

# 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** *Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15*

**Psalm** *103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11.*

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

*El Señor es compasivo y misericordioso.*

**2nd Reading** *1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12*

**Gospel** *Luke 13:1-9*

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>

<i>Sunday; March 23</i>	<i>Catalina Balladares † Hugh Porter †</i>	<i>1030A</i>
<i>Domingo 23 marzo</i>	<i>Maria Cristina Perales Castañeda † Ligia Mosquera †</i>	<i>1230P español</i>
<i>Tuesday; March 25</i>	<i>Maria Trinidad Aguirre Camacho † For the Intentions of Gema Real</i>	<i>6P</i>
<i>Wed.; March 26</i>	<i>Sberry Swim † Ignacio Rodriguez (Cumpleaños)</i>	<i>830A</i>
<i>Thurs.; March 27</i>	<i>For the Intentions of Ron Keys Isabel Rivera Leon (salud)</i>	<i>830A</i>
<i>Friday; March 28</i>	<i>Miguel &amp; Leticia Balladares ††</i>	<i>830A</i>

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

*Kimberly Steffen-Parkney  
Raul Saavedra  
Jose Raul Rivera  
Mary Anne Durant*

*Greg DeCristofaro  
Samia Zumout  
Helvia Saavedra  
Lourdes Collazo*

*Tim Steffen  
Elaine Little  
Ron Keyes  
Theresa Durant  
Arianna Ospina*



**Stations of the Cross Friday at 6P - Spanish in the Church,  
English in the Hall - Soup Supper follows in the Hall.**

## MARCH INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

**For families in crisis**

*Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences*

## INTENCIONES DE MARZO DEL PAPA FRANCISCO

**Para familias en crisis**

*Oremos para que las familias rotas descubran la cura de sus heridas a través del perdón, redescubriendo los dones de cada uno, incluso en sus diferencias.*

## This Week's Readings

## THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

**Monday; March 24<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-15ab

Psalm 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4

*Thirst is my soul for the living God.**When shall I go and behold the face of God?*

Gospel: Luke 4:24-30

**Tuesday; March 25<sup>th</sup>**SOLEMNITY OF THE  
ANNUNCIATION OF THE  
LORD

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10

Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11

*Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.*

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:4-10.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

**Wednesday; March 26<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9

Psalm 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20

*Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.*

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-19

**Thursday; March 27<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: Jeremiah 7:23-28

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

Gospel: Luke 11:14-23

**Friday; March 28<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: Hosea 14:2-10

Psalm 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17

*I am the Lord your God: hear my voice.*

Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

**Saturday; March 29<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: Hosea 6:1-6

Psalm 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab

*It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice.*

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

## MEDITATION OF THE DAY

## The Grace of Repentance



**Mark Twain once quipped, "Man is the only animal that blushes."** He is the only one that has occasion to." He may have intended this only as a comment on man's immorality. But, perhaps inadvertently, he also pointed to man's dignity. Man's ability to blush—his shame—comes not just from his wrongdoing but, more importantly, from his recognition of it. We blush because, unlike the other

animals, we are moral agents capable of virtue, vice, and repentance....

**If we had no dignity, we would have no shame.** Shame and dignity work together to cause the prodigal son's conversion.... When he came to himself (Lk 15:17) he realized that, although his sins had reduced him to the level of the animals, he still maintained a certain dignity. He realized the truth of himself, of his own worth, and also of his ability to repent.... As with the prodigal son, so also with us:

**Shame reminds us of our dignity.** It comes about when our conscience accuses us of sin and reveals that certain thoughts, words, or actions contradict our status as children of God. It is the moral nervous system alerting us of injury.... It highlights the disconnect between our dignity and our behavior. And it thus enables us to come to our senses—better, to return to ourselves—and then return to our heavenly Father.... As painful as shame can be, there is something worse: the silent conscience that fails to accuse and produces no shame. Such a conscience allows us to continue in sin.... It produces men who cannot recognize good and evil....

**If shame reminds us of our dignity, repentance restores it.**.... We ought to enter the confessional like the prodigal son, carrying not just shame for our sins, but also confidence in the restoration of our status as children of God.... The father did not forgive his son begrudgingly. Nor did he ridicule or belittle him. On the contrary, he granted him more far more than the son expected: the finest robe, a ring on his finger, sandals on his feet, and the fattened calf.

