

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



www.stmparadise.org | 530.877.4501 | Email: office@stmparadise.org

About St. Thomas More

Pastor *Fr. Chuck Kelly*

Deacons *Mike Mangan, Gary Zellmer, Ray Helgeson
Tom O'Connell*

Office Manager *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 Bilingual

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 830A

Sunday Readings

1st Reading Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Psalm Psalm 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Tú eres mi Dios y en ti confío.

2nd Reading Romans 10:8-13

Gospel Luke 4:1-13

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 9TH

<i>Sunday; March 9</i>	<i>Theresa and Mary Anne Durant Ken Campbell †</i>	<i>1030A</i>
<i>Domingo 9 marzo</i>	<i>Maria Trinidad Aguirre †</i>	<i>1230P español</i>
<i>Tuesday; March 11</i>	<i>Eufrasia Rivera- Cumpleaños Larry Campbell †</i>	<i>6P</i>
<i>Wed.; March 12</i>	<i>Beatriz Rivera- Cumpleaños</i>	<i>830A</i>
<i>Thurs.; March 13</i>	<i>Bill Bechtold † Gema Real</i>	<i>830A</i>
<i>Friday; March 14</i>	<i>Zenora Balladares †</i>	<i>830A</i>

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

*Kimberly Steffen-Parkney
Raul Saavedra
Jose Raul Rivera
Mary Anne Durant*

*Barbara Maldonado
Samia Zumout
Chris Rehmann
Helvia Saavedra*

*Elaine Little
Ron Keyes
Theresa Durant
Greg DeCristofaro*



**Stations of the Cross Friday at 6P - English in the Church,
Spanish in the Hall - Soup Supper follows in the Hall.**

MARCH INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences

INTENCIONES DE MARZO DEL PAPA FRANCISCO

Para familias en crisis

Oremos para que las familias rotas descubran la cura de sus heridas a través del perdón, redescubriendo los dones de cada uno, incluso en sus diferencias.

This Week's Readings

THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Monday; March 10th

1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18

Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday; March 11th

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

Psalm 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19

From all their distress God rescues the just.

Gospel: Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday; March 12th

1st Reading: Jonah 3:1-10

Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19

A heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.

Gospel: Luke 11:29-32

Thursday; March 13th

1st Reading: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25

Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8

Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Gospel: Matthew 7:7-12

Friday; March 14th

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:21-28

Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8

If you, O Lord, mark iniquities, who can stand?

Gospel: Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday; March 15th

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26:16-19

Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8

Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Gospel: Matthew 5:43-48

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

The Temptations of Christ



Reflecting on the temptations to which Jesus was subjected in the wilderness invites each of us to answer a fundamental question: *What really counts in my life?* In the first temptation the devil proposes to Jesus that he turn a stone into bread to appease his hunger. Jesus retorts that man... does not live on bread alone. Without a response to his hunger for truth, to his hunger for God, man cannot be saved. In the second temptation the devil proposes the way of power to Jesus... Jesus is very clear that it is not worldly power that saves the world, but the power of the cross, of humility and of love. In the third temptation the devil suggests to Jesus that he throw himself down from the pinnacle of the Temple... that is, that he do something sensational to put God himself to the test; but the answer is that God is not an object on which to impose conditions of our own making; he is the Lord of all.

What is the essence of the three temptations to which Jesus is subjected? It is the proposal to exploit God, to use him for one's own interests, for one's own glory and for one's own success. And therefore, essentially to put oneself in God's place, removing him from one's own existence & making him seem superfluous. Each of us must... ask him or herself: what place does God have in my life? Is he the Lord or am I?...

Today it is no longer possible to be Christian as a mere consequence of living in a society that has Christian roots: even those who are born into a Christian family and receive a religious education must every day renew their decision to be Christian, that is, to give God first place in the face of the temptations that a secularized culture constantly suggests.... It is far from easy to be faithful to Christian marriage, to practice mercy in daily life, to make room for prayer and inner silence.... In this season of Lent let us renew our commitment to make room for God, seeing daily reality with his eyes.

