

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



www.stmparadise.org | 530.877.4501 | Email: office@stmparadise.org

About St. Thomas More

Pastor *Fr. Chuck Kelly*

Deacons *Mike Mangan, Gary Zellmer, Ray Helgeson
Tom O'Connell*

Parish Steward *Greg Kidder*

Secretary *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

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 830A

Sunday Readings

1st Reading *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28*

Psalm *128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10.*

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

Señor, dichosos los que viven en tu casa.

2nd Reading *Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24*

Gospel *Luke 2:41-52*

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 29TH

<i>Sunday; Dec. 29</i>	<i>Ting To Victor †</i>	<i>1030A</i>
<i>Domingo; 29 dic</i>	<i>Valentin & Carmen Rivera Aniversario de Bodas</i>	<i>1230P español</i>
<i>Tuesday; Dec. 31</i>	<i>Arminda Rodriguez Cumpleaños</i>	<i>6P</i>
<i>Wed.; Jan. 1</i>	<i>Bill Bechtold †</i>	<i>10A</i>
<i>Thurs.; Jan. 2</i>	<i>Carol Zellmer †</i>	<i>830A</i>
<i>Friday; Jan. 3</i>	<i>Nancy Lorig †</i>	<i>830A</i>

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

*Karla Valenzuela
Cathy Larsen
Lorraine Carr
Angela Babcock
Sharon Calboun
Nancy Cornett
Linda Alberghotti
Amanda McDonald
Patrick Wallenan*

*Mary Braddick
Carrie Sue Sonsteng
Sam Kempner
Tylor Koski
Victor Furrer
Kimberly Helgeson Avoy
Denis Helgeson*

*Joyce Finch
Rod Montgomery
David Porter
Barbara Maldonado
Lora Ginn
Senona Gonzalez
Samia Zumout
Karen Reynolds
Don H*

DECEMBER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

INTENCIONES DE DICIEMBRE DEL PAPA FRANCISCO

Para los peregrinos de la esperanza

Oramos para que este Año Jubilar fortalezca nuestra fe, ayudándonos a reconocer a Cristo Resucitado en nuestra vida diaria, y que nos transforme en peregrinos de la esperanza cristiana.

This Week's Readings

THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

Monday; December 30th

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

Tuesday; December 31st

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

Wednesday; January 1st

1st Reading: Numbers 6:22-27
 Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
May God bless us in his mercy.
 2nd Reading: Galatians 4:4-7
 Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

**SOLEMNITY OF THE
 BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
 THE MOTHER OF GOD
 THE OCTAVE DAY OF
 CHRISTMAS**

Thursday; January 2nd

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

**MEMORIAL OF SAINTS
 BASIL THE GREAT AND
 GREGORY NAZIANZEN,
 BISHOPS AND
 DOCTORS OF THE
 CHURCH**

Friday; January 3rd

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

Saturday; January 4th

1st Reading: 1 John 3:7-10
 Psalm 98:1, 7-8, 9
All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.
 Gospel: John 1:35-42

**MEMORIAL OF SAINT
 ELIZABETH ANN
 SETON, RELIGIOUS**

MEDITATION OF THE DAY



The Holy Love That Forms a Holy Family

Most beloved Gianna: *After your phone call at noon today, I received the letter you sent Friday, and the lovely photos. You couldn't have sent me a more beautiful gift.... I have them here in front of me, and I'm keeping them with me. How many times I've already looked at them today, and how often I'll be looking at them during the coming days—especially during these months when I can't have you here with me every day, as I would like to—and whenever I have the greatest need of your joy and support!*

