

# 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  
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** *Acts 14:21-27*

**Psalm** *145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13*

*I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.*

*Benediciré al Señor eternamente. Aleluya.*

**2nd Reading** *Revelation 21:1-5a*

**Gospel** *John 13:31-33a, 34-35*

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>

<i>Sunday; May 18</i>	<i>Alan Balladares † Calvin Moss †</i>	<i>1030A</i>
<i>Domingo 18 de mayo</i>	<i>Gabriel Rodriguez Granados † Jose Orlando Salinas †</i>	<i>1230P español</i>
<i>Tuesday; May 20</i>	<i>Connie Rebhmann † For the health intentions of Michael Shannon</i>	<i>6P</i>
<i>Wed.; May 21</i>	<i>Guy Brown † Dorothy Gouin †</i>	<i>830A</i>
<i>Thurs.; May 22</i>	<i>Kevin MacPhail † Tony Gerspacher †</i>	<i>830A</i>
<i>Friday; May 23</i>	<i>Manolo Dumaguio † For the health intentions of Sam Kempner</i>	<i>830A</i>

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

*Rod Montgomery  
Kimberly Steffen-Parkney  
Raul Saavedra  
Jose Raul Rivera  
Mary Anne Durant  
Isabel Rivera Leon  
Juanita Rivera León*

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

*Tim Steffen  
Elaine Little  
Ron Keyes  
Theresa Durant  
Sam Kempner*

## MAY INTENTIONS OF THE POPE

*The Monthly Intentions of the Pope will be published as soon as they are released by Pope Leo XIV. Let us continue to pray both for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis and for our new Pope.*

## INTENCIONES DE MAYO DEL PAPA

*Las Intenciones Mensuales del Papa se publicarán en cuanto las publique el Papa León XIV. Sigamos orando por el descanso del alma del Papa Francisco y por nuestro nuevo Papa.*

**This Week's Readings**

## THE FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER

**Monday; May 19<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: Acts 14:5-18

Psalm 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16

*Not to us, O Lord, but to your name give the glory.*

Gospel: John 14:21-26

**Tuesday; May 20<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: Acts 19-28

Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21

*Your friends make known, O Lord, the glorious splendor of your kingdom.*

Gospel: John 14:27-31a

**Wednesday; May 21<sup>st</sup>**

1st Reading: Acts 15:1-6

Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5

*Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

Gospel: John 15:1-8

**Thursday; May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

1st Reading: Acts 15:7-21

Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10

*Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.*

Gospel: John 15:9-11

**Friday; May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

1st Reading: Acts 15:22-31

Psalm 57:8-9, 10 and 12

*I will give you thanks among the peoples, O Lord.*

Gospel: John 15:12-17

**Saturday; May 24<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: Acts 16:1-10

Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 5

*Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.*

Gospel: John 15:18-21

**MEDITATION OF THE DAY**

## How We Glorify the Son

**Mosaics, as we know, are made of many small tiles or stones.**

The Church too can be compared to a mosaic, and in it each one of us can be considered a tile. But the tiles of this mosaic are not inanimate. In the mosaic that is the Church, each one of us is a living tile. We understand where we fit in and are aware of our specific role in relation to everyone else and to the whole. While we know that each of us has value only as part of the whole, we are also aware that if one of us is missing the mosaic is incomplete.

**Not all the tiles of this mosaic are the same**, of course. One of us, so to speak, might be a green tile, another a blue one, still another a golden or white one, and so on. That is, we all have a specific task to be carried out right where we are, an individual mission to remain faithful to. Thus, as tiles in the Church's mosaic, we must remain in the place assigned to us. Carrying out our specific duty, we give of ourselves, and this is also the best way to find true communion with our neighbors. We love them and, since they too live for others, they love us in return. Just like in a living body, this reciprocal giving and receiving increases the unity in the splendid mosaic that is the Church.

**Such is the nature of the Church**, and we need to keep it in mind. Imagine, for example, a mosaic with the image of a young man. Someone might say, "Look at his beautiful and vivid eyes. Are they not the most beautiful part? I want to be the eye!" If others would say the same, imagine what kind of mosaic we would have. It would be disfigured and incomprehensible.

**So let us remember that we are living tiles of the Church**, all linked to one another, and each one participating in the whole. If a particular tile is missing, everyone lacks something, and all suffer the consequences. So we all need to accomplish our task faithfully, which means doing God's will moment by moment.

