



# ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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## 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*

*Wed., Thursday, Friday 830A*

## Sunday Readings

**1st Reading** *Acts 2:14a, 36-41*

**Psalm** *23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6*

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

*El Señor es mi pastor. nada me faltará. Aleluva.*

**2nd Reading** *1 Peter 2:20b-25*

**Gospel** *John 10:1-10*

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR EASTER WEEK OF APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>

*Sunday; April 26* *Sam Kempner † 1030A*  
*Carol Zellmer †*

*Domingo; 26 de abril* *Héctor Torres & Sandra (14 Aniversario de Bodas) 1230P español*  
*Consuelo de la familia Martinez Rico y*  
*Juanita Rivera por la perdida de Aurora Rico*

*Tues.; April 28* *James Brody † 6P*  
*Zenona Balladares †*

*Wed.; April 29* *Victor Furrer † 830A*  
*Victoria Wilsey †*

*Thurs.; April 30* *Telesforo Rivera Leon † 830A*  
*Jim McManus †*

*Friday; May 1* *Anthony Gerspacher † 830A*  
*Intentions of the Torres-Rodriguez Family*

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

*Rod Montgomery*  
*Bernhard Family*  
*Ed Jimenez*  
*Mary Anne Durant*  
*Rick Sillman*  
*Andrea Inzunza*  
*Kimberly Laird*  
*Leo Benedetti*  
*Kim Avoy Helgeson*

*Samia Zumout*  
*Greg DeCristofaro*  
*Carrie Sonsteng*  
*Art Sanchez*  
*Santiago Ávila*  
*Carlos Torres*  
*Tony & Francene Packett*  
*Rick Hodson*

*Bryant Smith*  
*Ron Keyes*  
*Theresa Durant*  
*Mary Neeley.*  
*Dolores Costello*  
*Rosemary Peterson*  
*Shirley Richards*  
*David Brown*  
*Gloria Klinger*

## APRIL INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO XIV

*For priests in crisis*

*Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.*

## INTENCIONES DE ABRIL DEL PAPA LEÓN XIV

*Por los sacerdotes en crisis*

*Oremos por los sacerdotes que atraviesan momentos de crisis en su vocación, para que encuentren el acompañamiento que necesitan y para que las comunidades los sostengan con comprensión y oración.*

## This Week's Readings

### THE 4TH WEEK OF EASTER

#### Monday; April 27<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Acts 11:1-18  
Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 4  
*Athirst is my soul for the living God.*  
Gospel: John 10:11-18

#### Tuesday; April 28<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Acts 11:19-26  
Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7  
*All you nations, praise the Lord.*  
Gospel: John 10:22-30

#### Wednesday; April 29<sup>th</sup> Memorial of Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

1st Reading: Acts 12:24-13:5a  
Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8  
*O God, let all the nations praise you!*  
Gospel: John 12:44-50

#### Thursday; April 30<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Acts 13:13-25  
Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27  
*For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*  
Gospel: John 13:16-20

#### Friday; May 1<sup>st</sup>

1st Reading: Acts 13:26-33  
Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab  
*You are my Son; this day I have begotten you.*  
Gospel: John 6:52-59

#### Saturday; May 2<sup>nd</sup> Memorial of Saint Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

1st Reading: Acts 13:44-52  
Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4  
*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*  
Gospel: John 14:7-14

#### Sunday; May 3<sup>rd</sup>

##### Fifth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 6:1-7  
Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19  
*Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.*  
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9  
Gospel: John 14:1-12



## MEDITATION OF THE DAY

### Servants of the Good Shepherd



**The priest is a friend of the Lord**, called to a personal and trusting relationship with him, nourished by the word, the celebration of the sacraments, and daily prayer. Friendship with Christ is the spiritual foundation of the ordained ministry, the ultimate reason for our celibacy, and the source of our daily commitment to the service of the ecclesial community. It sustains us in times of trial and enables us to renew each day the "yes" we said to the Lord at the beginning of our vocation....

**Priestly formation...is a journey of growth in intimacy with the Lord.** It engages the entire person—heart, mind, and freedom—in order to shape him in the image of the Good Shepherd. Only those who live as friends of Christ, and are imbued with his Spirit, can preach with conviction, console with compassion, and lead with wisdom. This includes learning to listen patiently to others, meditative prayer, and the cultivation of a rich and rightly ordered inner life....

**Despite signs of crisis in the life & mission of priests, God continues to call,** and he remains faithful to his promises.... Do not be afraid to present young people with demanding and liberating possibilities for their future!... May all of us feel the desire to renew our "yes," and to rediscover the beauty of being missionary disciples of Christ the Good Shepherd....

