



# 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*

**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

Wednesday, Thurs., & Friday 830A

## Sunday Readings

**1st Reading** *Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7*

**Psalm** *51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17*

*Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

*Misericordia, Señor, hemos pecado.*

**2nd Reading** *Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19*

**Gospel** *Matthew 4:1-11*

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>

<i>Sunday; February 22</i>	<i>David Brown Carol Zellmer †</i>	<i>1030A</i>
<i>Domingo; 22 de febrero</i>	<i>Boni &amp; Martha Vazquez 25th Wedding Anniv. Modesta Maldonado †</i>	<i>1230P español</i>
<i>Tues.; February 24</i>	<i>Pablo Rivera León y Familia Beatriz Rivera León</i>	<i>6p</i>
<i>Wed.; February 25</i>	<i>Kim Avoy Helgeson Joyce Helgeson</i>	<i>830A</i>
<i>Thurs.; February 26</i>	<i>Roel Balladares † Amber Coii Marie Van Pelt †</i>	<i>830A</i>
<i>Friday; February 27</i>	<i>Karla Sbetreet Tammy Weaver †</i>	<i>830A</i>

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

*Rod Montgomery  
Steve Neeley  
Ed Jimenez  
Mary Anne Durant  
Rick Sillman  
Andrea Inzunza  
Kimberly Laird  
Leo Benedetti  
Kim Avoy Helgeson  
Gloria Klingler*

  
*Samia Zumout  
Greg DeCristofaro  
Carrie Sonsteng  
Art Sanchez  
Santiago Ávila  
Joe DiDuca  
Carlos Torres  
Bernhard Family  
Tony & Francene Packett*

*Tim Steffen  
Elaine Little  
Ron Keyes  
Theresa Durant  
Sam Kempner  
Richard Carmack  
Dolores Costello  
Barbara Braun  
Rosemary Peterson*

## FEBRUARY INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO XIV

**For children with incurable diseases**

*Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.*

## INTENCIONES DE FEBRERO DEL PAPA LEÓN XIV

**Para los niños con enfermedades incurables**

*Oremos para que los niños que padecen enfermedades incurables y sus familias reciban la atención médica y el apoyo necesarios, sin perder nunca la fuerza ni la esperanza.*

### This Week's Readings

#### FIRST WEEK OF LENT

#### Monday; February 23<sup>rd</sup>

1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18

Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15

*Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.*

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

#### Tuesday; February 24<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

Psalm 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19

*From all their distress God rescues the just.*

Gospel: Matthew 6:7-15

#### Wednesday; February 25<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Jonah 3:1-10

Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19

*A heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.*

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2

Gospel: Luke 11:29-32

#### Thursday; February 26<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25

Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8

*Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.*

Gospel: Matthew 7:7-12

#### Friday; February 27<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:21-28

Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8

*If you, O Lord, mark iniquities, who can stand?*

Gospel: Matthew 5:20-26

#### Saturday; February 28<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26:16-19

Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8

*Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!*

Gospel: Matthew 5:43-48

#### Sunday; March 1<sup>st</sup>

##### Second Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22

*Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.*

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

### MEDITATION OF THE DAY

#### Battling to the End



**It is said there that after Our Lord had overcome his enemy and rejected his temptations, angels came and brought him heavenly food (Mt 4:11).** What joy to find oneself with the Savior at this delicious feast! My dear friends, we shall never be capable of keeping company with him in his consolations, nor be invited to his heavenly banquet, if we are not sharers of his labors and sufferings. He fasted forty days, but the angels brought him something to eat only at the end of that time.

**These forty days...symbolize the life of the Christian,** of each one of us. Let us then desire these consolations only at the end of our lives, and let us busy ourselves in steadfast resistance to the frontal attacks of our enemies. For whether we desire it or not we shall be tempted.

**If we do not struggle, we shall not be victorious,** nor shall we merit the crown of immortal glory which God has prepared for those of us who are victorious and triumphant. Let us fear neither the temptation nor the tempter, for if we make use of the shield of faith and the armor of truth, they will have no power whatsoever over us.... And let us not entertain the vain hope of being or wishing to be saints in three months!

