



# ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.  
Matthew 28:19



[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  
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-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

Wed., Thursday, Friday 830A

## Sunday Readings

**1st Reading** Acts 1:1-11

**Psalm** 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Entre voces de júbilo, Dios asciende a su trono.  
Aleluya

**2nd Reading** Ephesians 1:17-23

**Gospel** Matthew 28:16-20

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR EASTER WEEK OF MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

Sunday; May 17

Greg & Kathy DeCristofaro  
The Koloski brothers

1030A

Domingo; 17 de mayo

Luisa Marcos †  
Ramon Tenorio †

1230P español

Tues.; May 19

Alfredo & Lizbeth Real

6P

Wed.; May 20

Victor Furrer †  
Elena Navidad

830A

Thurs.; May 21

Carol Zellmer †  
Sam Kempner †

830A

Friday; May 22

Jim McManus †  
Terry Mathews †

830A

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

Rod Montgomery  
Bernhard Family  
Ed Jimenez  
Mary Anne Durant  
Rick Sillman  
Andrea Inzunza  
Kimberly Laird  
Leo Benedetti  
Kim Avoy Helgeson  
Antonio Longuera

Samia Zumout  
Greg DeCristofaro  
Carrie Sonsteng  
Art Sanchez  
Santiago Ávila  
Carlos Torres  
Tony & Francene Packett  
Rick Hodson  
Patricia Morteson

Bryant Smith  
Ron Keyes  
Theresa Durant  
Mary Neeley.  
Dolores Costello  
Rosemary Peterson  
Susie Boyd  
David Brown  
Gloria Klinger  
Michael Coronado

## MAY INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO XIV

**That everyone might have food**

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food and ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

## INTENCIONES DE MAYO DEL PAPA LEÓN XIV

**Para que todos tengan alimento**

Oremos para que todos —desde los grandes productores hasta los pequeños consumidores— se comprometan a evitar el desperdicio de alimentos y a asegurar que todos tengan acceso

## This Week's Readings

### THE 7TH WEEK OF EASTER

#### Monday; May 18<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Acts 19:1-8  
Psalm 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab  
*The Lord takes delight in his people.*  
Gospel: John 16:29-33

#### Tuesday; May 19<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Acts 20:17-27  
Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21  
*Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.*  
Gospel: John 17:1-11a

#### Wednesday; May 20<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Acts 20:28-38  
Psalm 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab  
*Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.*  
Gospel: John 17:11b-19

#### Thursday; May 21<sup>st</sup>

1st Reading: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11  
Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11  
*Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.*  
Gospel: John 17:20-26

#### Friday; May 22<sup>nd</sup>

1st Reading: Acts 25:13b-21  
Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab  
*The Lord has established his throne in heaven.*  
Gospel: John 21:15-19

#### Saturday; May 23<sup>rd</sup> (Mass in the Morning)

1st Reading: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31  
Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7  
*The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.*  
Gospel: John 21:20-25

#### Sunday; May 24<sup>th</sup>

##### Pentecost Sunday - Vigil Mass

1st Reading: Genesis 11:1-9 or Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ezekiel 37:1-14 or Joel 3:1-5  
Psalm 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30  
*Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.*  
2nd Reading: Romans 8:22-27  
Gospel: John 7:37-39

## MEDITATION OF THE DAY

### Praying What Jesus Prays



**A lot of Catholics go to Mass on Sundays because it would be a serious offense against God not to, or because it would look odd to other people if they stayed away, or because they have become so used to going every week that it has become mechanical.... Such reasons are good enough as far as they go—because even to go automatically to Mass every Sunday shows at least that a**

good habit has been kept up—but they do not go very far. If a person's fidelity to Sunday Mass rests on nothing more solid he will find excuses eventually for not going as regularly as he used to. Fidelity to the Mass must rest on a firmer foundation.

**There must be an understanding of what is going on** and a love of our Lord who is the central figure. So avoid the idea that you come to Mass simply to follow the words out of a book, trying frantically to catch up with what the priest is saying, and to be able at the end to pat yourself on the back for having been obedient to the Church.. "Now that's over," you would tell yourself with relief, "and now I can get on with my ordinary day and forget about Mass until I have to go again..." Nor is watching the actions of the priest the main thing—because you could watch a televised showing of it and not say a single prayer or take any part in it whatever—while still less is listening to the music or a sermon the main thing. The main thing is trying to get so near to our Lord in spirit that you do what he does, and pray what he prays, and love as he loves.

