

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, Thurs., & Friday 830A

Sunday Readings

1st Reading Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Psalms 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37 or 19:8-11

Turn to the Lord in your need & you will live. or Your words,
Lord, are Spirit and life.

Escúchame, Señor, porque eres bueno.

2nd Reading Colossians 1:15-20

Gospel Luke 10:25-37

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 13TH

Sunday; July 13	Barbara Valentine † Bill Bechtold †	1030A
Domingo 13 de julio	Participantes de Conquistando las Naciones Intenciones de la Familia Flores Rivera	1230P español
Tuesday; July 15	For the health intentions of Don Van Roekel	6P
Wed.; July 16	For the intentions of David & Jeanie Brown	830A
Thurs.; July 17	Frank Maynard †	830A
Friday; July 18	Frank Maynard †	830A

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

Rod Montgomery
Kimberly Steffen-Parkney
Raul Saavedra
Jose Raul Rivera
Mary Anne Durant
Isabel Rivera Leon
Andrea Inzunza
Marlene Woodard

Samia Zumout
Greg DeCristofaro
John Thomas
Lourdes Collazo
Carrie Sonsteng
Art Sanchez

Tim Steffen
Elaine Little
Ron Keyes
Theresa Durant
Sam Kempner
Richard Carmack

JULY INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO XIV

For formation in discernment

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to
choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ
and the Gospel.

INTENCIONES DE JULIO DEL PAPA LEÓN XIV

For formation in discernment

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to
choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ
and the Gospel.

This Week's Readings

FIFTEENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Monday; July 14th MEMORIAL OF SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA, VIRGIN [IN THE DIOCESES OF THE U.S.]

1st Reading: Exodus 1:8-14, 22

Psalm 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 10:34-11:1

Tuesday; July 15th MEMORIAL OF SAINT BONAVENTURE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

1st Reading: Exodus 2:1-15a

Psalm 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

Gospel: Matthew 11:20-24

Wednesday; July 16th

1st Reading: Genesis Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12

Psalm 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-27

Thursday; July 17th

1st Reading: Exodus 3:13-20

Psalm 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30

Friday; July 18th

1st Reading: Exodus 11:10-12:14

Psalm 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18

I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 12:1-8

Saturday; July 19th

1st Reading: Exodus 12:37-42

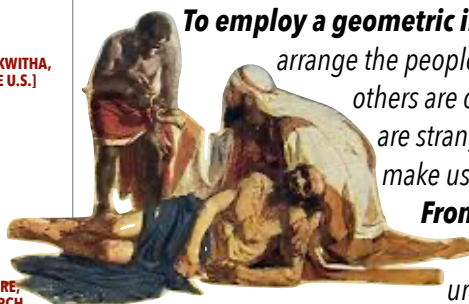
Psalm 136:1 and 23-24, 10-12, 13-15

His mercy endures forever.

Gospel: Matthew 12:14-21

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

Loving Like the Samaritan



To employ a geometric image: When self is the center of existence, we can arrange the people around us in circles; some are intimate, while others are only casual friends; others in the outermost circle are strangers. We tend to see them in terms of their ability to make us feel happy or to be useful, or as obstacles to us.

From this standpoint, the commandment Love your neighbor, or Love all men, seems totally unreal. Even those dearest to us reveal themselves

progressively as riddled with so many unlovable features that we sometimes cannot stand to be with them—and these are the ones we love most!

But if we fall in love with Christ, then he becomes our center. We love him with our whole heart and, wanting to share all his experiences, we soon realize that all people are viewed by him with love. He sees their unlovable qualities, and knows that they can be converted into lovable ones. Would he have created them if he did not love them? The lover of Christ becomes filled with wonder at this idea: Every person in the world is to God someone unique and worthy of being. So, despite all that people do in their self-conceit which conceals their true beauty, he struggles in faith to find their lovable qualities. In some cases he may have an immediate intuition of what is lovable in another person, and his own love will flow spontaneously. But usually, no matter how much he tries, he cannot by himself see them; so he must return to the source of that person's being, Christ, begging him to make manifest what he sees and to give him that love-sight which will replace the blindness caused by many psychological factors. The ways of the world have taught us that to be is to fear. ... But Christianity tells us that to be is to love, since God, who is the apex of being, is love. So it is in him that we will learn to love all that he has made and all that he loves.

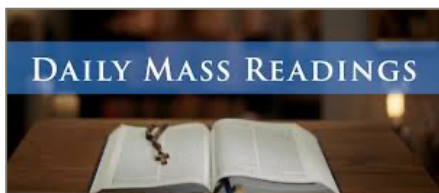
The more a person genuinely strives to love God with his whole heart, the more he will be transformed...into a human manifestation of Christ's love for all men. If this is not evident in most Christians, it is not because they love God to the exclusion of neighbor but because their love of God is still feeble. It is in the lives of the saints that we can see how divine love inspires heroic love of neighbor in a concrete and visible form. —RONDA CHERVIN

Ronda Chervin is a convert from Judaism, professor of philosophy & theology & author of over 50 books. From Church of Love. © Ronda Chervin. Published by Liguori Publications, Liguori, Missouri, 1973.