The alternative between being closed into our own egotism & openness to the love of God and others, we might say, corresponds to the alternative of the temptations of Jesus: an alternative, that is, between human power and love of the cross.... Being converted means not shutting ourselves into the quest for our own success, our own prestige, our own status, but rather ensuring that every day, in the small things, truth, faith in God, and love become the most important thing of all.. —POPE BENEDICT XVI

Pope Benedict XVI († 2022) reigned as pope from 2005 until 2013. / From General Audience of Wednesday, February 13, 2013, Paul VI Audience Hall.

Excerpt from *Magnificat Magazine*, Meditation of the Day, March 9, 2025

HOMILY NOTES



¡Bienvenidos a marzo! Debido a la Solemnidad de San José el 19 de marzo, este mes está dedicado a este gran santo, padre adoptivo de Cristo. "Conviene mucho a los cristianos, honrando a la Virgen Madre de Dios, invocar constantemente con profunda piedad y confianza a su castísimo esposo, San José. Tenemos una convicción bien fundada de que tal es el deseo especial de la misma Santísima Virgen". –Papa León XIII



Welcome to March! Due to the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19, this month is devoted to this great saint, the foster father of Christ. "It greatly behooves Christians, while honoring the Virgin Mother of God, constantly to invoke with deep piety and confidence her most chaste spouse, St. Joseph. We have a well grounded conviction that such is the special desire of the Blessed Virgin herself." –Pope Leo XIII

Los 2 atributos restantes de San José que los hombres y las mujeres pueden imitar

En el boletín del domingo pasado compartimos 3 de los cinco atributos de San José que los hombres (y las mujeres) pueden imitar, que son: 1) San José era un hombre justo: los católicos podemos darle a Dios el primer lugar en nuestras vidas, ser personas de oración, leer las Escrituras y santificar cada día con la oración. 2) San José amaba a Jesús y Jesús amaba a José: también podemos amar a Jesús fervientemente entregándole nuestras vidas. 3) San José amaba a María: también debemos tener devoción a María, nuestra madre y nuestra Reina, para amarla, proteger su honor y entregarnos a ella.

A continuación, se presentan los dos últimos de los cinco atributos:

4. (de 5) San José, también conocido como "el trabajador", abrazó el trabajo. Trabajó tan duro que el trabajo siempre estará identificado con su nombre. No era un holgazán que dejaba las cosas para más tarde, y no idolatraba la comodidad y la facilidad como nosotros tan a menudo lo hacemos. Trabajó con sus manos para mantener a su esposa y a su hijo, y ninguna tarea era demasiado insignificante para él. Entregó su cuerpo y su alma a sus deberes diarios, y este trabajo era un acto de adoración y oración. Los hombres están llamados a abrazar su trabajo como San José, sin importar cuán mundano sea. Ya sean profesionales de negocios, militares, artesanos, diseñadores gráficos, profesores, escritores, etc., podemos glorificar a Dios con el trabajo de nuestras mentes y cuerpos.

5. (de 5) San José hizo la voluntad de Dios. ¿Por qué Dios eligió a San José? De todos los miles de hombres judíos, muchos de los cuales sin duda eran justos, ¿por qué se eligió a un humilde carpintero para ser el padre terrenal del Salvador? La respuesta es simple: Dios sabía que San José haría cualquier cosa que se le pidiera, sin importar lo difícil que fuera.

Los santos están de acuerdo en que la conformidad con la voluntad de Dios a través de la obediencia inmediata es uno de los caminos más seguros hacia la santidad. San José ejemplificó esta virtud, y un ejemplo perfecto es la huida a Egipto. El ángel del Señor se le apareció a San José en un sueño, advirtiéndole del peligro que se avecinaba. Luego, las Escrituras nos dicen que "cuando se levantó, tomó al Niño y a su madre de noche y partió hacia Egipto". ¿Entendiste eso? En el momento en que se despertó, obedeció. No dejó que el miedo a la incertidumbre lo paralizara, no pasó semanas planeando y no ahorró algo de dinero primero. Tomó a Jesús y a María y partió hacia Egipto, confiando su familia a la providencia de Dios. Eso es obediencia pronta, y por eso a San José le fue confiada la mayor responsabilidad jamás dada a un hombre.