**We receive far greater gifts than these** & far more than we deserve, when we go to confession. We encounter the true Father in the confessional, where we kneel shameful and repentant to rise forgiven and restored. In fact, the glory of the confessional reaches all the way to heaven, where there will be joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents. —FATHER PAUL SCALIA

Father Scalia is a priest in the diocese of Arlington, Virginia, where he serves as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and pastor of Saint James in Falls Church. / From *That Nothing May Be Lost: Reflections on Catholic Doctrine and Devotion*. © 2017, Ignatius Press, San Francisco, CA. [www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com).

Excerpt from *Magnificat Magazine*, Meditation of the Day, March 23, 2025

## HOMILY NOTES





**El mes de marzo está dedicado a San José** debido a su solemnidad, el 19 de marzo. Sobre este gran santo, padre adoptivo de Cristo, el Papa León XIII dijo: «Es de suma importancia que los cristianos, al honrar a la Virgen Madre de Dios, invoquen constantemente con profunda piedad y confianza a su castísimo esposo, San José. Tenemos la firme convicción de que tal es el deseo especial de la misma Santísima Virgen».



**The month of March is devoted to Saint Joseph** due to the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19. About this great saint, the foster father of Christ, Pope Leo XIII said, "It greatly behooves Christians, while honoring the Virgin Mother of God, constantly to invoke with deep piety and confidence her most chaste spouse, St. Joseph. We have a well grounded conviction that such is the special desire of the Blessed Virgin herself."

### ORACIÓN POR LA INTERCESIÓN DE SAN JOSÉ

Oh José, virgen padre de Jesús, purísimo esposo de la Virgen María, ruega cada día por nosotros al mismo Jesús, Hijo de Dios, para que, defendidos por el poder de su gracia y esforzándonos debidamente en la vida, seamos coronados por Él en la hora de la muerte.

### OFRENDA A SAN JOSÉ

Oh gran San José, generoso depositario y dispensador de riquezas inmortales, nos ves postrados a tus pies, implorándote que nos recibas como siervos e hijos tuyos. Junto a los Sagrados Corazones de Jesús y María, de los cuales eres fiel copia, reconocemos que no hay corazón más tierno ni más compasivo que el tuyo.

¿Qué, pues, hemos de temer, o mejor dicho, qué no debemos esperar, si te dignas ser nuestro benefactor, nuestro maestro, nuestro modelo, nuestro padre y nuestro mediador? No rechaces, pues, este favor, ¡oh poderoso protector! Te lo pedimos por el amor que tienes a Jesús y María. En tus manos encomendamos nuestras almas y cuerpos, pero sobre todo los últimos momentos de nuestra vida.

Que, después de haberte honrado, imitado y servido en la tierra, cantemos eternamente contigo las misericordias de Jesús y María. Amén.

**FUENTE y Fuente de oración:** <https://catholicgentleman.com/2022/03/st-joseph-the-model-of-manhood/>; <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=755>

Libro de Oración, por el Reverendo John P. O'Connell, M.A., S.T.D. y Jex Martin, M.A., The Catholic Press, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, 1954

### PRAYER FOR THE INTERCESSION OF ST. JOSEPH

O Joseph, virgin-father of Jesus, most pure spouse of the Virgin Mary, pray every day for us to the same Jesus, the Son of God, that we, being defended by the power of His grace and striving dutifully in life, may be crowned by Him at the hour of death.

### OFFERING TO SAINT JOSEPH

O great Saint Joseph, thou generous depositary and dispenser of immortal riches, behold us prostrate at thy feet, imploring thee to receive us as thy servants and as thy children. Next to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, of which thou art the faithful copy, we acknowledge that there is no heart more tender, more compassionate than thine.

What, then, have we to fear, or, rather, for what should we not hope, if thou dost deign to be our benefactor, our master, our model, our father and our mediator? Refuse not, then, this favor, O powerful protector! We ask it of thee by the love thou hast for Jesus and Mary. Into thy hands we commit our souls and bodies, but above all the last moments of our lives.

May we, after having honored, imitated, and served thee on earth, eternally sing with thee the mercies of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

**Sources:** <https://catholicgentleman.com/2022/03/st-joseph-the-model-of-manhood/>; <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=755>

**Prayer Source:** Prayer Book, The by Reverend John P. O'Connell, M.A., S.T.D. and Jex Martin, M.A., The Catholic Press, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, 1954



With great sadness Susan Oliver and The Women of STM group announce the passing of our friend Barbara Maldonado. Funeral services are to be determined.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**  
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

**Please Join Our Prayer Campaign**

40 Days for Life, an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign to end abortion locally through prayer, fasting, community outreach, and peaceful all-day vigils outside abortion businesses, invites every STM parishioner to join us in praying to end abortion. We started praying Ash Wednesday, March 5, and will continue throughout the year. There's no greater way to focus on repentance during Lent than to pray to end abortion in California. **Questions?** Contact parish coordinators for ProLife Kathy or Greg DeCristofaro at [worshipworks@att.net](mailto:worshipworks@att.net) or 530-873-4132.


