



ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH


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About St. Thomas More

Pastor Fr. Chuck Kelly**Deacons** Mike Mangan, Gary Zellmer, Ray Helgeson
Tom O'Connell**Plant Manager** Greg Kidder**Office Manager** Maresa Kelly**Religious Education** Sandra Rodriguez*St. Thomas More Catholic Church*

767 Elliott Rd. Paradise, CA 95969

Office Hrs: Mon. - Thurs. 9a- 12p 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

Wed., Thursday, Friday 830A

Sunday Readings

1st Reading Isaiah 56:1, 6-7**Psalm** 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Que te alaben. Señor, todos los pueblos.

2nd Reading Romans 11:13-15, 29-32**Gospel** Matthew 15:21-28

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 16TH

<i>Sunday; August 16</i>	Mary Katherine Esping † Camilo Ospina (birthday)	1030A
<i>Domingo; 16 de agosto</i>	Antonio Rivera (birthday - 1 year)	1230P español
<i>Tues.; August 18</i>	People of STM	6P
<i>Wed.; August 19</i>		830A
<i>Thurs.; August 20</i>	Carol Zellmer †	830A
<i>Friday; August 21</i>		830A

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

Rod Montgomery
Bernhard Family
Mary Anne Durant
Rick Sillman
Andrea Inzunza
Kimberly Laird
Leo Benedetti
The Mortenson Family
Michael Coronado
Joan Memmer

Samia Zumout
Greg DeCristofaro
Carrie Sonsteng
Art Sanchez
Santiago Avila
Carlos Torres
Tony & Francene Packett
Rick Hodson
Larry Young

Bryant Smith
Ron Keyes
Theresa Durant
Raul & Helvia
Saavedra
Dolores Costello
Rosemary Peterson
Susie Boyd
David Brown
Gloria Klinger

AUGUST INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO XIV

For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness
we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to
build community.

INTENCIONES DE AGOSTO DEL PAPA LEÓN XIV

Por la evangelización en la ciudad

Oremos para que, en las grandes ciudades a menudo marcadas por el
anonimato y la soledad, encontremos nuevas formas de anunciar el
Evangelio, descubriendo caminos creativos para construir comunidad.

This Week's Readings
THE 20TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**Monday; August 17th**

1st Reading: Ezekiel 24:15-23
 Psalm Deuteronomy 32:18-19, 20, 21
You have forgotten God who gave you birth.
 Gospel: Matthew 19:16-22

Tuesday; August 18th

1st Reading: Ezekiel 28:1-10
 Psalm Deuteronomy 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab
It is I who deal death and give life.
 Gospel: Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday; August 19th

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34:1-11
 Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
 Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Thurs.; Aug. 20th *Memorial of Saint Bernard,
Abbot & Doctor of the Church*

1st Reading: Ezekiel 36:23-28
 Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19
I will pour clean water on you and wash away all your sins.
 Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Friday; Aug. 21st *Memorial of Saint Pius X, Pope*

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Psalm 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Give thanks to the Lord; his love is everlasting.
 Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

Sat. Aug. 22nd *Memorial of the Queenship of
the Blessed Virgin Mary*

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6
 Psalm 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.
 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Sunday; August 23rd**Twenty-first Sunday In Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23
 Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8
Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.
 2nd Reading: Romans 11:33-36
 Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

MEDITATION OF THE DAY
The Great Faith of the Gentiles

The faith of the gentile nations was swift in its speed, eager in its rejoicing, wise in its search, resolute in its finding, faithful in its adoration, generous in its gift of itself.... Think of the faith of the centurion, at which Scripture tells us that Jesus marveled. In fact, he went so far as to say that he had not found faith as great in Israel....

Then we have the Canaanite woman who interceded for her daughter, and when she was refused, persisted, and by the great noise she made, battered at the silence of Jesus. When he turned away from her, she followed him without apology; she humbly adored him when he rejected her; she listened patiently to his reproaches, and so, in the end, she brought forth honey from the rock, and oil from the flinty stone (Dt 32:13). In the person of this woman, the church of the gentiles deserved to hear the Lord Jesus say: O woman, great is your faith!...