**That is why we want to recover, together, a missionary spirit:** a missionary outreach that courageously and lovingly proposes the Gospel of Jesus.... When we imitate the example of the Master, we grow in faith and thus become credible witnesses of the vocation we have received. When someone believes, it shows: the joy of a priest mirrors his closeness to Christ, who sustains him in his mission and ministry. — POPE LEO XIV

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV was elected to the See of Saint Peter in 2025. / Address of Pope Leo XIV to participants in the meeting of priests promoted by the Dicastery for the Clergy. Libreria Editrice Vaticana. [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

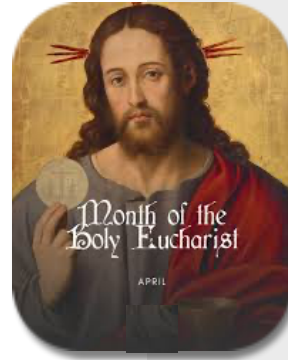
Excerpt from Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, April 26, 2026



### Camp ReCreation: Nurses Needed!

Are you a registered nurse with a flexible schedule? Retired nurse? Or school nurse off for the summer? Camp ReCreation, a program designed for individuals with disabilities, needs camp nurses to volunteer at our Diocesan sleep-away camp June 6 to 20. If you are a nurse licensed in CA (RN or LVN) and would like to help, contact our camp office [bellocamprecreation@gmail.com](mailto:bellocamprecreation@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.camprecreation.org](http://www.camprecreation.org) and send an email via our portal. Thanks for your interest!

**¡Bienvenidos a abril, el mes dedicado a la Santa Eucaristía!** Al dedicar abril a la Santa Eucaristía, se nos permite centrar nuestros corazones y mentes en el profundo misterio de la Eucaristía: la presencia real de Jesucristo –cuerpo, sangre, alma y divinidad–. Dios comunica la gracia a los fieles a través de todos los Sacramentos; sin embargo, la Santa Eucaristía comunica al mismo Autor de la Gracia.



**April is the month dedicated to the Holy Eucharist!** By dedicating April to the Holy Eucharist, it allows us to focus our hearts and minds on the profound mystery of the Eucharist – the real presence of Jesus Christ, body, blood, soul, and divinity. God communicates grace to the faithful through all the Sacraments, but the Holy Eucharist communicates the Author of Grace, Himself.

## ¿POR QUÉ ES LA EUCARISTÍA EL CENTRO DE LA VIDA Y DEL CULTO CATÓLICOS? LA RESPUESTA SE ENCUENTRA EN DOS PALABRAS: JESUCRISTO.

La Eucaristía es el centro de la Iglesia católica, porque Jesucristo es el centro de la vida y del culto católicos. La Iglesia profesa –como lo ha hecho durante dos milenios– que la Eucaristía no es otra cosa que el mismo Jesucristo. El Concilio Vaticano II denominó a la Eucaristía el centro y la cumbre de la vida cristiana.

El Vaticano I enseñó que: «Tras la Ascensión del Señor, los apóstoles transmitieron a sus oyentes lo que Él había dicho y hecho. Lo hicieron con una clara comprensión, de la cual gozaban después de haber sido instruidos por los acontecimientos de la vida de Cristo resucitado y enseñados por la luz del Espíritu de la verdad» (Decreto sobre la Revelación, 19).

La enseñanza eucarística de Pablo en 1 Corintios no nos deja lugar a dudas: «Porque esto es lo que recibí del Señor y, a su vez, les transmití a ustedes: que la misma noche en que fue traicionado, el Señor Jesús tomó pan, dio gracias a Dios por él, lo partió y dijo: “Este es mi cuerpo, que es para ustedes; hagan esto en memoria de mí”. De la misma manera, tomó la copa después de la cena y dijo: “Esta copa es la nueva alianza en mi sangre. Cada vez que la beban, hagan esto en memoria de mí”. Por lo tanto, hasta que el Señor venga, cada vez que coman este pan y beban esta copa, estarán proclamando su muerte. Así pues, cualquiera que coma el pan o beba la copa del Señor indignamente, se estará comportando indignamente con respecto al cuerpo y la sangre del Señor. Cada uno debe examinarse a sí mismo antes de comer este pan y beber esta copa, porque quien come y bebe sin discernir el cuerpo, come y bebe su propia condenación» (1 Cor. 11:23-29).

En 1 Cor. 10:16, el apóstol escribió: «La copa de bendición que bendicimos es comunión con la sangre de Cristo, y el pan que partimos es comunión con el cuerpo de Cristo». Sus palabras son claras. El único significado posible es que el pan y el vino, en la consagración, se convierten en el cuerpo y la sangre reales de Cristo. Evidentemente, Pablo creía que las palabras que Cristo pronunció en la Última Cena –«Esto es mi Cuerpo»– significaban que, real y físicamente, el pan es su cuerpo. De hecho, Cristo no se limitaba a \*decir\* que el pan era su cuerpo; ¡estaba \*decretando\* que así fuera y que así \*es\*!

## WHY IS THE EUCHARIST THE CENTER OF CATHOLIC LIFE AND WORSHIP? THE ANSWER IS FOUND IN TWO WORDS: JESUS CHRIST.

The Eucharist is the center of the Catholic Church because Jesus Christ is the center of Catholic life and worship. The Church professes, as it has for two millennia, that the Eucharist is nothing less than Jesus Christ himself. The Second Vatican Council called the Eucharist the center and the summit of the Christian life.