Looking at you, dearest Gianna, *seeing your sweet loveliness & reading the great love in your eyes, is like a balm of serenity and life. Thank you from my heart, and with all my love.... I love to remember your affectionate embrace when we met and the restful tranquility of the unforgettable hours we spent together.... For the first time together, we heard Holy Mass and received Jesus in Holy Communion. "Thank you for giving me Gianna as the sweet companion of my life. Make our love grow ever greater, sweeter, and purer. Make me worthy of her, and may our family receive heaven's blessings; may we and our children be holy": This was my prayer to Jesus as soon as he had come into my heart,*

while at the same time I was moved by your devout recollection while you were talking to Jesus. With the greatest love, I embrace you. Your Pietro. My dearest Pietro: How can I thank you for the magnificent ring? Pietro, in exchange, I give you my heart and I will always love you as I love you now. You are the dearest person to me.... I can't wait for the moment when I can be yours forever.... I have great trust in the Lord, and I am certain that he will help me to become your worthy spouse. I often meditate on the words of the Epistle of the Mass of Saint Anne: A strong woman, who will find her?... The heart of her husband can trust her.... She will do only good things for him and never bring evil upon him throughout all his life (Prv 31:10-12). Pietro, I want to be that strong woman of the Gospel! Instead, I think and feel myself weak. This means that I must lean on your strong arm. I feel so safe, so close to you! I ask you a favor: from now on, Pietro, if you see me doing something wrong, tell me, okay? I will always be grateful to you if you do this. With much, much love, I embrace you. Your Gianna. — SAINT GIANNA BERETTA & PIETRO MOLLA

Saint Gianna († 1962) was an Italian medical doctor who died at age 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.

Excerpt from Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, Dec. 29, 2024

HOMILY NOTES

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La Inmaculada Concepción está llegando a su fin y el nuevo año 2025 ya casi está aquí.

Como sabemos, la Santísima Virgen María, en el primer momento de su concepción, por singular privilegio de Dios Todopoderoso, y en vista de los méritos de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y suyo, fue preservada de toda mancha del pecado original. Esta antigua creencia de la Iglesia fue definida por el Papa Pío IX en 1854 como un artículo de verdad revelada: María necesitaba redención y, de hecho, fue redimida por la Preciosa Sangre de Jesucristo.

Nuestras dos últimas oraciones para esta devoción se encuentran impresas a continuación.

El Memorare: Una invocación eficaz de la Santísima Madre para que interceda en nuestras vidas a favor de Su Hijo. Nos coloca en un lugar de adoración a María como Madre de Dios y todas las maravillas de la creación y redención de la humanidad por parte de Dios a través de Su Hijo, Jesucristo. Nos recuerda que somos pecadores, que estamos tristes y nos ayuda a reconocerlo directamente, mientras hablamos con Nuestra Madre. A través de la adoración y la humildad, esta es una oración de súplica extremadamente potente que coloca nuestras intenciones a los pies de María para ser respondidas.

El Regina Coeli: Se desconoce su autoría pero esta oración se remonta al siglo XII. Durante la primera mitad del siglo XIII estuvo en uso franciscano. Actualmente se utiliza principalmente durante la temporada de Pascua y se encuentra en la Basílica de San Pedro en Roma.

EL MEMORARE

Recuerda, oh piadosísima Virgen María, que nunca se supo que alguno que acudió a tu protección, imploró tu ayuda o buscó tu intercesión, quedó desamparado.

Inspirado por esta confianza, vuelo hacia ti, oh Virgen de las vírgenes, Madre mía. A ti vengo, ante ti estoy, pecador y triste.

Oh Madre del Verbo Encarnado, no desprecies mis peticiones, sino en tu misericordia escúchame y respóndeme. Amén.

EL REGINA COELI

Reina del cielo, alégrate, aleluya.

El Hijo que mereciste dar a luz, aleluya, ha resucitado como él dijo, aleluya.

*Alégrate y alégrate, oh Virgen María, ¡aleluya!
Porque verdaderamente el Señor ha resucitado, aleluya.*

FUENTE y Fuente de oracion: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=765#:~:text=The%20month%20of%20December%20is,all%20stain%20of%20original%20sin.>

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/prayers/the-regina-caeli.html>

DEVOTION OF THE MONTH



December, traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, is coming to and end & the new year 2025 is almost here.