—SERVANT OF GOD CHIARA LUBICH

Chiara Lubich (†2008) was the founder & president of the Focolare movement. / From *Heaven on Earth: Meditations & Reflections*, Jerry Hearne, tr. © 2000, New City Press, Hyde Park, NY. [www.newcitypress.com](http://www.newcitypress.com)  
Excerpt from *Magnificat Magazine*, Meditation of the Day, May 18, 2025

**HOMILY NOTES**

**¡Bienvenidos a mayo! Este mes está dedicado a Nuestra Señora,** ocasión para un "conmovedor homenaje de fe y amor que los católicos de todo el mundo [rinden] a la Reina del Cielo. Durante este mes, los cristianos, tanto en la iglesia como en privado en el hogar, ofrecen a María desde el corazón un homenaje especialmente ferviente y amoroso de oración y veneración. También durante este mes, los beneficios de la misericordia de Dios nos llegan desde su trono con mayor abundancia" (Pablo VI: Encíclica sobre el mes de mayo, n.º 1). El padre Chuck, en su correo electrónico del 1 de mayo, recordó a los feligreses de STM la importancia de este mes cuando escribió: "...durante mayo, este mes de Nuestra Señora, María, Madre de Dios... Venerémosla y recemos el rosario como Nuestra Señora de la Paz nos ha instruido a hacer".



**Welcome to May! This month is dedicated to Our Blessed Lady** – the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith & love which Catholics in every part of the world [pay] to the Queen of Heaven. During May Christians, both in church & privately in the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer & veneration. Also during this month, the benefits of

God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the Month of May, no. 1).

Father Chuck, in his May 1st email, reminded STM parishioners of this month's importance when he wrote, "...during May, this month of Our Lady, Mary, Mother of God ... Let's venerate her and pray the rosary as Our Lady of Peace has instructed us to do."

## Protección

La Capilla del Rito Oriental Bizantino-Ruteno, en la Basílica del Santuario Nacional de la Inmaculada Concepción, en Washington, D. C., recuerda la intervención de la Santísima Madre en el año 626 d. C. durante el asedio de Constantinopla. Temiendo por sus vidas, toda la población se congregó en la Iglesia de Blaquernas, que conservaba el famoso icono de la «Santa Protección». Durante una vigilia que duró toda la noche, imploraron su intercesión para salvarlos de las manos de sus enemigos. Según testigos presenciales, la Santísima Virgen se apareció a los reunidos en la iglesia, protegiéndolos bajo su velo durante todo el asedio. En memoria de este milagroso acontecimiento, acudamos a Nuestra Señora, Santa Protección de la Theotokos, y pidámosle que interceda por nosotros como lo hizo por la población de Constantinopla, hace tantos años.

## ORACIÓN: Nuestra Señora, Santa Protección de la Theotokos

Oh María, Madre de Dios, pues eres superior a todas las criaturas del cielo y de la tierra, más gloriosa que los Querubines, más noble que cualquiera aquí abajo, Cristo te ha dado a su pueblo, firme baluarte y protectora, para amparar y salvar a los pecadores que acuden a ti. Por eso, oh Señora, refugio que todo lo abarca, recordamos solemnemente tu dulce protección y suplicamos a Cristo por siempre su misericordia. Amén.

## Protection

The Byzantine-Ruthenian Eastern Rite Chapel, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, in Washington, D.C., recalls the intervention of the Blessed Mother in the year 626 A.D. during the siege of Constantinople. Fearing for their lives, the entire population gathered at the Church of Blachernae, which preserved the famous icon of the 'Holy Protection'. During an all-night vigil, they implored her intercession to save them from the hands of their enemies. According to eyewitness accounts, the Blessed Virgin appeared to those gathered in the church, sheltering them under her veil throughout the siege. In remembrance of this miraculous event, let us turn to Our Lady, Holy Protection of the Theotokos, and ask that she intercede for us as she did for the population of Constantinople, all those years ago:

## PRAYER Our Lady, Holy Protection of the Theotokos

'O Mary, Mother of God, as you are above all creatures in heaven and on earth, more glorious than the Cherubim, more noble than any here below, Christ has given you to His people, firm bulwark and protectress, to shield and save sinners who fly to you. Therefore, O Lady, all-embracing refuge, we solemnly recall your sweet protection and beg the Christ forever for His mercy. Amen.'

Sources & Prayer: [https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/05\\_1.cfm](https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/05_1.cfm); <https://www.nationalshrine.org/blog/3-marian-prayers-of-protection-hope/>; <https://www.nationalshrine.org/blog/3-marian-prayers-of-protection-hope/>

### Funeral Mass for Barbara Maldonado



A Funeral Mass for Barbara Maldonado will be held Thursday, May 22, 11a at St. Thomas More. A reception will follow in the church hall.

