November 23, 2025

SM CT

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH





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www.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 Bilingual Wednesday, Thurs., & Friday 830A

Sunday Readings

1st Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-3 **Psalm** 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Toda la tierra ha visto al Salvador.

2nd Reading Colossians 1:12-20 **Gospel** Luke 23:35-43

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23RD

Sunday; November 23	For All the Faithful Departed †	1030A
Domingo; 23 de Noviembre	Por Todos los Feles Difuntos †	1230P español
Tues.; November 25	For All the Faithful Departed †	6P
Wed.; November 26	For All the Faithful Departed †	830A
Thurs.; November 27	For All the Faithful Departed †	10A
Friday; November 28	For All the Faithful Departed †	830A

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Rod Montgomery Raul Saavedra Jose Raul Rivera Mary Anne Durant Isabel Rivera Leon Andrea Inzunza Joan Memmer Leo Benedetti Kim Avoy Helgeson James McManus

Samia Zumout Greg DeCristofaro Carrie Sonsteng Art Sanchez Santiago Ávila Joe DiDuca Barbara Mesa Carlos Torres Bernhard Family Tim Steffen Elaine Little Ron Keyes Theresa Durant Sam Kempner Richard Carmack Helvia Saavedra Celia Topete

LET US PRAY FOR

NOVEMBER INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO XIV

For The Prevention of Suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

INTENCIONES DE NOVIEMBRE DEL PAPA LEÓN XIV

Para la prevención del suicidio

Oremos para que quienes luchan con pensamientos suicidas encuentren el apoyo, la atención y el amor que necesitan en su comunidad, y se abran a la belleza de la vida.



This Week's Readings THIRTY-FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Monday; Nov. 24th Memorial of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, 1st Reading: Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20^{Martyrs} Psalm Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 Glory and praise for ever! Gospel: Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday; Nov. 25th

1st Reading: Daniel 2:31-45 Psalm Daniel 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61 Give glory and eternal praise to him. Gospel: Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday; Nov. 26th

1st Reading: Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 Psalm Daniel 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 Give glory and eternal praise to him. Gospel: Luke 21:12-19

Thursday; Nov. 27th Thanksgiving Day

Ist Reading: Sirach 50:22-24 Psalm 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11 I will praise your name for ever, Lord. 2nd Reading: I Corinthians 1:3-9 Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Friday; Nov. 28th

1st Reading: Daniel 7:2-14 Psalm Daniel 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81 Give glory and eternal praise to him! Gospel: Luke 21:29-33

Saturday; Nov. 29th

1st Reading: Daniel 7:15-27 Psalm Daniel 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87 Give glory and eternal praise to him. Gospel: Luke 21:34-36

Sunday; November 30th First Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. 2nd Reading: Romans 13:11-14 Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44



MEDITATION OF THE DAY

How to Enter Christ's Kingdom

In the crucified Jesus the divinity is disfigured, stripped of all visible glory, and yet is present and real. Faith alone can recognize it: the faith of Mary, who places in her heart, too, this last scene in the mosaic of her Son's life. She does not yet see the whole, but continues to trust in God, repeating once again with the same abandonment: Behold, the handmaid of the Lord.

Then there is the faith of the Good Thief: a faith barely outlined but sufficient to assure him salvation: Today you will be with me in Paradise. This "with me" is crucial. Yes, it is this that saves him. Of course, the Good Thief is on the cross like

Jesus, but above all he is on the cross with Jesus. And, unlike the other evildoer & all those who taunt him, he does not ask Jesus to come down from the cross nor to make him come down. Instead he says: Remember me when you come into your kingdom. **The Good Thief sees Jesus on the cross**, disfigured and unrecognizable, and yet

he entrusts himself to him as to a king, indeed as to the King. The Good Thief believes what was written on the tablet over Jesus' head: The King of the Jews. He believed and entrusted himself. For this reason he was already, immediately, in the "today" of God, in Paradise, because Paradise is this: being with Jesus, being with God.