**This is really the whole point about your going to Mass....** In other words, your best way of assisting at Mass... is to hand yourself over, with our Lord, for the service of the Father. The Mass is in the most real sense a "service," and not simply a ceremony. It serves the Father. And because the Mass is offered by our Lord, it serves the Father perfectly. Other services, whether held in church like Benediction or given privately to God like acts of self-denial, are not guaranteed perfect as the Mass is guaranteed perfect. Where the act is our Lord's own act, and the prayer is our Lord's own prayer, there is no room for the slightest imperfection. It is bound to be infinitely good in the Father's sight.— DOM HUBERT VAN ZELLER, O.S.B.

Dom Hubert van Zeller († 1984) was a Benedictine monk and an artist. / From *The Mass in Other Words*. © 2025, The Cenacle Press at Silverstream Priory, Dublin, Ireland. All rights reserved.

Excerpt from *Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, May 17, 2026*

### Camp ReCreation Needs Nurses!

Are you a registered nurse with a flexible schedule? Retired nurse? Or school nurse off for the summer? Camp ReCreation, a program designed for individuals with disabilities, needs camp nurses to volunteer at our Diocesan sleep-away camp June 6 to 20. If you are a nurse licensed in CA (RN or LVN) and would like to help, contact our camp office [bellocamprecreation@gmail.com](mailto:bellocamprecreation@gmail.com) or visit [www.camprecreation.org](http://www.camprecreation.org) and send an email via our portal. Thanks for your interest!



### Mayo es el mes dedicado a la Santísima Virgen

**María, Madre de Dios**, lo cual nos brinda la oportunidad de celebrar nuestro amor y reverencia hacia la Madre Bendita mediante festividades, procesiones y cantos. Un muy querido himno mariano se refiere a Nuestra Señora como la «Reina de Mayo».

La Iglesia primitiva celebraba una importante festividad mariana a mediados de mayo, muy probablemente como respuesta a los festivales paganos de la fertilidad que también tenían lugar en ese mes. Gradualmente, los fieles llegaron a considerar que el mes de mayo pertenecía a Nuestra Señora. Sin embargo, la dedicación formal de mayo a María tuvo lugar en el siglo XVIII. El padre Latomia, jesuita del Colegio Romano de la Compañía de Jesús, la inició con el fin de infundir un espíritu de santidad en el colegio, como respuesta a la infidelidad y la inmoralidad presentes entre los estudiantes. Esta devoción se extendió rápidamente a otros colegios e iglesias católicas, y varios papas la adoptaron y fomentaron en toda la Iglesia.



### May is the month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin

**Mary, the mother of God**, which presents the opportunity to celebrate our love and reverence for the Blessed Mother through feasts, processions, and song. One well-loved Marian hymn refers to Our Lady as “Queen of the May.”

The early Church celebrated a major Marian feast day in mid May, most likely in response to the pagan festivals of fertility also in May. Gradually, May was held by the faithful to belong to Our Lady. But the formal dedication of May to Mary came about in the 18th century. Father Latomia, a Jesuit in the Roman College of the Society of Jesus, initiated it to bring a spirit of holiness to the college in response to infidelity and immorality among the students. The devotion spread quickly to other Catholic colleges and churches, and several popes adopted and encouraged it throughout the entire Church.

## UPCOMING FEAST DAYS IN MAY

Below are notable feast days this month:

- Sun., May 24: The Feast of Mary, Help of Christians, holds special significance for the Salesian Order and its founder, St. John Bosco.
- Sun., May 31: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, highlights the joyous encounter between Mary, carrying the Christ Child, and Her cousin Elizabeth, the expectant mother of St. John the Baptist.

## PRÓXIMAS FESTIVIDADES EN MAYO

A continuación se presentan algunas festividades destacadas:

- Domingo, 24 de mayo: La Fiesta de María Auxiliadora (María, Auxilio de los Cristianos) reviste una importancia especial para la Orden Salesiana y su fundador, San Juan Bosco.
- Domingo, 31 de mayo: La Visitación de la Santísima Virgen María destaca el gozoso encuentro entre María –quien llevaba en su seno al Niño Jesús – y su prima Isabel, madre expectante de San Juan Bautista.