There was the centurion, too, when Jesus was suffering & the faith of the disciples was exceedingly disturbed. He reached the full stature of a strong faith, and the crucified Jesus, whom others saw and fell away scandalized, drew him forward in praise....

The gentiles...snatched [Jesus] in with outstretched hands, laid hold of him and took him to their embrace.... Like the dawn, they saw with joy that the Sun of justice had arisen, because the radiance of a new grace was enlightening them.... The conversion of the gentiles, so unexpected and so spontaneous, from its very beginning gave...[Jesus] himself great occasion to rejoice and celebrate. — JOHN OF FORD

John of Ford († 1214) was the abbot of a Cistercian monastery in southwest England. / From *Sermons on the Final Verses of the Song of Songs*, Vol. IV; Translated by Sister Wendy Mary Beckett, Cistercian Fathers Series: Number Forty-Four. © 1983 by Cistercian Publications, Inc. © 2008 by Order of Saint Benedict, Collegeville, MN. All rights reserved. www.litpress.org.

Excerpt from Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, August 16, 2026

**HOMILY NOTES**

Agosto es el mes dedicado al Inmaculado Corazón de María.

Se invita a los fieles a reflexionar sobre el corazón puro, el amor inquebrantable y la virtud excelsa de María. La asociación del mes de agosto con el Inmaculado Corazón es una costumbre relativamente reciente, surgida en la época de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. El Papa de aquel entonces, el Venerable Pío XII, profesaba una profunda devoción a Nuestra Señora de Fátima, quien en 1917 dijo a los pastorcitos: «[Jesús] quiere establecer en el mundo la devoción a mi Inmaculado Corazón». Si bien los católicos han venerado el corazón de Nuestra Señora a lo largo de los siglos, el Papa Pío deseaba desde hacía tiempo universalizar esta devoción mediante una fiesta litúrgica específica que fomentara su práctica en toda la Iglesia.

El próximo sábado, 22 de agosto, es la memoria de la Realeza de la Santísima Virgen María, que se celebrará tanto en la Misa del día como en la Misa de vigilia en la parroquia de San Juan Bautista en Chico.

MEMORIA DE NUESTRA SEÑORA MARÍA REINA

- * **La enseñanza de la Iglesia** – la Memoria de la Realeza de la Santísima Virgen María – reconoce a María como Reina del Cielo y de la Tierra por ser la Madre de Jesucristo, el Rey de Reyes. La doctrina de la Iglesia destaca su dignidad regia como una participación directa en la realeza redentora de Jesús.
- * **Raíces bíblicas** – arraigadas en la Anunciación (donde Jesús recibe el trono de David) y en la Visitación (donde Isabel llama a María «madre de mi Señor»).
- * **Encíclica *Ad Caeli Reginam*** – instituida por el Papa Pío XII en 1954 para afirmar la dignidad regia de María y fomentar la confianza en su intercesión.

Para comprender mejor la realeza de María, basta con observar la realeza de Jesús, que la Iglesia también celebra cada año como la Solemnidad de Cristo, Rey del Universo. La realeza de Cristo fue motivo de controversia durante gran parte de su ministerio público:

Jesús seguía orientando a sus apóstoles hacia el servicio, mientras ellos insistían en preguntar si iba a restaurar el dominio de Israel. Jesús habla de ocupar el último lugar; Santiago y Juan piden los «palcos de honor» para el día del Juicio. Jesús afirma que su reino no es de este mundo, sino un reino de verdad y vida, lo que provoca en Pilato la pregunta «¿qué es la verdad?» mientras lo envía a la muerte.

El reinado de Jesús difiere de las expectativas humanas porque, tal vez, la persona más difícil sobre la que reinar es... uno mismo.