**Let us also shun both spiritual avarice and [prideful] ambition,** which occasion so much disorder in our hearts and so greatly impede our perfection. The noonday devil will be powerless in causing us to fail in our firm and steadfast resolution to serve God generously and as perfectly as possible in this life, so that after this life we shall go to enjoy him forever. — SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

*Saint Francis de Sales († 1622) was a great figure of the 17th-century rebirth of Catholic mystical life. / From The Sermons of St. Francis de Sales for Lent, Vol. III, Father Lewis S. Fiorelli, o.s.f.s., ed., Nuns of the Visitation, tr. © 1987 by the Visitation Monastery of Frederick, TAN Books, Charlotte, NC www.tanbooks.com Excerpt from Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, February 22, 2026*

### HOMILY NOTES

Four sets of horizontal dashed lines for writing notes.

**¡Bienvenidos a febrero! Este mes está dedicado a la Sagrada Familia, una rica tradición que nos invita a reflexionar sobre la importancia eterna de la vida familiar dentro de la tradición católica.**

La Iglesia instituyó oficialmente la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia en 1893, cuando el Papa León XIII la aprobó. Posteriormente, en 1921, el Papa Benedicto XV la extendió a toda la Iglesia, tras el desarrollo de esta devoción en el siglo XVII.

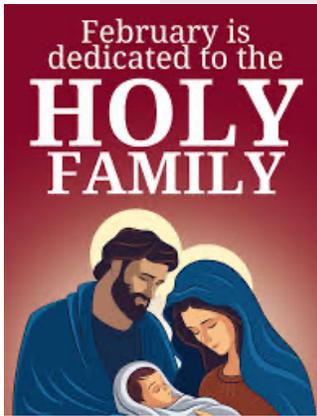
[La Sagrada Familia] sufrió las pruebas de la pobreza, la persecución y el exilio. Glorificó a Dios de una manera incomparablemente exaltada y pura. Y sin duda ayudará a las familias cristianas —de hecho, a todas las familias del mundo— a ser fieles a sus deberes cotidianos, a soportar las preocupaciones y las tribulaciones de la vida, a ser abiertas y generosas a las necesidades de los demás y a cumplir con alegría el plan de Dios para con ellas.— San Juan Pablo II

## 7 ATRIBUTOS CLAVE DE UNA CUARESMA SAGRADA FAMILIA

*La Sagrada Familia es un modelo que las familias pueden utilizar para reflexionar sobre el amor cotidiano y sacrificado en el hogar de Nazaret (Jesús, María y José) y pedir la gracia para imitar mejor sus virtudes.*

1. *Recorrer el Vía Crucis: Una devoción cuaresmal clave para caminar con Cristo. (STM ofrece el Vía Crucis este viernes a las 6p. A continuación, una cena con sopa).*
2. *Rezar la Letanía de la Humildad (ver encarte) o la de la Confianza.*
3. *Lectura bíblica, individual o en familia, para centrarse en la vida de Cristo.*
4. *Crea un plan de acción cuaresmal individual:*
  1. *Renuncia a algo para dedicarle más tiempo a Jesús.*
  2. *Adquiere un nuevo hábito espiritual positivo.*
  3. *Enfócate en qué aspecto de tu pecado debes cambiar.*
5. *Sacrificio y tradición familiar: Viernes sin carne.*
6. *Participación en los servicios de penitencia de la parroquia local (consultar el horario de Cuaresma disponible en el nártex).*
7. *Limite el ruido y las distracciones. Por ejemplo, apague el televisor antes de lo habitual y reduzca el uso del teléfono para fomentar una mayor atención y amor en el hogar.*

*Este período no se trata sólo de renunciar a algo, sino de crecer intencionalmente, volverse hacia Cristo y fortalecer la iglesia.*



**The month of February is devoted to the Holy Family, a rich tradition that invites us to reflect on the eternal significance of family life within the Catholic tradition.**

The Church officially instituted the Feast of the Holy Family in 1893 when Pope Leo XIII approved it. It was later extended to the universal Church in 1921 by Pope Benedict XV, following the development of the devotion in the 17th century.