### Reminders

**Friday; May 23** **Men's Prayer** Group meet at 7A in the Hall's small room  
**Adoration** until 6P following 830A Mass  
**OCIA** 1130A to 415P Main Hall

### Winners Announced for the St. Vincent de Paul Hawaii Raffle

Dirk Wohlau, STM parishioner and SVdP team member, wants you to know that the winner of the Hawaii Raffle is Norma Velenzela from Presentation Parish, in the East Sacramento area. The winner of the 2nd prize Visa Card was Yolanda Garcia Martinez from Solano County. Thank you for supporting this important fundraiser for SVdP. Hope we get a winner next year!!

### Jubilee Day for Creation Saturday, May 24 at St. Patricks in Grass Valley A Jubilee Pilgrimage Site!

"Jubilee Day For Creation" celebration will be on Saturday, May 24, 2P to 3:30P at St. Patrick's Church (small hall), 235 Chapel Street, Grass Valley.

The program will feature three speakers, including Kim-Son Ziegler from St. Anthony's parish in Sacramento, who will highlight efforts to decarbonize their parish, plus handouts on tax credits/rebates to help save money, energy, and the earth.

As a designated Jubilee pilgrimage site, there also will be a tour of St. Patrick's church and the historic cemetery. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP desired but not required: [bobbie@h2tonps.org](mailto:bobbie@h2tonps.org)

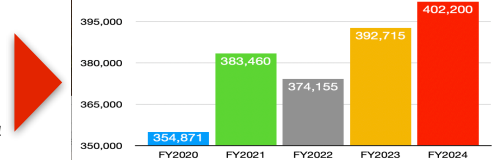
### Auxiliary Bishop Rey Bersabal Will Celebrate a Jubilee Mass for the Indonesian Catholic Community, Sunday, May 25, 2P, at St. John Vianney

In continuing our Jubilee Celebrations throughout the diocese, we are excited to celebrate and honor the unique and diverse Asians & Pacific Islanders Catholic communities through a series of Jubilee Masses celebrated by our Auxiliary Bishop Rey Bersabal with each cultural community. The first Mass of this Jubilee series will be on Sunday, May 25 at 2P at St. John Vianney Parish, Rancho Cordova, with the Indonesian Catholic community. All are welcome to join us!

### CareNet Baby Bottle Campaign Underway While Planned Parenthood Abortions Hit Record High



**Planned Parenthood Abortion Data**  
7.1.19 to 6.30.24



### Planned Parenthood (PP) released its fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 annual report which reinforces the BIG business of abortion!

In 2020 the PP annual report indicated that 200 abortions were performed for every adoption referral and during FY2020 354,871 abortions were performed. By FY2024 the number of abortions had risen to 402,200 – an all time high. It is believed that this rise is largely due to to Planned Parenthood's shift in focus to promoting dangerous, do-it-yourself chemical abortion pills.

Planned Parenthood once touted true health-care services such as cancer screenings & pap tests but today these services are in steep decline. The Charlotte Lozier Institute, a pro-life research & education organization, notes that since 2010, "[PPs] total cancer screening and prevention services have dropped by 74%; prenatal services down 72%," and "contraceptive services are down 41%." In contrast, its Big Abortion business is booming. Over just 5 years, July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2024, Planned Parenthood Annual Reports listed:

- \$633.4M in government funding, up from \$618.1M FY2020
- Total revenue around \$1.7B
- \$2.1+ billion in net assets
- \$500M+ annually in private funding from ~590K individuals

➔ **Not reported:** 1,907,401 abortions performed over just five years between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2024.

These statistics are both alarming and sobering. Even so we are not without hope. It starts with prayer and continues with support of the pro-life activities of the Catholic Church, led in the U.S. by Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas, Bishop of Toledo & Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities (visit <https://www.usccb.org/prolife>), and donations to organizations such as CareNet of Paradise.

**The CareNet baby bottle campaign is in full swing.** Pick up a baby bottle which you can fill with loose change, bills, and checks. Return it to St. Thomas More anytime between now & Father's Day, Sunday, June 15. Please give generously. It may feel like pushing a boulder up hill but we are making progress... one baby at a time. CareNet clients receive support, counseling, and, thanks to the sonogram machine donated by the STM Knights of Columbus, the vast majority of mothers who see a sonogram of their baby decide against abortion.

**Questions?** For more info on CareNet and/or volunteer opportunities see Kathy DeCristofaro after Mass.

**Sources:** <https://www.heritage.org/life/commentary/planned-parenthoods-overdue-annual-report-finally-out-heres-what-you-should-know>; Planned Parenthood 2023-2024 Annual Report for the year ended June 30, 2024