Platón dijo: «La primera y mejor victoria es conquistarse a sí mismo»; pero esa no es la mentalidad del mundo actual, que nos anima a no ser demasiado duros con nosotros mismos.

San Maximiliano Kolbe, cuya festividad se celebra el 14 de agosto, señaló que la mejor ecuación matemática es $W = w$. En otras palabras: la Voluntad de Dios equivale a mi voluntad. Eso es difícil. Rezamos «Hágase tu voluntad» cuando, a menudo, queremos decir «Hágase mi voluntad». Sí, nuestra voluntad es lo que nos hace reyes. Como señaló Karol Wojtyła*, es un santuario inviolable: nadie más (ni siquiera Dios) puede querer por mí. Soy *alteri incommunicabilis*, lo que literalmente se traduce como «incomunicable a otro» o, en un sentido más moderno, algo que no se puede compartir, que es absolutamente único o que no puede transferirse a nadie más; por ejemplo: «Nadie puede elegir, pensar o tomar decisiones morales por mí. Mi libre albedrío es exclusivamente mío».

*Elegido papa el 16 de octubre de 1978, Juan Pablo II ocupó el cargo hasta su muerte, el 2 de abril de 2005. Beatificado el 1 de mayo de 2011, el 22 de octubre es el día de la festividad de San Juan Pablo II.



August is the month dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The faithful are invited to reflect on Mary's pure heart, steadfast love, and towering virtue. The association of August with the Immaculate Heart is a fairly recent development stemming from the World War II era. The pope at the time, Venerable Pope Pius XII, held a deep devotion to Our Lady of Fatima who in 1917 told the shepherd children "[Jesus] wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart." Although Catholics throughout the ages venerated Our Lady's heart, Pope Pius had long desired to make this devotion more universal via a set feast day to promote it throughout the Church.

Next Saturday, Aug. 22, is the Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary which will be celebrated at both the Mass of the Day and the Vigil Mass at St. John the Baptist in Chico.

MEMORIAL OF THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

- * **Church teaching** – The Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, recognizes Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth because she is the Mother of Jesus Christ, the King of Kings. Church teaching highlights her royal dignity as a direct share in Jesus' redemptive kingship.
- * **Scriptural Roots** – Rooted in the Annunciation (where Jesus receives the throne of David) and the Visitation (where Elizabeth calls Mary "mother of my Lord").
- * **Encyclical Ad Caeli Reginam** – Instituted by Pope Pius XII in 1954 to affirm Mary's royal status and encourage trust in her intercession.

To better understand Mary's queenship, simply look at Jesus' kingship, which the Church also celebrates every year as the Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe. Christ's kingship was a matter of controversy through much of his public ministry:

Jesús kept pointing his apostles toward service, they kept asking if he was now going to restore the rule to Israel. Jesús speaks of taking the lowest seat, James & John ask for "box seats" on Judgment Day.

Jesús says his kingdom is not of this world, but is one of truth and life, which earns him Pilate's "what is truth?" as he sends him to his death.

Jesus' kingship is unlike human expectation because, perhaps, the hardest person over whom to reign is . . . yourself.

Plato said, "The first & best victory is to conquer self." ; but that's not the way of the world today, which encourages us to not be too hard on ourselves. St. Maximilian Kolbe, whose feast is August 14, remarked, the best math equation is $W = w$. In other words, God's Will equals my will. That's hard. We pray, "Thy will be done" when we often mean, "My will be done." Yes, our will is what makes us kings. As Karol Wojtyła* noted, it is an inviolate sanctuary: nobody else (not even God) can will for me. I am: "alteri incommunicabilis" which literally translates as "incommunicable to another. Or in a more practical, modern sense – unsharable, completely unique, or unable to be transferred to anyone else – e.g., "No one can choose, think, or make moral decisions for me. My free will is mine alone."