*“[The Holy Family] underwent trials of poverty, persecution, and exile. It glorified God in an incomparably exalted and pure way. And it will not fail to help Christian families — indeed, all the families in the world — to be faithful to their day-to-day duties, to bear the cares and tribulations of life, to be open and generous to the needs of others, and to fulfill with joy the plan of God in their regard.” — St. John Paul II*

## 7 KEY ATTRIBUTES OF A HOLY FAMILY LENT

*The Holy Family is a Model that Families can use to reflect on the daily, sacrificial love in the home of Nazareth (Jesus, Mary, and Joseph) and ask for grace to better imitate their virtues.*

1. *Go the Way of the Cross: A key Lenten devotion to walk with Christ. (STM offers Stations of the Cross this Friday at 6p. A Soup Supper follows.)*
2. *Pray the Litany of Humility (see insert) or Trust.*
3. *Scripture Reading - individually or with family — to focus on the life of Christ.*
4. *Create a 1-1-1 Lenten Action Plan:*
  1. *Give up 1 thing to make more time for Jesus.*
  2. *Pick up a new positive spiritual habit.*
  3. *Focus on what area of sin to change.*
5. *Family sacrifice & tradition: meatless Fridays*
6. *Participation in local parish penance services (see Lenten schedule available in the narthex.)*
7. *Limit noise and distractions. E.g., turn off the television earlier than usual, reduce phone usage to foster improved attention and love in the home.*

*This period is not just about giving something up, but about intentional growth, turning toward Christ, and strengthening the church.*



## MEN'S MINISTRY NEW TIME!

Friday; Feb. 27 | **930A** | Church Hall Mtg Rm.

### STM Updates Online Giving Platform!



St. Thomas More now offers WeShare, an online giving platform that offers our parishioners a convenient and flexible way to give to STM anytime, from anywhere! WeShare accepts credit cards, bank transfers, pay apps like Apple Pay, even bitcoin! Simply focus your smartphone's camera on the QR code (at left), click the link, and follow the prompts. Easy!

Find WeShare online at [stmparadise.com](http://stmparadise.com). At the top of the Home Page click Online Giving, follow the prompts. Take a pic of the QR code above & keep it in your phone for future giving. Or scan and use right now!

## Ladies Bible Study This Thursday!

The Ladies Bible Study is now studying the Gospel of Matthew. Please join us Thursday at 1P in the Parish Hall's small meeting room. All ladies are welcome.

**Questions?** Call Gail Crowley 530-877-8474  
**Next study session Thursday, Feb. 26 at 1P**



## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE UPDATE

Forty Days for Life has resumed prayer and fasting for an end to abortion effective Ash Wednesday and ends Sunday, March 29. Please pray for an end to abortion. To get your 40 Days for Life Prayer Calendar see Kathy DeCristofaro after Mass.

*Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus."*

--Luke 1:30-33

God, we ask you to be with every expectant mother. Give them the courage of Mary to say yes to your divine will, even in the most unexpected circumstances. Help us to notice women in need and embrace every mother facing an unplanned pregnancy. Amen.



## Attention ALL MEN! **NEW DATES** for Men's Retreat

Listen, Jesus is calling! Have you signed up for The Men's Retreat yet? There's time.  
**Friday; March 27 to Sunday; March 29.**

**Why should you go? So glad you asked! Below are the top 10 experiences that will happen when you go to the Men's Retreat.**

### At the Men's Retreat you will:

1. Relax the body and the spirit!
2. Find time for peace, recollection, and reflection.
3. Discover answers to pressing problems.
4. Be released from tensions and fears.
5. Get help from God to make important decisions.
6. Learn more about your Catholic faith.
7. Gain new insight on God's personal love for you!
8. Enjoy a weekend of good food & great company.
9. Engage in interesting & practical talks on spiritual issues.
10. Receive a rich blessing! This year's retreat will focus on "Listen, Jesus is calling! A pilgrimage of our hearts".

*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in the midst of them."—Matthew 18:20*

The Retreat is getting close but there's still time to register online at <https://christthekingretreatcenter.org/> or by mail (the address is on the Info Sheet), or call 916-725-4720.

Registration: \$290-Single | \$260-Double  
Ride share available, see Gary | Partial scholarships available just call  
Pick up a flyer in the narthex for details.



**Feb. 27 | 27 de febrero**

**Stations of the Cross | Horario del via Crucis**

- 6P Stations | Horario
- Lenten Soup Supper | Cena de Sopa

**Note/Nota:** Stations of the Cross, in both English & Spanish, will take place simultaneously with each group alternating between the Church and the Family Life Center (aka: the church hall.)  
El Vía Crucis, tanto en inglés como en español, se llevará a cabo simultáneamente, alternando cada grupo entre la iglesia y el Centro de Vida Familiar (también conocido como el salón.)

## ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS!!

**Mass Time Change For the month of March:  
The Tuesday 6P Mass will move to 830A**

This move is only for the month of March and enables Father Chuck to support brother priests at local parishes during Lent.

Sorry for the inconvenience. Thanks for understanding.