Paradise, CA 95969*

*Office Hrs: Mon. - Thurs. 9a-2p (Closed Friday)*

**CONFESSION:** *Tuesday 5p to 545p*

*Wednesday & Thursday 8A to 825A*

*Friday 8A to 825A and 430p to 545p*

## Mass Times

*Sunday 1030A*

*Domingo Misa en español 1230p*

*Tuesday 6p*

*Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 830A*

## Sunday Readings

**1st Reading** *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

**Psalms** *25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14*

*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

*Descúbrenos, Señor, tus caminos.*

**2nd Reading** *1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2*

**Gospel** *Luke 21:25-28, 34-36*

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1ST

<i>Sunday; Dec. 1</i>	<i>Leo &amp; Gertrude Valentine †</i>	<i>1030A</i>
<i>Domingo; 1 dic</i>	<i>Sister Zuly &amp; the missionaries at the Chiri Clinic in Ethiopia</i>	<i>1230P español</i>
<i>Tuesday; Dec. 3</i>	<i>Carol Zellmer †</i>	<i>6:00P</i>
<i>Wed.; Dec. 4</i>	<i>Mercedes Zaragoza †</i>	<i>830A</i>
<i>Thurs.; Dec. 5</i>	<i>Al &amp; Dottie Waelbrock †</i>	<i>830A</i>
<i>Friday; Dec. 6</i>	<i>Fr. Robert Vidal †</i>	<i>830A</i>

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

*Michael Krzanich*

*Cathy Larsen*

*Lorraine Carr*

*Angela Babcock*

*Sharon Calboun*

*Nancy Cornett*

*Linda Alberghotti*

*Ben Richards*

*Patrick Wallenan*

*Mary Braddick*  
*Carrie Sue Sonsteng*

*Sam Kempner*

*Tylor Koski*

*Victor Furrer*

*Kimberly Helgeson Avoy*

*Denis Helgeson*

*Joyce Finch*

*Rod Montgomery*

*David Porter*

*Barbara Maldonado*

*Lora Ginn*

*Senona Gonzalez*

*Samia Zumout*

*Karen Reynolds*

*Don H*

## DECEMBER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

*For pilgrims of hope*

*We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.*

## INTENCIONES DE DICIEMBRE DEL PAPA FRANCISCO

*Para los peregrinos de la esperanza*

*Oramos para que este Año Jubilar fortalezca nuestra fe, ayudándonos a reconocer a Cristo Resucitado en nuestra vida diaria, y que nos transforme en peregrinos de la esperanza cristiana.*



Adoration! Friday, 9A to 6P, after 830A Mass. Please sign up.

### This Week's Readings

#### FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

#### Monday; December 2<sup>nd</sup>

1st Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9  
*Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*  
Gospel: Matthew 8:5-11

#### Tuesday; December 3<sup>rd</sup> MEMORIAL OF SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17  
*Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.*  
Gospel: Luke 10:21-24

#### Wednesday; December 4<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a  
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
*I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*  
Gospel: Matthew 15:29-37

#### Thursday; December 5<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Isaiah 26:1-6  
Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a  
*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*  
Gospel: Matthew 7:21, 24-27

#### Friday; December 6<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Isaiah 29:17-24  
Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14  
*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*  
Gospel: Matthew 9:27-31

#### Saturday; December 7<sup>th</sup> MEMORIAL OF SAINT AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

1st Reading: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26  
Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
*Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.*  
Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8



### MEDITATION OF THE DAY

#### Advent Anticipation

*As we come from the glory of the solemnity of Christ the King and enter through a very low door, under a very humble lintel, into Advent, we recognize with wonder that it is the same King who is coming in very lowly form....*

*In the Gospel about the final days, Saint Luke says men will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming. We want to stop right there and ask, "Why would we die of anticipation, since we know where this path ends?" Before the revelation of the New Testament, they didn't know. But we do know. A childhood memory comes to my mind as I say that. My mother had this little idiosyncrasy of always wanting to see how the book ended. When she began to read, she would always read the end, and then she would diligently go back to the beginning and read the book through. It used to amuse me as a child, and I started to do the same thing because you always like to do what your mother does. We want to see how it is going to turn out. And we do know. We know what is at the end of the path. And so, if we die of anticipation, we should be dying of joy.*

*When we are not anticipating rightly because we are not going firmly forward on the path, is it not because we are anticipating lesser things?... Do we waste our energy sometimes on anticipating how it is going to turn out? We think: things are going to get worse and worse, and I don't think I can do this, and I don't think I can make that much effort, and maybe it won't come out right anyway, and I'd better not do it at all because maybe I can't....*

*Even in the things that cause us the most suffering, God always has in mind something wonderful for which we need to be purified by suffering. And so we know where the path ends. Just today we had a message from a community in Texas where one of the elderly sisters died at the age of ninety-five, very bright, very clear. As she was being taken by ambulance to the hospital she said three different times, "Oh, Jesus, I'm so eager to see you." This is real anticipation. This is someone who had really been walking on the path and knew what was at the end. — MOTHER MARY FRANCIS OF OUR LADY, P.C.C.*

*Mother Mary Francis († 2006) was abbess of the Poor Clare Monastery of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Roswell, New Mexico. / From Come, Lord Jesus: Meditations on the Art of Waiting. © 2010, Ignatius Press, San Francisco, CA. www.ignatius.com.*

*Excerpt from Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, Dec. 1, 2024*

### HOMILY NOTES

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**Diciembre está tradicionalmente dedicado a la Inmaculada Concepción.** La Santísima Virgen María, en el primer momento de su concepción, por singular privilegio de Dios Todopoderoso, y en vista de los méritos de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y suyo, fue preservada de toda mancha del pecado original.