### LA PROFUNDA DEVOCIÓN DE DOS SANTOS A MARÍA

Innumerables santos y almas piadosas han profesado una profunda devoción a la Santísima Virgen María. Entre ellos se encuentran San Luis de Montfort (patrono de los predicadores y de aquellos devotos de la Virgen María y del Rosario) y San Juan Bosco (patrono de la juventud, los estudiantes, los aprendices, los editores, los impresores y los magos de escenario). San Luis de Montfort –quizás más conocido por su obra *\*Tratado de la verdadera devoción a la Santísima Virgen María\**– fue un firme defensor de hacer todas las cosas «por María, con María, en María y para María; para que así las hagamos con mayor perfección por Jesús, con Jesús, en Jesús y para Jesús». Exhortaba a los fieles a comprender que, del mismo modo en que Jesús vino a nosotros a través de la Santísima Virgen María, haríamos bien en acercarnos a Jesús por medio de su Santísima Madre. Él veía en María el camino más corto, más verdadero y más fácil hacia Jesús, y sostenía que, a través de Ella, nuestro amor por Jesús se perfeccionaría. Al igual que otros santos que le precedieron, de Montfort explicaba que, al entregarnos a su Madre, Jesús reveló su amor supremo, concediéndonos –por medio de su intercesión– el camino más seguro para alcanzar el Cielo.

San Juan Bosco, sacerdote, educador y fundador de la Orden Salesiana del siglo XIX, fue conocido por su inquebrantable devoción a la Santísima Virgen María. Su vida y su obra estuvieron profundamente influenciadas por su creencia en la intercesión y la protección de María. Aunque se enfrentó a numerosos desafíos en su ministerio de educar y catequizar a niños pobres de la calle, tuvo un éxito extraordinario al atraer a muchos jóvenes hacia la fe. Edificó una iglesia y la puso bajo el patrocinio de Nuestra Señora, Auxilio de los Cristianos, y fundó la orden religiosa femenina Hijas de María Auxiliadora. San Juan Bosco afirmó: «Toda mi obra comenzó con un simple Avemaría pidiendo la ayuda de Nuestra Señora», confirmando así que una sólida devoción a María es poderosa para realizar grandes cosas por Cristo.

FUENTE: <https://covenantcatholic.org/devotion-of-the-month/may-dedicated-to-the-blessed-virgin-mary/>

## TWO SAINTS PROFOUND DEVOTION TO MARY

Myriad saints and pious souls have held a profound devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Among them are St. Louis de Monfort (patron saint of preachers & those devoted to the Virgin Mary & the Rosary) and St. John Bosco (patron saint of youth, students, apprentices, editors, publishers, and stage magicians.).

St. Louis de Monfort, perhaps best known for his work, *True Devotion to Mary*, was a strong advocate for doing all things “by Mary, with Mary, in Mary, and for Mary; so that we may do them all the more perfectly by Jesus, with Jesus, in Jesus, and for Jesus.” He encouraged the faithful to see that just as Jesus had come to us through the Blessed Virgin Mary, we would do well to approach Jesus through His Blessed Mother. He saw Mary as the shortest, truest, and easiest way to Jesus, and that through Her, our love for Jesus would be perfected. Along with other saints before him, de Monfort explained that by giving us His Mother, Jesus revealed His highest love, granting us, by Her intercession, the surest way to reach Heaven.

St. John Bosco, a 19th-century Italian priest, educator, and founder of the Salesian Order, was known for his unwavering devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. His life and work were profoundly influenced by his belief in Mary’s intercession and protection. Although he was met with many challenges in his ministry of educating and catechizing poor street boys, he was overwhelmingly successful in attracting many young people to the faith. He erected a church and placed it under the patronage of Our Lady, Help of Christians, and founded the religious order for women, Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians. St. John Bosco said, “All my work began with a simple Hail Mary for Our Lady’s help,” confirming that strong devotion to Mary is powerful for accomplishing great things for Christ.

Source: <https://covenantcatholic.org/devotion-of-the-month/may-dedicated-to-the-blessed-virgin-mary/>



**ADORATION EXTENDED!**  
Friday, May 22 | Follows 8:30A Mass  
Adoration extended to 7:30p thru September



**MEN'S MINISTRY**

Friday, May 22 | **930A** | Church Hall Mtg Rm.