**GET YOUR WINE AT NEW CLAIRVAUX  
RECEIVE A DONATION FOR STM  
NOW THRU APRIL 18!**

Purchase wine from the New Clairvaux Winery during their Grace of Giving campaign thru April 18 and New Clairvaux will contribute 20% of the purchase to STM! How? Easy!

- Go to <https://newclairvauxvineyard.square.site> to purchase the wine of your choice. (Or use this QR code

*NOTE: If you plan to pick up your wine at New Clairvaux enter the code **FREESHIP** to avoid shipping costs.*

*All wines must be purchased on the website above or QR code to benefit STM. This promotion is good for wine purchases thru April 18, 2025.*



New Clairvaux Winery & Tasting Room  
26240 7th St., Vina, CA., 96092 | 530.839.2200

**Memorial Wall Tiles Available for a Limited Time!**



**STM Parish Memorial Wall Tile Campaign ends March 31.**

**Get your tile order in soon!** Jim & Barbara Collins will be available after the 1030a & 1230p Mass each Sunday in March to accept your tile design and payment (cash, check, or credit card) so that your tile may be displayed on the Memorial Wall. Jim & Barbara can also help with the design of your tile. Help in Spanish will be available after the 1230p Mass.

**Questions?** Go to [https://stmparadise.org/sites/stmparadise/files/tile\\_ideas\\_120524.pdf](https://stmparadise.org/sites/stmparadise/files/tile_ideas_120524.pdf) for the forms and more info. You can also talk to Jim and Barbara Collins after Mass.

**WILL YOU HELP K<sup>o</sup>C COLLECT CANS FOR LENT?**

Please help the Knights of Columbus collect canned foods during Lent now thru Easter Sunday. All donations go to the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church Food Pantry which STM supports thru our Table of Plenty donations. **Questions?** Contact Greg DeCristofaro by email [GREGDEC@att.net](mailto:GREGDEC@att.net) or (530) 873-4132H (530) 588-3790C.

**Jubilee 2025 | 24Hrs For the Lord | Pilgrims of Hope**

**Sutter Buttes Deanery Pilgrimage Site:  
St. Isidore Parish  
222 Clark Ave., Yuba City, CA. 95991**

*24 Hours for the Lord, will be celebrated at St. Isidore Parish beginning noon, Friday, March 28 until noon, Saturday, March 29. St. Isidore will offer 24 hours of continuous confession and Eucharistic Adoration. All STM parishioners are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation by making a pilgrimage to St. Isidore. Need a ride? Talk to Lori MacPhail, Rolawn Rehmann, or Carolyn Boyd who will help you make arrangements with other driver pilgrims.*

*Listed below are other events to be held during the 24 hours at St. Isidore that pilgrims are welcome to attend.*

Friday; March 28	Saturday; March 29
Noon - Mass	8A Mass
3P Eucharistic Adoration	Noon Benediction
530P Stations of the Cross (English)	
6P Soup Supper	
7P Via Crucis (Español)	

**SPECIAL INVITATION!**

*You are invited to join a 46-Day Marian Consecration which will start Sat., March 29, and end May 13 on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Prayer booklets for the consecration can be picked up while visiting St. Isidore during the pilgrimage or at parishes in the Sutter Buttes Deanery.*

**St. Vincent de Paul Actions Report for 4Q24**

The STM St. Vincent de Paul team continues to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors here on the Ridge. During the 4th quarter of 2024 (Oct.-Dec.) SvDP helped 30 people in our community who were facing various negative impacts to their wellbeing. Adverse impacts included threats of eviction, utility and/or water shut-off warnings, no propane for heating or cooking, or not having enough money for rent, food, or clothing. Our SvDP team responded to these 30 souls with \$3,550.39 in financial support, along with 13 gift cards to help with food, gas, and clothing needs. These funds & gift cards were allocated according to the need of each person.

The team also helped an additional 70 people find the services they needed thru referrals to various support agencies in the area. The STM SvDP team deeply appreciates St. Thomas More parishioners for their generosity. It is this generosity that enables the team to help our neighbors navigate tough situations with dignity. Thank you.