Esta antigua creencia de la Iglesia fue definida por el Papa Pío IX en 1854 como un artículo de verdad revelada:

María necesitaba redención y de hecho fue redimida por la Preciosa Sangre de Jesucristo. Sin embargo, la manera de la redención de María fue única. En lugar de ser liberada del pecado original después de haberlo contraído, fue preservada de contraerlo. Este fue un favor muy apropiado para la Madre del Redentor..

### ORACIÓN A LA VIRGEN INMACULADA

**INVOCACIÓN** Oh María, sin pecado concebida, ruega por nosotros que recurrimos a ti.

Oh Virgen Inmaculada, Madre de Dios y Madre mía, desde tu altura sublime vuelve sobre mí tus ojos de piedad. Lleno de confianza en tu bondad y conociendo perfectamente tu poder, te suplico que te extiendas. Dame tu asistencia en el camino de la vida, que está tan lleno de peligros para mi alma. Y para que nunca sea esclavo del diablo por el pecado, sino que viva siempre con el corazón humilde y puro, me encomiendo totalmente a ti. Te consagro mi corazón para siempre, siendo mi único deseo amar a tu divino Hijo Jesús. María, ninguno de tus devotos servidores ha perecido jamás; que yo también sea salvo. Amén.

**FUENTE:** <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=765#:~:text=The%20month%20of%20December%20is,all%20stain%20of%20original%20sin.>

**Fuente de oración:** The Prayer Book, by Reverend John P. O'Connell, M.A., S.T.D. and Jex Martin, M.A., The Catholic Press, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, 1954



**December is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.** The Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first moment of her conception, by a singular privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior and hers, was preserved from all stain of original sin. This age-old belief of the Church was defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854 as an article of revealed truth:

Mary was in need of redemption and she was indeed redeemed by the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. The manner of Mary's redemption, however, was unique. Instead of being freed from original sin after having contracted it, she was preserved from contracting it. This was a most fitting favor for the Mother of the Redeemer.

### PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN IMMACULATE

**INVOCATION** O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

O Virgin Immaculate, Mother of God and my Mother, from thy sublime height turn upon me thine eyes of pity. Filled with confidence in thy goodness and knowing full well thy power, I beseech thee to extend to me thine assistance in the journey of life, which is so full of dangers for my soul. And in order that I may never be the slave of the devil through sin, but may ever live with my heart humble and pure, I entrust myself wholly to thee. I consecrate my heart to thee for ever, my only desire being to love thy divine Son Jesus. Mary, none of thy devout servants has ever perished; may I too be saved. Amen.

**Source:** <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=765#:~:text=The%20month%20of%20December%20is,all%20stain%20of%20original%20sin.>

**Prayer Source:** The Prayer Book, by Reverend John P. O'Connell, M.A., S.T.D. and Jex Martin, M.A., The Catholic Press, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, 1954



### Join Us for A Special Advent Series Starting Thursday Dec. 5

Deacon Helgeson will lead a series on studying & praying scriptures on the promises & power of the gift of hope.

**Gather** with friends & community during this time of Advent to grow and share our Catholic Faith.

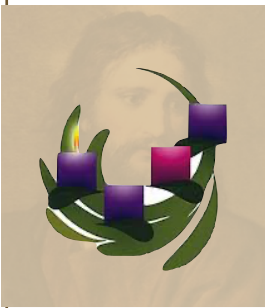
**The focus** will be to study & pray the wealth of Scripture concerning the promises and power of the gift of hope.

**Topics** will include the relation of hope to faith, the promises Christ offers us, and the prayerful means to enter more deeply into the gifts God has given us in our daily lives.

**Thursdays | Dec. 5, 12, 19 | 930A - 11A**

Plus one evening session

**Tuesday | Dec. 17 | 630p - 830p**



St. Thomas More parish extends its deepest condolences to Pam Bechtold on the passing of her husband Bill, who passed away Monday, Nov. 25.



### Sacrament of Reconciliation Times Expanded!

Tuesdays 5p to 5:45p  
Wed., & Thurs. 8a to 8:25a  
Friday 8a to 8:25A & 4:30p to 5:45p



### Attention Men of STM!

Please join Deacon Tom O'Connell for the **Men's Prayer Group** Friday | 7A | in the church

### Reminder: Adoration New Time



Adoration is now every Friday after Mass, 9A to 6p. Please sign up in the Narthex for time to be with Jesus. He's waiting for us!



### Seminarians Christmas Cards Due Today!

We are blessed to have 11 Seminarians who are very precious as they are the future of our diocese. If you helped us by writing Christmas cards, please drop your completed cards outside the church office today. We will mail all completed cards Monday, Dec. 2, so that they arrive in time for their Christmas gathering. Thank you for encouraging our future priests!



### ATTN BUSINESS OWNERS! FREE LISTINGS FOR YOU ON STM

**Our parish website now offers a free business listing for all business owners who are registered parishioners at St. Thomas More Church.**

To add your business to the website it's **1-Step easy!**

**1. Send Jim Collins** an electronic copy of your flyer, business card, or the URL to your business's website to [jimcollins\\_95991@yahoo.com](mailto:jimcollins_95991@yahoo.com)

(Note: if you can't send your info electronically, you can give Jim a paper copy of your information before or after Mass.)

That's it in 1 step! Jim will then add your business to the STM website.

Donations to our church are always appreciated.

To see the current businesses listed, go to <https://stm-paradise.org/parishioner-businesses>, or click the QR Code to the left. **Please support the businesses of our registered parishioners!**

