

# 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** Acts 5:12-16

**Psalms** Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

La misericordia del Señor es eterna. Aleluya.

**2nd Reading** Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

**Gospel** John 20:19-31

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 27

Sunday; April 27	Victoria Wilsey † Victor Furrer	1030A
Domingo 27 de abril	Art Sanchez (salud) Kathy Sanchez	1230P español
Tuesday; April 29	Abel Holguín Chávez † Rob Campbell (salud)	6P
Wed.; April 30	For the Deceased members of the Mangan Family † For the health intentions of Helen Kelly	830A
Thurs.; May 1	Theresa & Mary Ann Durant	830A
Friday; May 2	For the health intentions of Helen Kelly Monique Weinreich †	830A

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

Rod Montgomery  
Kimberly Steffen-Parkney  
Raul Saavedra  
Jose Raul Rivera  
Mary Anne Durant  
Isabel Rivera Leon  
Juanita Rivera León

Samia Zumout  
Greg DeCristofaro  
John Thomas  
Lourdes Collazo  
Carrie Sonsteng  
Art Sanchez

Tim Steffen  
Elaine Little  
Ron Keyes  
Theresa Durant  
Sam Kempner

## APRIL INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

*For the use of the new technologies*

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

## INTENCIONES DE ABRIL DEL PAPA FRANCISCO

*Por el uso de las nuevas tecnologías*

Oremos para que el uso de las nuevas tecnologías no sustituya las relaciones humanas, respete la dignidad de la persona y nos ayude a afrontar las crisis de nuestro tiempo.



**MISSION  
APPEAL**

**TODAY!** Please support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal collection to help the more than 40% of dioceses in the U.S. and territories fund essential pastoral work their communities need.

## This Week's Readings

### THE 2ND WEEK OF EASTER

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

1st Reading: Acts 4:23-31

Psalm 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9

*Blessed are all who take refuge in the Lord.*

Gospel: John 3:1-8

#### Tuesday; April 29<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Acts 4:32-37  
MEMORIAL OF SAINT CATHERINE  
OF SIENA, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR  
OF THE CHURCH

Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5

*The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.*

Gospel: John 3:7b-15

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

1st Reading: Acts 5:17-26

Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

*The Lord hears the cry of the poor.*

Gospel: John 3:16-21

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

1st Reading: Acts 5:27-33

Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20

*The Lord hears the cry of the poor.*

Gospel: John 3:31-36

#### Friday; May 2<sup>nd</sup>

1st Reading: Acts 5:34-42  
MEMORIAL OF SAINT  
ATHANASIUS, BISHOP AND  
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

*One thing I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord.*

Gospel: John 6:1-15

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

1st Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8  
FEAST OF SAINTS PHILIP  
AND JAMES, APOSTLES

Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5

*Their message goes out through all the earth.*

Gospel: John 14:6-14

### TO BE RESCHEDULED

(See back page)



## MEDITATION OF THE DAY

### The Divine Mercy



**Coming through the locked doors of the upper room** where his disciples were gathered on the evening of Easter Sunday, Jesus says, *Peace be with you.* The apostles were weighed down with the shame of abandoning him in his Passion and death. Yet as Jesus said these words, he pointed to his wounds, now radiant with light. It was a newness of life that was victorious over all sin and death.... Jesus was keenly aware of the sufferings he had just undergone, and of the fears that gripped the apostles. He wanted for them the same

glory the Father had manifested in him through those very pains. Expressing the word of peace a second time, he stresses that he truly harbors no ill will against the apostles, or any of us. In this moment of forgiveness and restoration, Jesus chooses not only to bring healing to the apostles' burdened hearts but to share with them the authority to do likewise. As Jesus stood among his apostles that night, he stands among us now...

**The full story of our past is only revealed when** imbued with his mercy, and this is what makes the very things that are most difficult in our history have tremendous value. Jesus is the living embodiment of this: coming before the apostles, his resurrected body brightly bore the scars of his death. He shows us that the way to new life is through trusting his unconditional and victorious love—both in the forgiveness of our sins and in - allowing us to see our past in the perspective of his eternal plan.

**Everything we've experienced, seen in the light of God's mercy,** can truly make us rejoice in the glory of God. Earlier in his ministry, Jesus referred to this as he quoted the psalms: *The very stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone* (Mt 21:42; Ps 118:22). We see Jesus as that stone, rejected and killed by his people, but now he is the firm foundation upon which our entire lives are securely built. —SISTER FAUSTINA MARIA PIA, S.V.

Sister Faustina is a member of the Sisters of Life, a congregation founded by 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.