So here is the first and fundamental message that the word of God clearly tells us today.... It calls us to be with Jesus, like Mary, and not to ask him to come down from the cross but rather to stay there with him.... We know from the Gospels that the

cross was the critical point of the faith of Simon Peter and of the other apostles....
They could not tolerate the idea of a crucified Messiah. Peter's "conversion" is fully achieved when he stops wanting "to save" Jesus and accepts to be saved by him....

This is what our joy is: participating, in the Church, in the fullness of Christ through the obedience of the cross, of being qualified to share in the inheritance of the saints in light, of being "transferred" to the kingdom of the Son of God (see Col 1:12-13). For this reason we live in perennial thanksgiving, and even in trials do not lack the joy

and peace that Christ begueathed to us as a guarantee of his kingdom which already

exists among us, who wait with faith & hope, and of which we have a foretaste in love.

- Pope Benedict XVI

Benedict XVI († 2022) reigned as pope from 2005 until 2013. / Homily of His Holiness, Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe, Vatican Basilica, 21 November 2010. Libreria Editrice Vaticana. www.vatican.va.

Excerpt from Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, November 23, 2025

HOMILY NOTES

Noviembre es el mes de la Devoción a las Santas Almas del Purgatorio. Nos encontramos en una posición única, ya que nuestros méritos terrenales pueden ayudar a las almas del Purgatorio si ofrecemos intencionalmente a Dios nuestras oraciones, buenas obras, sacrificios y, especialmente, el Santo Sacrificio de la Misa para su alivio.

La caída de las hojas y el acortamiento de los días nos recuerdan que toda vida terrenal llega a su fin. El Catecismo enseña: «Todos los que mueren en la gracia y amistad de Dios, pero aún imperfectamente purificados, tienen asegurada su salvación eterna; pero después de la muerte, se someten a una purificación para alcanzar la santidad necesaria para entrar en la alegría del cielo». (CCC 1030)



November is the month for Devotion to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. We are in a unique position in that our merits here on earth can assist the holy souls if we intentionally offer to God our prayers, good works, sacrifices, and especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for their relief. The falling leaves & shorter days remind us that all earthly life comes to an end. The Catechism teaches: "All who die in God's grace and friendship but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death, they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (ccc 1030)

Two MORE Questions About Purgatory

If you've ever been asked or wondered what purgatory is all

Because the holy souls cannot pray for themselves they are in

need of our prayers. We should never assume a person went

died wanting Masses and prayers to be said for them.

immediately to God. Even people who went on to be canonized

While the Church does not pray liturgically for those who lived

pray for them, hoping that their loved one made a last-minute

conversion. If their prayers can't help the person, they are still

meritorious to the one who prayed. It is unnecessary, of

and died scandalously, family members and friends certainly may

about here's more information for you. Last week's FAQ

was about who goes to purgatory & what it's like.

Why should I pray for the dead?

Dos preguntas MÁS sobre el purgatorio!

Si alguna vez te han preguntado o te has preguntado qué es el purgatorio, aquí tienes más información. La semana pasada, en nuestra sección de preguntas frecuentes, hablamos sobre quién va al purgatorio y cómo es.

Q1 ¿Por qué debería rezar por los muertos?

A1 Las almas santas no pueden orar por sí mismas y necesitan nuestras oraciones. Nunca debemos asumir que una persona fue directamente a Dios, e incluso quienes fueron canonizados murieron deseando que se celebraran misas y se rezara por ellos. Si bien la Iglesia no reza litúrgicamente por quienes vivieron y murieron en escándalo, los familiares y amigos sí pueden rezar por ellos, con la esperanza de que su ser querido se haya convertido en el último momento. Si sus oraciones no logran ayudar a la persona, aun así son meritorias para quien rezó. Por supuesto, no es necesario rezar por los santos canonizados, y quienes están en el infierno están fuera de nuestro alcance y de la misericordia de Dios.

Q2 ¿Pueden los muertos interceder por los vivos?

A2 ¡Sí! Solo las almas pueden, ya sea en el Cielo o en el Purgatorio. Todos los fieles, ya sea en la tierra (la Iglesia Militante), en el Purgatorio (la Iglesia Purgante) o en el Cielo (la Iglesia Triunfante), forman una «Comunión de los Santos» en Dios, porque «Él no es Dios de muertos, sino de vivos; pues para él todos viven» (Lucas 20:38).

