



# 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)

**CONFESION:** 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 830A (month of Dec. only)  
Wednesday, Thurs., & Friday 830A

## Sunday Readings

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
**Psalm** 128:1-2, 3, 4-5.

Blessed are those who fear the Lord & walk in his ways.

Dichoso el que teme al Señor.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17  
**Gospel** Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>

Sunday; December 28	Robert Battaglia † Maxine Woodstrom †	1030A
Domingo; 28 de Diciembre	Cumpleaños de Arminda Rodriguez Cumpleaños de Adriana Garcia	1230P español
Tues.; December 30	Father Chuck	830A
Wed.; December 31	The Parishioners of St. Thomas More	830A
<b>Thurs.; January 1</b> <b>Holy Day of Obligation</b>	Larry Campbell † Intenciones para la familia Torres Rodriguez	(English) 1030A (Español) 6p
Friday; January 2	Ken Campbell †	830A

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

Rod Montgomery	Samia Zumout	Tim Steffen
Raul Saavedra	Greg DeCristofaro	Elaine Little
Jose Raul Rivera	Carrie Sonsteng	Ron Keyes
Mary Anne Durant	Art Sanchez	Theresa Durant
Isabel Rivera Leon	Santiago Ávila	Sam Kempner
Andrea Inzunza	Joe DiDuca	Richard Carmack
Joan Memmer	Carlos Torres	Helvia Saavedra
Leo Benedetti	Bernhard Family	Celia Topete
Kim Avoy Helgeson	Gloria Klinger	Rosemary Peterson
	Tony & Francene Packett	

## DECEMBER INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO XIV

### For Christians In Areas Of Conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

## INTENCIÓNES DE DICIEMBRE DEL PAPA LEÓN XIV

### Para los cristianos en zonas de conflicto

Oremos para que los cristianos que viven en zonas de guerra o conflicto, especialmente en Oriente Medio, sean semillas de paz, reconciliación y esperanza.

**This Week's Readings****THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS****Monday; December 29<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: 1 John 2:3-11

Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6

*Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!*

Gospel: Luke 2:22-35

**Tuesday; December 30<sup>th</sup>**

1st Reading: 1 John 2:12-17

Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10

*Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!*

Gospel: Luke 2:36-40

**Wednesday; Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>**

1st Reading: 1 John 2:18-21

Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13

*Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!*

Gospel: John 1:1-18

**Thursday; January 1<sup>st</sup>**1st Reading: Numbers 6:22-27  
GOD  
Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8  
THE OCTAVE DAY OF  
May God bless us in his mercy.  
THE NATIVITY OF THE  
LORD2nd Reading: Galatians 4:4-7  
Gospel: Luke 2:16-21**Friday; January 2<sup>nd</sup>**1st Reading: 1 John 2:22-28  
Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4  
*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

Gospel: John 1:19-28

**Saturday; January 3<sup>rd</sup>**1st Reading: 1 John 2:29-3:6  
Psalm 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6  
*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*  
Gospel: John 1:29-34**Sunday; January 4<sup>th</sup>****The Epiphany of the Lord**1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13.  
*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*  
2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**MEDITATION OF THE DAY****Holy Love, Holy Families**

**My dearest Gianna:** I'm still beside myself with the joy you have given me by our engagement, that sweet joy renewed at every moment knowing that your thoughts, affections, and desires are directed toward me, that sweetest joy which I hope will be just as great in you.... In return for the gift of your heart and your love, my heart is all yours, and my love will be only and always for you, O my dearest Gianna. You are my jewel, delicate and so beautiful in virtue and goodness....

**My love for you will always be brighter than the light** reflecting from our engagement ring. The lovely watch you gave me will be with me during the most beautiful time of my life: the time of our love, of our family. You are the strong woman I begged heaven for, and whom our heavenly Mother has given me. I entrust my whole heart to you forever, and I will receive everything good from you.... To me you are the strong woman of the Gospel. When I am with you, my joy is full....

**I still see you, so devout during our engagement Holy Mass**, and I am certain of the divine blessing called down on us by dear Father Giuseppe. I see you & I again rejoice in thinking how beautiful & sweet you were to everyone on our engagement afternoon. I am thinking of you & embrace you with all my love, Your Pietro.

**My dearest Pietro:** **Today of all days**, when I wasn't expecting to enjoy your dear company, I have you even closer to me: I received your letter. Pietro, thank you for being so good and affectionate. Your words touched me, and I'm happy that in answer to my question, "How should I be to make you happy?" you answer I should continue to be good, affectionate, and understanding as I am now. I will, dearest Pietro, and it will be easy, because you are so good to me. I already knew that you loved me, but being reminded of your love through your letter today filled my heart with joy. Just think, Pietro, what a great gift the Lord has given to us; how thankful we must always be for it! — SAINT GIANNA BERETTA AND PIETRO MOLLA

Saint Gianna († 1962) was an Italian medical doctor who died at the age of 39. Pietro († 2010) was an engineer. Their daughter, Gianna Emanuela, became a doctor and internationally sought-after speaker. The above text is an exchange of letters around the time of their engagement. / From The Journey of Our Love: The Letters of Saint Gianna Beretta and Pietro Molla, Elio Guerriero, ed. © 2014, Daughters of St. Paul, Pauline Books & Media, Boston, MA. All rights reserved.