Excerpt from Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, July 13, 2025

HOMILY NOTES

DAILY MASS READINGS



Julio está dedicado a la Preciosísima

Sangre de Nuestro Señor. La Fiesta de la Preciosísima Sangre (1 de julio) fue instituida formalmente en 1849 por el Papa Pío IX, quien se encontraba exiliado de Roma en ese momento. Tuvo como compañero a Don Giovanni Merlini, tercer general de la Congregación de la Preciosísima Sangre de Jesucristo. Este santo sacerdote sugirió al Papa que hiciera voto de dar la fiesta de la Preciosísima Sangre a toda la Iglesia, si recuperaba el territorio papal. Sin comprometerse con el voto, el Papa inmediatamente extendió la fiesta a toda la Iglesia. En el antiguo calendario se celebraba el 1 de julio, pero los católicos [hoy] continúan esta tradición aumentando su devoción a la Preciosísima Sangre durante todo el mes de julio.

UNA OBLIGACIÓN: LA DEVOCIÓN A LA PRECIOSA SANGRE

La devoción a la Preciosa Sangre no es una opción espiritual, sino una obligación espiritual, no solo para los sacerdotes, sino para todo seguidor de Cristo. ... Uno de los síntomas de la sociedad moderna (y, lamentablemente, de la sociedad católica moderna) es un secularismo creciente y persistente, y la disminución y debilitamiento de la devoción a la Preciosa Sangre.

La devoción, como sabemos, se compone de tres elementos:

- * 1º – Veneración,
- * 2º – Invocación, y
- * 3º – Imitación.

Dicho de otro modo, la devoción a la Preciosísima Sangre de Cristo, el Cordero de Dios inmolado, debe ser venerada en primer lugar, lo cual es una combinación de conocimiento, amor y adoración. El estudio nos ayudará a comprender mejor el verdadero significado de la palabra –Preciosísima Sangre–. Hay un pasaje en el documento más antiguo fuera de las Sagradas Escrituras, del primer siglo de la era cristiana, del Papa San Clemente I, fechado alrededor del año 96 d. C., quien escribió: «Fijemos nuestra mirada en la Sangre de Cristo y comprendamos cuán verdaderamente preciosa es; ya que fue derramada para nuestra salvación y trajo la gracia de la conversión al mundo entero».

Para entender el significado de la Preciosa Sangre debemos tener alguna comprensión de la gravedad del pecado, de lo terrible que es ofender a Dios, porque se necesitó la Sangre del Hijo de Dios para perdonar ese pecado.

La veneración de la Preciosa Sangre, el primer elemento de nuestra devoción a ella, implica una profunda sensibilidad a la atrocidad del pecado. Debe ser lo más terrible del universo. ¿Por qué? Porque le costó al Dios viviente en forma humana el derramamiento de su Sangre.

Señor Jesús, te hiciste hombre para que, mediante tu Pasión y Muerte, y el derramamiento de tu Sangre en la Cruz, nos demostraras cuánto nos amas, Dios nuestro. Protégenos, querido Jesús, de huir de la presencia de la sangre. Fortalece nuestra débil voluntad humana para que no solo no huyamos de la cruz, sino que aprovechemos toda oportunidad de derramar nuestra sangre en espíritu, en unión con tu Preciosa Sangre, para que, muriendo a nosotros mismos en el tiempo, podamos vivir contigo en la eternidad. Amén.



July is dedicated to the Most Precious

Blood of Our Lord. The Feast of the Precious Blood (July 1) was formally instituted in 1849 by Pope Pius IX who was in exile from Rome at that time. He had as his companion Don

Giovanni Merlini, the third general of the Congregation of the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. This saintly priest suggested to the pope that he make a vow to give the feast of the Precious Blood to the entire church, if he should regain the papal territory. Without binding himself by the vow, the pope immediately extended the feast to the whole Church. On the old calendar it was celebrated July 1, but Catholics [today] continue this tradition by increasing their devotion to the most precious Blood for the entire month of July.

AN OBLIGATION: DEVOTION TO THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

Devotion to the Precious Blood is not a spiritual option, it is a spiritual obligation, and not only for priests, but for every follower of Christ.

... One of the symptoms of modern society (and, sadly, modern Catholic society) is a growing, gnawing secularism and the lessening and weakening of devotion to the Precious Blood.

Devotion, as we know, is composed of three elements:

- * 1st – Veneration,
- * 2nd – Invocation, and
- * 3rd – Imitation.