Excerpt from *Magnificat Magazine*, Meditation of the Day, April 27, 2025

## HOMILY NOTES



**Nuestro último domingo de abril, un mes tradicionalmente dedicado a Jesús en el sacramento de la Sagrada Eucaristía, culmina con el Domingo de la Divina Misericordia.**

La Iglesia Católica enseña que el Santísimo Sacramento es la presencia real y viva de Cristo –su Cuerpo, Sangre, Alma y Divinidad–, que se recibe en nuestras almas con cada recepción de la Sagrada Comunión. Nuestro Señor Eucarístico, fuente y culmen de nuestra vida cristiana, es la prueba suprema de su infinito amor por nosotros. Las palabras de nuestro Señor a Santa Faustina sobre la exigencia de ser misericordioso son muy contundentes y no dan lugar a interpretaciones erróneas:

Sí, el primer domingo después de Pascua es la Fiesta de la Misericordia, pero también debe haber obras de misericordia. «Exijo de ustedes obras de misericordia, que deben surgir del amor a Mí. Deben mostrar misericordia a su prójimo siempre y en todo lugar. No deben rehuirla ni intentar excusarse ni absolverse de ella (742)».

## PREPARACIÓN ESPIRITUAL

Confesarse no es la única manera de prepararnos para el Domingo de la Divina Misericordia. En una carta pastoral de 1985, el cardenal Francis Macharski, entonces arzobispo de Cracovia, Polonia, explicó que no estamos llamados simplemente a pedir la misericordia de Dios con confianza. También estamos llamados a ser misericordiosos:

Nuestra propia actitud misericordiosa es también una preparación. Sin obras de misericordia, nuestra devoción no sería auténtica. Porque Cristo no solo revela la misericordia de Dios, sino que al mismo tiempo exige a las personas que vivan con amor y misericordia.

El Papa San Juan Pablo II afirma que esta exigencia constituye el corazón mismo del ethos evangélico (Ricos en Misericordia, 3): es el mandamiento del amor y la promesa:

Bienaventurados los misericordiosos, porque ellos alcanzarán misericordia (Mt 5,7). Que sea una misericordia indulgente, verdadera y universal, con buenas palabras, obras y oración por los demás.

Así pues, para celebrar el Domingo de la Divina Misericordia de forma solemne:

1. **Celebrar** la fiesta el domingo después de Pascua;
2. **Arrepentirse** sinceramente de todos los pecados;
3. **Confiar** plenamente en Jesús;
4. **Confesarse** (preferiblemente antes del Domingo de la Divina Misericordia).

**Pregunta:** ¿Qué tan cerca del Domingo de la Divina Misericordia es necesario ir a confesarse?

**Respuesta:** Para recibir la indulgencia plenaria especial del Domingo de la Divina Misericordia, se debe hacer una confesión dentro de los 20 días anteriores o posteriores al domingo mismo (por ejemplo, el 27 de abril). No tiene que ser el día de la fiesta, pero es importante estar en estado de gracia antes de recibir la Sagrada Comunión el Domingo de la Divina Misericordia.

5. **Recibir la Sagrada Comunión** el día de la fiesta;
6. **Venerar** la Imagen de la Divina Misericordia (es decir, realizar algún acto o hacer algún gesto de profundo respeto religioso hacia ella por la persona que representa, en este caso, nuestro Misericordioso Salvador);
7. Sea misericordioso con los demás, a través de nuestras acciones, palabras y oraciones en su nombre.

Fuente y Fuente de oración <https://www.shrineofdivinemercy.org/mercy-sunday->



**Our final Sunday in April, a month traditionally devoted to Jesus in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, culminates with Divine Mercy Sunday.**

The Catholic Church teaches that the Blessed Sacrament is the real and living presence of Christ – His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – received into our souls with every reception of Holy Communion. Our Eucharistic Lord, the source and summit of our Christian life, is the ultimate proof of His infinite love for us.

Our Lord's words to St. Faustina about the requirement to be merciful are very strong and leave no room for misinterpretation:

Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy. "I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it (742)."

## SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

Going to Confession is not the only way we should prepare ourselves for Divine Mercy Sunday. In a 1985 pastoral letter, Cardinal Francis Macharski then Archbishop of Cracow, Poland, explained, we are not simply called to ask for God's mercy with trust. We are also called to be merciful:

Our own merciful attitude is likewise a preparation. Without deeds of mercy, our devotion would not be real. For Christ does not only reveal the mercy of God, but at the same time He places before people the demand that they conduct themselves in life with love and mercy.

Pope St. John Paul II states that this requirement constitutes the very heart of the Gospel ethos (Rich in Mercy, 3) it is the commandment of love and the promise:

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7). Let it be a mercy that is forgiving and true, and universal, with good words, deeds, and prayer for others!

Thus, to fittingly observe Divine Mercy Sunday in a solemn way:

1. **Celebrate** the Feast on the Sunday after Easter;
2. **Repent** sincerely of all sins;
3. **Place** complete trust in Jesus;
4. **Go to Confession** (preferably before Divine Mercy Sunday).

**Question:** How close to Divine Mercy Sunday do you need to go to confession?

**Answer:** To receive the special plenary indulgence on Divine Mercy Sunday, a confession must be made within 20 days before or after the Sunday itself (e.g. April 27). It doesn't have to be on the day of the feast, but it's important to be in a state of grace before receiving Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday.