Excerpt from Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, December 28, 2025

**HOMILY NOTES**

**El mes de diciembre, dedicado a la Inmaculada Concepción, culmina con la Solemnidad de María, Madre de Dios, el 1 de enero, que es un día de precepto.**



## EL PAPEL DE MARÍA COMO MADRE DE DIOS \*

El arzobispo Cordileone, de la Arquidiócesis de San Francisco, enfatiza el papel de María como Madre de Dios, modelo de fe y fuente de unidad, especialmente en días como la Solemnidad de María, Madre de Dios (1 de enero) y la Asunción (15 de agosto), que son días de precepto. Habla de ella como un vínculo de unión entre los pueblos, como en México, e insta a los católicos a recurrir a su intercesión, considerándola la discípula perfecta que muestra cómo actúa la gracia, y los anima a asistir a misa en estas importantes fiestas marianas como parte fundamental de la vida cristiana.

A continuación se enumeran cuatro atributos clave de la Santísima Madre de Dios, según el arzobispo Cordileone:

1. **Discípula ejemplar:** María es el ejemplo supremo de fe, esperanza y amor, mostrando el camino al cielo a través de la gracia.
2. **Figura unificadora:** María, particularmente a través de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, une a diversos pueblos y culturas, fomentando un nuevo pueblo cristiano.
3. **Llamada a la oración:** Cordileone anima a la oración ferviente a María como nuestra Madre amorosa y poderosa intercesora, haciendo referencia al llamado de San Bernardo: "¡Mira a la Estrella! ¡Invoca a María!".
4. **Necesidad espiritual:** La celebración de estas fiestas no es solo una norma, sino una participación vital en la obra de Cristo, una manera de encontrar belleza y unidad en un mundo fragmentado.

Nota: La iglesia católica de Santo Tomás Moro celebrará la Solemnidad de María, Madre de Dios, el jueves 1 de enero con dos misas: a las 10:30 a. m. (en inglés) y a las 6:00 p. m. (en español).

\*Fragmento de Por qué Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es importante: La historia oculta del cristianismo en América, del Arzobispo Salvatore J. Cordileone, Arquidiócesis de San Francisco

**The month of December, devoted to the Immaculate Conception, culminates with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on January 1, which is a Holy Day of Obligation.**

## MARY'S ROLE AS MOTHER OF GOD \*

Archbishop Cordileone, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, emphasizes Mary's role as Mother of God, our model of faith, and a source of unity, particularly on days like the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1) and Assumption (Aug 15), which are Holy Days of Obligation. He speaks of her as uniting peoples, like in Mexico, and calls Catholics to turn to her for intercession, seeing her as the perfect disciple who shows how grace works, urging attendance at Mass on these significant Marian feasts as a core part of Christian life.

Listed below are four key attributes of the Holy Mother of God according to Archbishop Cordileone:

1. **Model Disciple:** Mary is the ultimate example of faith, hope, and love, showing the path to heaven through grace.
2. **Unifying Figure:** Mary, particularly through Our Lady of Guadalupe, unites diverse peoples and cultures, fostering a new Christian people.
3. **Call to Prayer:** Cordileone encourages fervent prayer to Mary as our loving Mother and powerful intercessor, referencing St. Bernard's call to "Look to the Star! Call on Mary!".
4. **Spiritual Necessity:** Observing these feasts isn't just a rule but a vital participation in Christ's work, a way to find beauty and unity in a fragmented world.

Note: St. Thomas More Catholic Church will celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on Thursday, January 1 with two Masses: 1030A (English) and 6P (Español).

\*Excerpt from Why Our Lady of Guadalupe Matters: The Hidden History of Christianity in America by Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone, Archdiocese of San Francisco



## REMINDERS!

**8:30A Daily Mass is cancelled on Thursday, January 1, 2026**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, - A Holy Day of Obligation**  
**January 1, 2026**

**Mass (English): St. Thomas More - 10:30A**

**Mass (Español): St. Thomas More - 6P**

**The Tuesday 6p Bilingual Mass returns in January!**



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

**JUBILEE YEAR | AÑO JUBILAR**  
**PILGRIMS OF HOPE**  
**PEREGRINOS DE ESPERANZA**  
**CLOSING MASS**  
**MISA DE CLAUSURA**



The Diocese of Sacramento Invites You to...

**Jubilate Deo Organ Recital 3:30P**  
And  
**The Jubilee Year Closing Mass (Bilingual) 5P**  
on Sunday: December 28

The Cathedral will present an organ concert Sunday, Dec. 28 at 3:30P in observance of the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope. Jubilate Deo: Music for the Advent & Christmas Season will be performed by Rex Rallanka, organist, with guest tenor Jonathan Hansen. Music will include works by John Cook, Anton Heiller, Mark Blatchly, Joel Martinson & Flor Peeters. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be accepted; all proceeds will be directed to the upcoming Cathedral pipe organ project.

Following the concert, on the feast of the Holy Family, the Diocese of Sacramento will celebrate the conclusion of the jubilee year with a bilingual Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Sunday, Dec. 28 at 5P.

**The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament**  
1019 11th Street | Sacramento, CA.

**Note: Priests & Deacons, RSVP: <https://catholic.formstack.com/forms/dec28rsvp>**



**STM**  
St. Thomas More  
Catholic Church

## Grief Support Ministry

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.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

**Questions?** Please call Cheryl Barron, 530-514-8859.



## WOMEN of STM:



**SAVE THE DATE!**

The Women's Retreat, for all ladies of St. Thomas More parish, will be at Christ the King Retreat Center January 30 to Feb. 1, 2026.

Listen, Jesus is calling! This Retreat invites us to a spiritual gathering for reflection, prayer, and community as we listen to the voice of Christ in our midst.

Pick up a flyer in the narthex for details. Questions? Call Cathy Keesling: 530-828-0278 or Cheryl Barron: 530-514-8859.



## MEN'S MINISTRY

Friday, Jan. 2 | 7A | Church Hall Small Room



## ADORATION

Friday, Jan. 2 | Follows 8:30A Mass  
Adoration ends at 6P