Put another way, devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ, the Lamb of God who was slain, is first to be venerated, which is a composite of knowledge, love & adoration. Study will help deepen our understanding of what those two casual words –Precious Blood– really mean.

There's a passage in the oldest document outside of sacred scripture, from the first century of the Christian era, from Pope St. Clement I, dated about 96 A.D., who wrote: "Let us fix our gaze on the Blood of Christ & realize how truly precious It is; seeing that it was poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of conversion to the whole world." To understand the meaning of the Precious Blood we must get some comprehension of the gravity of sin, of the awfulness of offending God, because it required the Blood of the Son of God to forgive that sin.

Veneration of the Precious Blood, the first element in our devotion to it, means that we have a deep sensitivity to the terribleness of sin. It must be the most dreadful thing in the universe. Why? Because it cost the living God in human form the shedding of His Blood.

Lord Jesus, You became Man in order by your Passion and Death and the draining of your Blood on the Cross, might prove to us how much You, our God, love us. Protect us, dear Jesus, from ever running away from the sight of blood. Strengthen our weak human wills so that we will not only not run away from the cross, but welcome every opportunity to shed our blood in spirit in union with your Precious Blood, so that, dying to ourselves in time we might live with You in Eternity. Amen

Source: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=760&repos=3&subrepos=3&searchid=2549590>

Prayer Source: https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/07_1.cfm

Care Net Baby Bottle Update

Thank you to the many St. Thomas More people who donated to Care Net through the Baby Blessing Bottles! Together we raised over \$2,326 dollars! Give yourselves a pat on the back. A check will be presented to Care Net soon. (Waiting for Fr. Chuck to get back from his vacation.)

If you have not returned your bottle, we need it back!

Otherwise, Care Net must buy replacements for all bottles not returned. Please return bottles to the church office (empty or full). Thanks!

Kathy DeCristofaro, Pro-Life chair & Care Net Liaison.

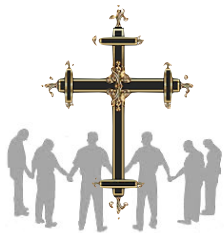


Pope Leo XIV Invites the Faithful to Prayer in the July Edition of The Pope Video.

Pope Leo XIV invites the faithful to pray for the gift of discernment in the July edition of The Pope Video, produced by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network together with the Diocese of Brooklyn. To access the Pope's prayer video go to the STM website at www.stmparadise.org and move down to click the link (also shown below) to access the Pope's prayer intention for July.

<https://www.osvnews.com/popess-prayer-intention-for-july-that-the-faithful-might-again-learn-how-to-discern/>

It is important to note that within the context of the Holy Year 2025, The Pope Video has special relevance since through it we know the prayer intentions the Pope holds in his heart. To properly receive the graces of the Jubilee indulgence, it is necessary to pray for the Pope's intentions.



Attention Men of STM!

Please join Deacon Tom O'Connell for the
Men's Ministry
Friday | 7A | in the Hall
(go to the small room)



Reminder Adoration

Every Friday immediately
following 830A Mass until 6p.

Carlo Acutis & Pier Giorgio Frassati to be Canonized Sept. 7



Blessed Carlo Acutis & Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, two young Catholics beloved for their vibrant faith and witness to holiness, will be canonized together on Sept. 7 in a canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Acutis, who died of leukemia in 2006 at age 15, will become the first millennial to be declared a saint by the Catholic Church. Shortly before his death, Acutis offered his suffering from cancer "for the pope & for the Church." Many testified to the Vatican how he brought them closer to God.

Frassati, an avid mountaineer, who died at age 24 in 1925, is also beloved by many today for his enthusiastic witness to holiness that reaches "to the heights." A Third Order Dominican, known for his charitable outreach, was son of the founder of Italian newspaper La Stampa. Frassati died of polio on July 4, 1925, which his doctors later speculated was caught while serving the sick.



2025 Jubilee of Hope Upcoming Events

Quo Vadis Retreat-Boys Ages 13 to 17

Where Are You Going? Boys ages 13-17 will learn about the Priesthood, Diaconate and Married Life. The two-day retreat will be in-person. There will be time for fellowship, games, Mass, and prayer about their vocation.

**Friday
Aug. 1
to
Sat.
Aug. 2**

St. Joseph Parish
9961 Elk Grove-Florin Rd.
Elk Grove, CA. 95624

Schedule for the Weekend:

- Friday: 4pm to 9pm
- Saturday: 8am to 8pm

Registration Fee: \$95
Includes Dinner on Friday
Lunch & Dinner on Saturday
Lunch on Sunday
(NOTE! fee increases to \$100 after July 18)

This is not an overnight retreat!

Must register by July 25.

Visit www.scd.org/quovadis to register.
Questions? Call 916.733.0258 or email
msmith@scd.org