



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**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)

CONFESION: 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 830A (month of Dec. only)
Wednesday, Thurs., & Friday 830A

Sunday Readings**1st Reading** Isaiah 7:10-14**Psalm** 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Ya llega el Señor, el rey de la gloria.

2nd Reading Romans 1:1-7**Gospel** Matthew 1:18-24**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 21ST**

Sunday; December 21	Deceased members of the Valentine Family †	1030A
Domingo; 21 de Diciembre	Armando Camacho †	1230P español
Tues.; December 23	Joe DiDuca	830A
Wed.; December 24	Personas de STM Larry Campbell †	730P español 1159P English
Thurs.; December 25	The Holy Souls in Purgatory †	1030A
Friday; December 26	Ken Campbell †	830A

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK **LET US PRAY FOR**

Rod Montgomery	Samia Zumout	Tim Steffen
Raul Saavedra	Greg DeCristofaro	Elaine Little
Jose Raul Rivera	Carrie Sonsteng	Ron Keyes
Mary Anne Durant	Art Sanchez	Theresa Durant
Isabel Rivera Leon	Santiago Ávila	Sam Kempner
Andrea Inzunza	Joe DiDuca	Richard Carmack
Joan Memmer	Carlos Torres	Helvia Saavedra
Leo Benedetti	Bernhard Family	Celia Topete
Kim Avoy Helgeson	Gloria Klinger	Rosemary Peterson
	Tony & Francene Packett	

DECEMBER INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO XIV**For Christians In Areas Of Conflict***Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.***INTENCIÓNES DE DICIEMBRE DEL PAPA LEÓN XIV****Para los cristianos en zonas de conflicto***Oremos para que los cristianos que viven en zonas de guerra o conflicto, especialmente en Oriente Medio, sean semillas de paz, reconciliación y esperanza.*

This Week's Readings**FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT****Monday; December 22nd**

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 1:24-28

Psalm 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd

My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.

Gospel: Luke 1:46-56

Tuesday; December 23rd

1st Reading: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24

Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14

Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

Gospel: Luke 1:57-66

Wednesday; Dec. 24th (Mass in the Morning)

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 1:67-79

Thursday; December 25th THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) VIGIL MASS

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

2nd Reading: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25.

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Friday; December 26th FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

1st Reading: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Gospel: Matthew 10:17-22

Saturday; Dec. 27th FEAST OF SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

1st Reading: 1 John 1:1-4

Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12

Rejoice in the Lord, you just!

Gospel: John 20:1a and 2-8

Sunday; December 21st**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

1st Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

MEDITATION OF THE DAY
Trusting in the Father's Plan**Every year at Christmas, as we look into the manger scene,** we are reminded

of the simple yet profound truth of the Incarnation. We marvel that baby Jesus opened his human eyes to follow time and reside in space. If he who created time and space chose to willingly submit to it, may we likewise see the richness he found in it.

To human eyes, it may seem as though no one planned out the details for Jesus' debut that wintry night, so primitive were the provisions. With thousands of years foretelling his coming through the prophets, was there no spare room to house him? Could not he who aligned the stars perfectly that night have planned things better than to have his Son born amidst stable animals in a stranger's backyard?**Joseph and Mary, newly entrusted with raising the Son of God,** would have been tempted to feel the weight of procuring the perfect place for Jesus' birth....[But] their focus that night—as it would be for the rest of time—was receiving the eternal love of the Father, moment by moment. The trust in the hearts of Joseph and Mary was in fact the perfect place for Jesus' birth, as the Father intended. Our Father knew far too many of his children would be born in circumstances that seemed unprepared or unintended. In his goodness, the Father wanted no one to think the external circumstances had any bearing on their value. Through Jesus' humble birth, the Father made plainly evident what really matters: rejoicing in the new life given. Each child that exists is proof of the Father's planning.**From the moment of his birth, Jesus invited us to** set our hearts on things above, not in what moth and rust consume. Our future lies in eternity, which is our only goal. The treasure of time, which Jesus jumped into so readily, is that it invites us to begin to receive eternity now. — SISTER FAUSTINA MARIA PIA, S.V.