Vatican I taught that: “After the Ascension of the Lord the apostles handed on to their hearers what he had said and done. They did this with a clear understanding, which they enjoyed after they had been instructed by the events of Christ’s risen life and taught by the light of the Spirit of truth” (Decree on Revelation, 19).

Paul’s Eucharistic teaching in 1 Corinthians leaves us in no doubt. “For this is what I received from the Lord and in turn passed on to you: That on the same night as he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it, and broke it, and he said, ‘This is my body which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.’ In the same way he took the cup after supper and said, ‘This cup is a new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.’ Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death. And so anyone who eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will be behaving unworthily toward the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone is to recollect himself before eating this bread and drinking this cup, because a person who eats and drinks without recognizing the body is eating and drinking his own condemnation” (1 Cor. 11:23-29).

In 1 Cor. 10:16 the apostle wrote, “The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is communion with the body of Christ.” His words are clear. The only possible meaning is that the bread and wine at the consecration become Christ’s actual body and blood. Evidently Paul believed that the words Christ had said at the Last Supper, “This is my Body,” meant that really and physically the bread is his body. In fact Christ was not merely saying that the bread was his body; he was decreeing that it should be so and that it is so!



**REMINDER:**

**It's APRIL ! The Tuesday 6p Bilingual Mass is back! Potluck after Mass.**



**ADORATION**  
Friday; May 1 | Follows 8:30A Mass  
Adoration ends at 6P



**MEN'S MINISTRY**  
Friday; May 1 | **930A** | Church Hall Mtg Rm.

**USCCB to Celebrate the Declaration of Independence Signing**

On July 4, 2026, the U.S. will commemorate the Semiquincentennial (250th) Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will also commemorate this anniversary with three opportunities for Catholics to take part.

**Opportunity 1** Parishes and individuals can participate by contributing to a collective 250 Hours of Adoration, in your home or church, during the 250th Anniversary of America.



**Opportunity 2** 250 Hrs of Works of Mercy. Works of mercy can include assisting at our local crisis pregnancy center or local food pantry & clothing closets, volunteering at and donating to our local St. Vincent de Paul. For examples and guides go to [https://www.usccb.org/resources/America 250 Catholic Resource - 250 Hours of Adoration and 250 Works of Mercy.pdf](https://www.usccb.org/resources/America%20Catholic%20Resource%20-%20250%20Hours%20of%20Adoration%20and%20250%20Works%20of%20Mercy.pdf)



**Opportunity 3** The USCCB Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Thursday; June 11, 2026. To prepare for the Consecration the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus may be incorporated into Holy Hour.



Soon you will hear more about details for plans here at STM and in the Sacramento Diocese. Visit <https://www.usccb.org/weholdthesetruths>, a special page on the USCCB website that lifts up the contributions of Catholics and the impact of our faith on the history of this country.

**ATTENTION <sup>ALL</sup> WOMEN OF THE PARISH**

**MISSED APRIL'S MEETING? NO WORRIES!**

**THE NEXT WOMEN OF STM MEETING**

**SATURDAY; MAY 16 at 10A**

**Did you know...** ALL women of STM are automatic members of this group! Please stop by and check out this wonderful group of spirit led ladies! You'll be pleasantly surprised.



**PARISHIONER UPDATE:**

We regret to inform you that our dear parishioner Joseph C. Di Duca, passed away April 7. He was 97. An active member of the community and our parish, he worked diligently to ensure the STM weekly bulletin was properly funded and travelled extensively for the Lions Club while managing a real estate business and many other interests.

Joe's funeral will be held at St. Thomas More Saturday, May 9, at 10A. The Women of St. Thomas More will provide support for the repast which follows.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to St. Thomas More Catholic Church or the Lions Eye Foundation of California-Nevada.

Please keep Barbara Braun, his children, and Joe in your prayers.

**Secular Franciscans **GAMES DAY** This Saturday; May 2!**

Get your tickets now! The Franciscans Annual Games Day is this Saturday, May 2 at 11A. The fun takes place in the church hall. Tickets are \$10 per person.



Proceeds benefit St. Vincent de Paul.

Sponsored by the Secular Franciscans of Paradise.

Join us for games, food, raffle prizes, silent auction and more! The fun kicks off at 11A and lasts until 3p. Your ticket includes a delicious lunch. Get your tickets after Mass!

**Breakfast Burritos Cinco de Mayo**

**SUNDAY, May 3**

Immediately following 10:30 and 12:30 Masses

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

Good Food. Good cause. Good fellowship

\$10.00 - Adults \$30.00 - Families

Tickets at the door



**Ladies Bible Study Thurs., April 30 at 1P**  
Family Life Center - small meeting room  
**Questions? Call Gail Crowley 530-877-8474**