FUENTE y Fuente de oración: <https://catholicgentleman.com/2022/03/st-joseph-the->

The Remaining 2 Attributes of St. Joseph Men & Women Can Imitate

In last Sunday's bulletin we shared 3 of St. Joseph's five attributes that men (and women) can imitate which were: 1) St. Joseph was a righteous man: we Catholics can give God first place in our lives by being people of prayer, reading Scripture & sanctifying each day with prayer. 2) St. Joseph loved Jesus & Jesus loved Joseph: we, too, can love Jesus fervently by giving our lives to Jesus. 3) St. Joseph loved Mary: we too should have a devotion to Mary - our mother & our Queen - to love her, protect her honor, and give ourselves to her.

Below are the last two of the five attributes:

4. (of 5) St. Joseph - also known as "the worker" embraced work. He worked so hard that work is forever identified with his name. He wasn't a lazy procrastinator, and he didn't idolize comfort and ease as we so often do. He labored with his hands to provide for his wife & Son, and no task was too insignificant for him. He poured his body and soul into his daily duties, and this work was an act of worship and prayer. Men are called to embrace their work like St. Joseph, no matter how mundane it may be. Whether business professionals, military, craftsman, graphic designers, professors, writers, etc., we can glorify God with the labor of our minds & bodies.

5. (of 5) St. Joseph did the will of God. Why did God choose St. Joseph? Of all the thousands of Jewish men, many of whom no doubt were righteous, why was a humble carpenter chosen to be the earthly father of the Savior? The answer is simple: God knew St. Joseph would do anything asked of him, no matter how difficult.

The saints agree that conformity to the will of God thru prompt obedience is one of the surest paths to holiness. St. Joseph exemplified this virtue, and a perfect example is the flight into Egypt. The angel of the Lord appeared to St. Joseph in a dream, warning him of the coming danger. Scripture then tells us that, "When he awoke, he took the young Child and His mother by night & departed for Egypt." Did you catch that? The minute he woke up, he obeyed. He didn't let fear of uncertainty paralyze him, he didn't spend weeks planning, and didn't save up some money first. He took Jesus & Mary and left for Egypt, entrusting his family to the providence of God. That is prompt obedience, and that is why St. Joseph was entrusted with the greatest responsibility ever given to a man.

Sources: <https://catholicgentleman.com/2022/03/st-joseph-the-model-of-manhood/>; <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=755>

What Will Happen in Purgatory? Can We Avoid It?

This Thurs., March 13 at 630p STM will host Steve Patton who will review excerpts from a 150-year-old journal of a nun visited by a soul from Purgatory! She obediently kept a journal of what the soul told her. Patton, a theology expert and professional catechist, will share insights & help us better understand:

- The basic nature and purpose of Purgatory
- Why to be grateful for Purgatory, but also strive to avoid it
- What Purgatory and the journey of life have in common

Don't miss his invaluable insights that may one day help each of us when confronted with Purgatory.



The Funeral Mass for Mary Lou Waelbrock will be held at St. Thomas More, March 14 at 11A.



Ladies! Join us THIS WEEK Thurs., March 13 for the start of the new C.O.N.T.R.O.L. Program!

It's a seven-week structured course designed specifically for Catholic women to help improve life management skills. Meet us in the Hall, small side room, Thursday at 930A to 11A. Cost is \$20. Snacks & coffee provided. **Questions** and/or registration please contact Donna Helgeson at (530) 282-2132 or by email at dhelg66@gmail.com.

The Women of STM will meet Saturday; March 15 @ 10A in the Hall (the side room). All women of the parish are invited!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE Prayer Campaign Starts Now!

THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

40 Days for Life, an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign to end abortion locally through prayer, fasting, community outreach, and peaceful all-day vigils outside abortion businesses, invites every parishioner of STM to join in praying to end to abortion starting Ash Wednesday, March 5 and throughout the year. No greater way to focus on repentance during Lent than to pray for abortion's end in California. Questions? Contact parish coordinators for ProLife Kathy or Greg DeCristofaro at worshipworks@att.net or 530-873-4132.



How about 8Days/7Nights in Maui? The St. Vincent de Paul annual fundraiser offers a chance for two to fly to Maui + car rental & \$500 cash up to \$1,000 for two. Tickets are just \$10 each. Aloha!



WILL YOU HELP K^oC COLLECT CANS FOR LENT?

Please help the Knights of Columbus collect canned foods during Lent beginning Ash Wednesday thru Easter Sunday. All donations go to the 1st Baptist Church Food Pantry which STM supports thru our Table of Plenty donations. Questions? Contact Greg DeCristofaro by email GREGDEC@att.net or (530) 873-4132H (530) 588-3790C.

Prayer Blanket/ Prayer Shawl Ministry

REMINDER: The Prayer Blanket/Shawl Ministry's first meeting in the small Hall was Friday, March 7. **The next meeting is Friday, March 21, 930A to 3P.** The group meets monthly on the 1st & 3rd Fridays, 9:30a to 3p. Please join us. NOTE: Donations of sewing materials, batting or notions is deeply appreciated. **Questions?** Contact Donna Helgeson 530.282.2132 or dhelg66@gmail.com



Thank you for supporting the Secular Franciscans G.A.M.E.S. D.A.Y. Saturday!
So much fun! Your support helped raise funds for St. Vincent de Paul & their critical work here on the Ridge.

NEW CLAIRVAUX WINE FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT STM NOW THRU APRIL 18



Purchase wine from the New Clairvaux Winery during their Grace of Giving campaign thru April 18 and New Clairvaux will contribute 20% of the purchase to STM! How? Easy!

- Go to <https://newclairvauxvineyard.square.site> to purchase the wine of your choice. (Or use this QR code)

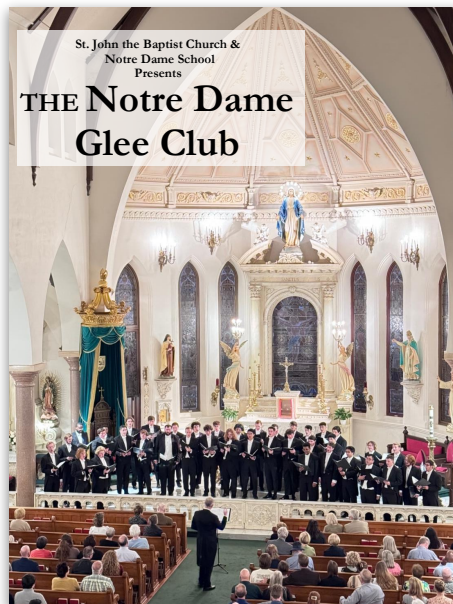
NOTE: If you plan to pick up your wine at New Clairvaux enter the code **FREESHIP** to avoid shipping costs.



All wines must be purchased on the website above or QR code to benefit STM. This promotion is good for wine purchases thru April 18, 2025.

Address for New Clairvaux Winery & Tasting Room, 26240 7th St., Vina, CA., 96092 | 530.839.2200

Questions? See Jim Collins after Mass.



St. John the Baptist Church & Notre Dame School Presents THE Notre Dame Glee Club



March 12, 2025
St. John's Church
416 Chestnut St Chico, CA
7:30pm

Classical Choral Music. Folk Songs
Spirituals Songs of Notre Dame

Tickets Available Online and at Notre Dame School



<https://ndschico.ticketspice.com/university-of-notre-dame-glee-club>

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