Sister Faustina is a member of the Sisters of Life, a congregation founded in 1991 by Cardinal John O'Connor to promote the dignity of human life. / From Jesus I Trust in You: A 30-Day Personal Retreat with the Litany of Trust. © 2021, Emmaus Road Publishing, Steubenville, OH. All rights reserved.

Excerpt from Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, December 21, 2025

**HOMILY NOTES**

El mes de diciembre está dedicado a la Inmaculada Concepción. Dedicamos este mes a la Inmaculada Concepción. El Papa Sixto IV estableció la festividad y misa oficial de la Inmaculada Concepción para el 8 de diciembre. Esta fecha fue elegida acertadamente, ya que es exactamente nueve meses antes de la Natividad de María, el 8 de septiembre.



LA PRIMERA SEÑAL DE SU VENIDA

En la tradición católica, diciembre es el primer mes del año litúrgico. Comenzamos el año en la espera de la venida del Niño Jesús, contemplando con asombro todo lo que significa su nacimiento. La Sagrada Escritura nos dice que la señal de la venida del Salvador es la Virgen (Isaías 7:14). Esta Virgen es la Madre de Dios y el Arca de la Nueva Alianza. Tres santos (citados a continuación en Las Glorias de María, de San Alfonso María de Ligorio) coincidieron plenamente en su valoración de la pureza inmaculada de Nuestra Señora desde su concepción.

- **San Agustín, Doctor de la Iglesia**, escribió sobre la pureza de la Virgen María: "Dado que el diablo es la cabeza del pecado original, fue esta cabeza la que María aplastó: pues el pecado nunca tuvo entrada en el alma de esta Santísima Virgen, que, en consecuencia, estuvo libre de toda mancha" (Liguori 361).
- **San Juan Damasceno**, también conocido como San Juan de Damasco, fue un teólogo destacado y defensor de la fe contra las principales herejías de su tiempo. Él, también Doctor de la Iglesia, atestiguó firmemente la impecabilidad de María: "...nuestro Señor preservó el alma, junto con el cuerpo de la Santísima Virgen, en aquella pureza que convenía a quien iba a recibir a Dios en su seno; pues, siendo Él santo, solo reposa en lugares santos" (et al. 365).
- **San Buenaventura, Doctor de la Iglesia** y devoto de la Santísima Virgen, sostenía que Nuestra Señora estaba libre del pecado original, afirmando: "Era conveniente que la Santísima Virgen María, por quien nuestra vergüenza había de ser borrada y por quien el diablo había de ser vencido, nunca, ni siquiera por un instante, hubiera estado bajo su dominio" (et al. 361).

Nota: Consulte el Catecismo para obtener más detalles sobre el Beato Duns Escoto, quien defendió la verdad de la Inmaculada Concepción desde la perspectiva de la "preredención" (153).

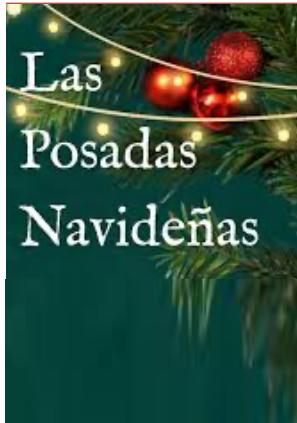
The month of December is devoted to the Immaculate Conception. Pope Sixtus IV established the official feast and Mass of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8th. This date was fittingly selected, as it is exactly nine months before Mary's Nativity on September 8th.

THE FIRST SIGN OF HIS COMING

In Catholic tradition, December is the first month of the Liturgical year. We begin the year in anticipation of the coming of the Christ Child, pondering with wonder all that His birth signifies. Sacred Scripture tells us that the sign of the coming of the Savior is the Virgin (Isaiah 7:14). This Virgin is the Mother of God & the Ark of the New Covenant. Three saints (below, quoted in *The Glories of Mary*, by St. Alphonsus Liguori, wholeheartedly agreed with their assessment of Our Lady's spotless purity from her conception.