5. **Receive Holy Communion** on the day of the Feast;
6. **Venerate** the Image of The Divine Mercy (i.e., perform some act or make some gesture of deep religious respect toward it because of the person whom it represents, in this case, our Most Merciful Savior.);
7. Be merciful to others, thru our actions, words & prayers on their behalf.

Sources: <https://www.shrineofdivinemercy.org/mercy-sunday-preparation> <https://www.morningoffering.com/offering/04-01/>; <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=755>; <https://ffhl.org/5-things-you-should-know-about-catholic-devotion-during-the-holy-month-of-april/>; <https://catholic-link.org/april-is-devoted-to-the-blessed-sacrament-and-the-holy-spirit-mark-your-calendar/>



## ST. THOMAS MORE WILL HOST A MINISTRY FAIR SUNDAY MAY 4 AFTER 1030A MASS UNTIL 230P

St. Thomas More will host its first Ministry Fair in over six years, since before the Camp Fire, to showcase & promote the variety of ministries, programs, and volunteer opportunities within our church community. This is your chance to learn about different areas of service, connect with ministry leaders, and explore opportunities to serve. The Ministry Fair will be held in the Hall after the 1030A Mass and will continue until 230P.

We'll have snacks and drinks, and offer you a chance to get answers to your burning questions. So mark your calendar! May 4 - it will be fun!

### Rite of Canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis Postponed:

Following the death of Pope Francis, the Holy See announced that the ceremony has been postponed, and the new date will be determined by Francis's successor:

"Following the death of Supreme Pontiff Francis, notice is hereby given that the Eucharistic celebration and Rite of Canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis, scheduled for April 27, 2025, II Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy, on the occasion of the Jubilee of Adolescents, is suspended."

While the canonization is suspended due to the *sede vacante*, the Vatican has confirmed that the Jubilee of Teenagers will still go ahead with a few changes to the schedule. Due to the mourning period, a musical celebration in Circus Maximus on Saturday night has been canceled, but a special Mass for the Jubilee of Teenagers will still take place on Sunday, April 27, without the canonization of Acutis.

### The Women of STM Elect New Officers

The Women of St. Thomas More group elected new officers for the 2025-26 church year. Congratulations ladies and thank you for your willingness to step up and take on these duties!



Madeline Riley



Suzanne Boyd



Cheryl Barron

**FYI!** All women parishioners of St. Thomas More are automatic members of this group. We meet monthly on the 3rd Saturday at 10A. A meeting reminder is published in the bulletin. This is a fun, lively, spirit-filled group. Check us out. You'd love it.

### Catholic Home Missions Appeal Collection Today!

40% of dioceses in the U.S. & its territories can't fund the essential pastoral work their communities need — religious education, lay ministry training, seminary formation, and other programs that build vibrant ministries here at home. Please give generously today or online at <https://www.scd.org/homemissions>. Questions on Catholic Home Missions? Go to [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions)

## Happy Easter! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

### Jubilee Resources to Inspire Us as Pilgrims of Hope this Easter

We are called to be messengers of this Good News and pilgrims of hope this Easter season and throughout the Jubilee Year. We invite you, your family, and your faith communities to dive deeper into the Jubilee Year by checking out the video resources now available on the Jubilee page of the diocesan website <https://www.scd.org/Jubilee2025>

To help you live out the three diocesan themes of the Jubilee Year: 1) To see God, 2) To be living stones in His temple, and 3) To unite all creation in Christ, visit Youtube to see an excellent homily by our own Bishop Jaime Soto available in two languages:

English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p35wPtKFs3E>

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alm-YFPYDw&t=18s>

You can also learn from three other great presenters (Fr. Mauricio Hurtado, Armando Cervantes, and Miriam Sammartino) also accessible via the diocesan website and via the links below:

Theme 1: To See God - Fr. Mauricio Hurtado

English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnYLzadkTpg>

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEq6YEaUEJI>

Theme 2: To Be Living Stones In His Temple - Armando Cervantes

English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Roqkg0KGN8M&t=2s>

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsV9rCDiWZ0>

Theme 3: To Unite All Creation In Christ - Miriam Sammartino

English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57m6J3fri0s&t=4s>



**YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS** is Coming to Sacramento  
Working in Witness for Christ™ and Needs Your Help!

**YCP (Young Catholic Professionals) needs** young professionals (20-39 years old), seasoned professionals (40+ years old), & chaplains (priests, deacons or religious) to run the chapter. We're also looking for financial contribution to host high quality events such as Retreats, Networking Happy Hour, and Executive Speaker Events.

**YCP equips young workers** in their 20s and 30s to take true ownership of their faith in the workplace; thereby enabling them to work in witness for Christ to all whom they meet. To learn more or hear when the SAC chapter launches (or a Butte County chapter?), sign up at <https://www.youngcatholicprofessionals.org/chapter-index>