*Elected pope 16 Oct 1978, John Paul II remained so until his death 2 April 2005. Beatified 1 May 2011, Oct 22 is feast day for St. Pope John Paul II.

Source: <https://covenantcatholic.org/devotion-of-the-month/august-dedicated-to-the-immaculate-heart-of-mary/>; national catholic register; Aug 9, 2026.; <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/marys-queenship-and-ours>

**ADORATION**

Friday, Aug. 21 | Follows 830A Mass
Adoration extended to 7:30p thru September

**MEN'S MINISTRY**

Friday, Aug. 21 | **930A** | Church Hall Mtg Rm.

**LUMEN CHRISTI**

STM YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

CALLED INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH
JESUS CHRIST. ROOTED IN THE LIFE
AND TEACHINGS OF HIS CHURCH.
TOGETHER WE SHARE HIS LOVE WITH
OTHERS SO THAT THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
MAY ILLUMINATE THE WORLD.

NEXT MEETING

Sept. 3 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:

Heidi & Justin | (530) 864-0809

In memory of

**IRMA
DOUGLAS**

Please join us for mass

10:00 am

Friday, August 21st

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

416 Chestnut St, Chico, CA 95928

Irma was a St. Thomas More parishioner
and Eucharistic Minister for many years.

Deepest
sympathies to
Elizabeth
Hirsch on the
passing of her
grandmother,
Susie Aldrich,
who passed
away on July
1. Details for
her Funeral
Mass to be
advised.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Saturday; Sept. 26TH

*A Taste of Heaven on Earth
Chocolate & Wine Fest*

**TICKETS ON SALE
NOW!**

Dear STM Family,

Our love and thanks to all of you who have prayed especially over the last year for our sweet daughter Kim, who has been fighting cancer for the last 12 years. She was taken home to the Father, whom she loved so much,, on July 20, 2026. Her funeral Mass will be held on September 5, 2026 (her birthday) at Christ Child Catholic Church in the Santa Cruz mountains.

Words can't express how much we appreciate the love and support we've received from all of you through the spiritual strength in Masses offered, cards, hugs, and prayers. We truly appreciate your love and kindness, and we thank God so much for our family at St. Thomas More.

In Christ's Love,

Deacon Ray and Donna Helgeson

Recently, a presentation of \$1,000.00 from STM was made to the First Baptist Church of Paradise Food Pantry. The generosity of STM parishioners made this gift possible. Some make designated gifts thru the offering. Others use the QR code on our website to donate. In addition, eight to 10 STM parishioners volunteer their time each week to serve those in need here on the Ridge. This ministry helps people in need which can include some of our friends and neighbors.

A big thanks to all who serve and all who give!

Kathy DeCristofaro, pantry volunteer



Center: Greg Kidder
flanked by two FBC
Food Pantry volunteers.

**Thank You to the Wonderful, Loving, Generous
People of St. Thomas More!**

One again you have demonstrated your commitment to women in crisis pregnancies and their unborn babies. You have helped minister to them by giving \$2,425.22 to the Baby Bottle Fundraiser. Your giving has saved more babies from the abortion pill thru its reversal. Many young ladies have chosen life after seeing their unborn babies on the ultrasound your gifts helped to provide. There is even ministry to the fathers! This fundraising runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day to ensure better support for the needs of families.

With gratitude, Greg & Kathy DeCristofaro — Pro-Life chairs



Left to right: Ashley Lundberg - Executive
Director, Care Net of Paradise, accepting
check from Greg & Kathy DeCristofaro.

STM parishioners Dirk Wohlauf, Rolawn & Chris Rehmann, performed in France, with Bella Voce, a Chico women's choir, in 4 cathedrals & Normandy. Check out the links on the STM website homepage to view videos of STM singers performing. Beautiful singing; spectacular churches. (Note: Pat Strickland, an alto in the STM Choir, also sings with Bella Voce but didn't make this trip for personal reasons.)