As we know, the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first moment of her conception, by a singular privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior and hers, was preserved from all stain of original sin. This age-old belief of the Church was defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854 as an article of revealed truth: Mary was in need of

redemption and she was indeed redeemed by the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ.

Our final two prayers for this devotion are printed below.

The Memorare: An efficacious invocation of the Blessed Mother to intercede in our lives on behalf of Her Son. It puts us in a place of adoration of Mary as the Mother of God & all the wonders of God's creation & redemption of mankind thru His Son, Jesus Christ. It reminds us we are sinful, sorrowful, and helps us to acknowledge that directly, while speaking to Our Mother. Through adoration & humility, this is an extremely potent prayer of supplication that places our intentions at the feet of Mary to be answered.

The Regina Coeli: Its authorship is unknown but this prayer can be traced back to the 12th century. During the first half of the 13th century it was in Franciscan use. Now used primarily during the Easter season, it is located in St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

THE REGINA COELI

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia, has risen as he said, alleluia.

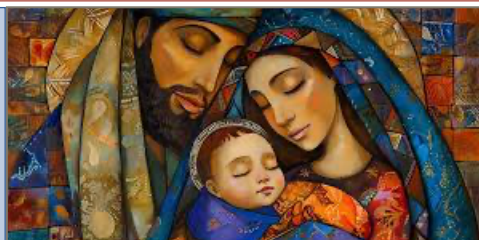
*Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.*

Source: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=765#:~:text=The%20month%20of%20December%20is,all%20stain%20of%20original%20sin.>

Prayer Source: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/prayers/the-regina-caeli.html>

Adoration is Every Friday After Mass, 9A to 6p.

Please sign up in the Narthex for time to be with Jesus. He's waiting for us!



"The Lord sets a father in honor over his children; A mother's authority he confirms over her sons. He who honors his father atones for sins; He stores up riches who reveres his mother."

—Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

**Jan. 1, 2025 - Holy Day of Obligation
Solemnity of Mary
Mother of God**

Wednesday | January 1
10A English
7p Español



Attention Men of STM!

Please join Deacon Tom O'Connell for the **Men's Ministry**
Friday | 7A | in the Hall
(go to the small room)

**January 5, 2025
Epiphany of the Lord**

Sunday | January 5
1030A English
1230p Español



**Sacrament of Reconciliation
Times Expanded!**

Tuesdays 5p to 5:45p
Wed., & Thurs. 8a to 8:25a
Friday 8a to 8:25A & 4:30p to 5:45p



**January 12, 2025
Baptism of the Lord**

Sunday | January 12
1030A English
1230p Español



Attention St. Thomas More Parishioners! Help Radiate Love!

Our Bishop, Jaime Soto, along with all bishops of the California Catholic Conference, invite Catholics to celebrate the beauty and goodness of marriage and family through the Radiate Love initiative.

Men & women marry in love, becoming husbands and wives then see their love deepen thru good times & the challenges of a lifetime of marriage.

If these couples are blessed to become parents, they are tasked with teaching their children how to be human. What a concept! The mission of the family is not for the fainthearted. It entails sacrifice and sometimes heartache, but all of that is meant to bring spouses closer and further along the path to holiness.

Help radiate love to the world! Visit <https://cacatholic.org/radiatelove/> for monthly reflections, prayers, videos, and other materials designed to help families become witnesses of God's love.



Our parish website now offers a free listing for business owners who are registered parishioners at STM!

Add your business to our site; it's easy!

1. Email an electronic copy of your flyer, business card, or the URL to your business's website to jimcollins_95991@yahoo.com

(Note: Or give Jim a paper copy of your info before or after Mass.)

That's it! Jim will then add your business to the STM website. Donations to our church are always appreciated.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PARISHIONERS BY PATRONIZING THEIR BUSINESSES

To see the list of current businesses click the QR Code above or go to <https://stmparadise.org/>