Así pues, aunque las almas santas no pueden interceder por sí mismas, nosotros obtendremos poderosos intercesores y agradaremos al Señor con nuestras oraciones por ellas. San Pablo de la Cruz dijo: «Si en vida hemos sido bondadosos con las almas del Purgatorio, Dios hará que esa ayuda no nos sea negada después de la muerte».

course, to pray for canonized saints, and those who are in Hell are beyond our reach and God's mercy.

Q2 Can the dead intercede for the living?

A2 Yes! Just souls can, whether they are in Heaven or Purgatory. All the faithful, whether on earth (the Church Militant), in Purgatory (the Church Suffering), or in Heaven (the Church Triumphant), form a "Communion of the Saints" in God, for "He is not God of the dead, but of the living; for all live to Him" (Luke 20:38). So, while the holy souls cannot pray for themselves, we will obtain powerful intercessors and please the Lord with our prayers for them. St. Paul of the Cross once said, "If, during life, we have been kind to the suffering souls in Purgatory, God will see that help not [be] denied us after death."

SOURCE: : https://covenantcatholic.org/devotion-of-the-month/november-dedicated-to-the-poor-souls/; EWTN Seasons & Feast Days / All Souls Day.

FUENTE: https://covenantcatholic.org/devotion-of-the-month/november-dedicated-to-the-poor-souls/; EWTN Seasons & Feast Days / All Souls Day



Happy Thanksgiving! Please remember to pray for our beloved souls in purgatory.

O LORD God almighty, I pray Thee, by the Precious Blood which Thy Divine Son Jesus shed in the garden, deliver the souls in purgatory, and especially that soul, amongst them all, which is most destitute of spiritual aid; and vouchsafe to bring it to Thy glory, there to praise and bless Thee forever. Amen. (End with 1 Our Father & 1 Hail Mary)



Visit <u>www.stmparadise.org</u> to read Camp Fire: STM Legacy, the amazing story of our parish's recovery efforts after the Camp Fire, plus short biographies on the three STM victims Joanne Caddy, Julian Binstock, and Elisabeth Gaal, along with pics, and the Chico ER-Paradise Post article: *85 Lives, 85 Stories*.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes

Due Back No Later Than Monday!

We've partnered with Samaritan's Purse to deliver Christmas Shoe Boxes to children around the world. If you picked up a shoebox and have yet to return it, we need it back by Monday, Nov. 24!

Got a shoe box? It's not too late to do the following:

- *I*. Follow the instructions inside the box.
- 2. Return the box to STM Office by Monday, Nov. 24, at 2p! (Note: Don't over fill the shoe boxes.)
- 3. Optional: You can also donate \$10.00 to defray the cost of shipping by using the envelope provided.

Questions? Contact Greg DeCristofaro at (530) 873-4132H or (530) 588-3790C or email gregdec@att.net. Thanks!



MEN'S MINISTRY

Friday; Nov. 28 | 7A | Church Hall Small Room



It is truly right

and just

OUR DUTY AND OUR SALVATION

always and everywhere to give You thanks.



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

Attention: Important Mass Changes

- <u>The Tues., Nov. 25 Mass & potluck</u> will be the last one for this year. In December we will celebrate Tuesday Mass at 8:30A.
- **Thanksgiving Mass,** on Thurs., Nov. 27, will be celebrated at 10A and will be bilingual.

Knights of Columbus See's Candy Sale

It's baaacck! The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree members are once again selling yummy See's Candy just in time for the Christmas Season. Candy sales fund their scholarship program.

A 1-pound box is just \$30.00 and makes a great Christmas or hostess gift. Please support the Knight's scholarship fund by purchasing a box or two after Mass.

Special Meeting Dec. 10



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.

Our first meeting is December 10th at 6p, in the St. Vincent de Paul Room.

After Dec. 10, the meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

MOURN

Questions? Please call Cheryl Barron,



530-514-8859.



ADORATION

Friday, Nov. 28 | Following 830A Mass Adoration ends at 6P