**USCCB to Celebrate the Declaration of Independence Signing**

On July 4, 2026, the U.S. will commemorate the Semiquincentennial (250th) Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will also commemorate this anniversary with three opportunities for Catholics to take part.

**Opportunity 1** Parishes and individuals can participate by contributing to a collective 250 Hours of Adoration, in your home or church, during the 250th Anniversary of America.



**Opportunity 2** 250 Hrs of Works of Mercy. Works of mercy can include assisting at our local crisis pregnancy center or local food pantry & clothing closets, volunteering at and donating to our local St. Vincent de Paul. For examples and guides go to [https://www.usccb.org/resources/America 250 Catholic Resource - 250 Hours of Adoration and 250 Works of Mercy.pdf](https://www.usccb.org/resources/America%20Catholic%20Resource%20-%20250%20Hours%20of%20Adoration%20and%20250%20Works%20of%20Mercy.pdf)



**Opportunity 3** The USCCB Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Thursday; June 11, 2026. To prepare for the Consecration the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus may be incorporated into Holy Hour.



**Sheets are now posted on the table in the narthex so that you can log your time in Adoration and/or your Works of Mercy.** The collective hours of STM will be reported to the USCCB around mid June. Visit <https://www.usccb.org/weholdthesetruths>, to see the contributions of Catholics and the impact of our faith on the history of this country.

**St. Thomas More Blood Drive! May 30 | 10A to Noon**

We've had a great response in sign ups so far, but we need more parishioners to join our generous givers. Openings to donate blood are still available. You could win a gift card!

Questions? See Jim Collins after Mass or call 831.821.9369, or visit the church website at <https://stmparadise.org/>



**Baby Bottles Are Here! Get Yours Now**

**Babies and parents need you! The CareNet baby bottle campaign is in full swing.** Bottles are available for pick up in the Narthex. Fill them with loose your change, bills, and checks. Return to St. Thomas More anytime up until Father's Day, Sunday, June 21. Questions? See Kathy DeCristofaro after Mass.



**2 Knights of Columbus (KofC) Scholarship Programs NOW Open**

The Knights are offering two scholarships for students who are entering, or enrolled in an accredited community college, college, university, vocational or trade school. KofC - John T. Donohue Fourth Degree Assembly Scholarship has up to \$2,000 available. Pick up application in the parish office or click [https://kofc-ca-d2.org/wp-content/Docs/Assembly Scholarship Application.pdf](https://kofc-ca-d2.org/wp-content/Docs/Assembly%20Scholarship%20Application.pdf) to see online. Additionally, the KofC - St. Thomas More Council 7773 Scholarship has up to \$1,000 available. Pick up application in the parish office or click [https://kofc-ca-d2.org/wp-content/Docs/Assembly Scholarship Application.pdf](https://kofc-ca-d2.org/wp-content/Docs/Assembly%20Scholarship%20Application.pdf) to see online application. Completed applications for both scholarships are due by May 31.

**¡Ya llegaron los biberones! Consigue el tuyo ahora**

**Los bebés y los padres te necesitan!** La campaña de los biberones de CareNet está en pleno apogeo. Los biberones están disponibles para ser recogidos en el nártex. Llénalos con tus monedas sueltas, billetes y cheques. Devuélvelos a St. Thomas More en cualquier momento hasta el Día del Padre, el domingo 21 de junio. ¿Tienes preguntas? Consulta a Kathy DeCristofaro después de la Misa.



**Congratulations to our First Communicants!**

Alana Klempa	Gary Shelley	Milagros Rivera
Aliannah Avila	Greg Shelley	Monica Scooter
Ana Gatica	Jonah Hamlet	Roberto Gatica
Dylan Ocana	Jesus Barrios	Sebastián Preciosa
Edwin Medina	Lukas Hamlet	Zulemi Pelayo

May receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist strengthen your faith and guide you always.



**Ladies Bible Study Thurs., May 21 at 1P**

Family Life Center - small meeting room

**Questions?** Call Gail Crowley 530-877-8474



**Family Insurance Opportunity, May 20 at 730P**

The Knights of Columbus are now offering insurance to all parishioners, not just the Knights. Regional representative, Dave Moeller, will be giving a short presentation for all in the Parish Hall meeting room.