- **St. Augustine, Doctor of the Church**, wrote of Our Lady's purity: "Since the devil is the head of original sin, this head it was that Mary crushed: for sin never had any entry into the soul of this Blessed Virgin, which was consequently free from all stain" (Liguori 361).
- **St. John Damascene**, also known as St. John of Damascus, was a prominent theologian and defender of the faith against the prominent heresies of his day. He, too, a Doctor of the Church firmly attested to the sinlessness of Mary: "... our Lord had preserved the soul, together with the body of the Blessed Virgin, in that purity which became her who was to receive a God into her womb; for, as he is holy, he only reposes in holy places" (et al. 365).
- **St. Bonaventure, Doctor of the Church**, devoted to the Blessed Virgin, held that Our Lady was free from original sin stating, "It was becoming that the Blessed Virgin Mary, by whom our shame was to be blotted out, and by whom the devil was to be conquered, should never, even for a moment, have been under his dominion" (et al. 361).

Note: See the Catechism for details on Blessed Duns Scotus who argued for the truth of the Immaculate Conception from the standpoint of "pre-redemption" ... (153).



REMINDERS!

Dec. 21 to 24: (Español) Las Posadas 6p-7p (Check the hall & Church)

830A Daily Mass is cancelled on Wednesday, Dec. 24.

Mass (English): St. James in Durham - 5:30P - Wed., Dec. 24.

Mass (Español): St. Thomas More - 7:30P - Wed., Dec. 24

Mass (English): St. Thomas More - Midnight - Wednesday night, Dec. 24

830A Daily Mass is cancelled on Thursday, Dec. 25.

Mass (English): St. Thomas More - 1030A - Thursday, Dec. 25



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO



The Diocese of Sacramento Invites You to...

**Jubilate Deo Organ Recital 3:30P
And**

**The Jubilee Year Closing Mass (Bilingual) 5P
on Sunday: December 28**

The Cathedral will present an organ concert Sunday, Dec. 28 at 330P in observance of the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope. *Jubilate Deo: Music for the Advent & Christmas Season* will be performed by Rex Rallanka, organist, with guest tenor Jonathan Hansen. Music will include works by John Cook, Anton Heiller, Mark Blatchly, Joel Martinson & Flor Peeters. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be accepted; all proceeds will be directed to the upcoming Cathedral pipe organ project.

Following the concert, on the feast of the Holy Family, the Diocese of Sacramento will celebrate the conclusion of the jubilee year with a bilingual Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Sunday; Dec. 28 at 5P.

**The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament
1019 11th Street | Sacramento, CA.**

Note: Priests & Deacons, RSVP: <https://catholic.formstack.com/forms/dec28rsvp>



ADORATION
Friday, Dec. 26 | Follows 830A Mass
Adoration ends at 6P



Grief Support Ministry



The STM Grief Support Ministry is a response to the needs of people grieving the death of a loved one/ones, in their lives.

The goal of this Ministry is to ensure that no one will grieve alone.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be Wednesday; January 14, 2026.

Questions? Please call Cheryl Barron, 530-514-8859.



WOMEN of STM:



SAVE THE DATE!

The Women's Retreat, for all ladies of St. Thomas More parish, will be at Christ the King Retreat Center January 30 to Feb. 1, 2026.

Listen, Jesus is calling! This Retreat invites us to a spiritual gathering for reflection, prayer, and community as we listen to the voice of Christ in our midst.

Pick up a flyer in the narthex for details. **Questions?** Call Cathy Keesling: 530-828-0278 or Cheryl Barron: 530-514-8859.



MEN'S MINISTRY

Friday; Dec. 26 | 7A | Church Hall Small Room

Knights of Columbus See's Candy Sale

The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree members thank everyone for supporting their scholarship fund by purchasing yummy See's Candy. It was a sellout thanks to each one of you!

SOLD OUT! THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE KofC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM