



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

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- 12p 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 Jeremiah 20:7-9

Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Señor, mi alma tiene sed de ti.

2nd Reading Romans 12:1-2

Gospel Matthew 16:21-27

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 30TH

Sunday; August 30	Kim Helgeson Avoy † Intentions of Deacon Ray & Donna Helgeson	1030A
Domingo; 30 de agosto	Heidi Berrios (cumpleaños) Onofre Real	1230P español
Tues.; September 1	Onofre Real	6P
Wed.; September 2	James Brody † Onofre Real	830A
Thurs.; September 3	Liturgy of the Word/Rosary	830A
Friday; September 4	Family Torres-Rodriguez Onofre Real	830A

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

Rod Montgomery
Bernhard Family
Mary Anne Durant
Rick Sillman
Andrea Inzunza
Kimberly Laird
Leo Benedetti
The Mortenson Family
Michael Coronado
Joan Memmer
Beverly Brown

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

Bryant Smith
Ron Keyes
Theresa Durant
Raul & Helvia
Saavedra
Dolores Costello
Rosemary Peterson
Susie Boyd
David Brown
Gloria Klinger

AUGUST INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO XIV

For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

INTENCIONES DE AGOSTO DEL PAPA LEÓN XIV

Por la evangelización en la ciudad

Oremos para que, en las grandes ciudades a menudo marcadas por el anonimato y la soledad, encontremos nuevas formas de anunciar el Evangelio, descubriendo caminos creativos para construir comunidad.

This Week's Readings
THE 22ND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Monday; Aug. 31st

1st Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Psalm 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102
Lord, I love your commands.
Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday; September 1st

1st Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:10b-16
Psalm 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14
The Lord is just in all his ways.
Gospel: Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday; September 2nd

1st Reading: 2 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Psalm 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21
Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.
Gospel: Luke 4:38-44

Thurs.; Sept. 3rd *Memorial of Saint Gregory
the Great, Pope & Doctor of
the Church*

1st Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:18-23
Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
To the Lord belongs the earth and all that fills it.
Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Friday; Sept. 4th

1st Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Psalm 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40
The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.
Gospel: Luke 5:33-39

Saturday; Sept. 5th

1st Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:6b-15
Psalm 145:17-18, 19-20, 21
The Lord is near to all who call upon him.
Gospel: Luke 6:1-5

Sunday; September 6th

Twenty-third Sunday In Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-10
Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

Taking Up the Cross



How many eloquent reasons [are there] to love the cross?

yet how we forget them in the current of life! In our days, how many plans we make, little calculations—very often unconscious I must say— which are made simply to avoid suffering. We flee it in the first movement of our nature, which finds it so repugnant, and we must not be astonished by that....

Our nature's first reflexes are to avoid whatever threatens harm.

Therefore, do not be surprised at this, but be in the state of soul, the disposition... where you can say to Jesus, "I do not fear any cross because I know that when a cross comes, you always come, too." The Crucified is never found without the cross, and neither is the cross found without the Crucified. It always bears Jesus. I press it to my breast to press him at the same time to my heart. So tell him, "With you I do not fear any cross."

Note that this is not to ask for the cross. Little Thérèse, a few weeks before her death, said, "Oh, I would never wish to ask the good Lord for greater sufferings, for I am too little. They would become my very own sufferings; I would be forced to endure them alone, and I have never been able to do anything all alone."... To say that we are ready to receive the crosses Jesus will send us, even without asking for the cross, makes us afraid, makes our nature tremble. I understand this well. But it is a magnificent occasion for generosity and confidence: "All you permit for me will be grace from you, and you will be there with me. I do not fear the cross, because I do not fear you, the King of Love."

Jesus will never let the cross crush you; on the contrary, it will lift you up toward heaven. It is no longer you who will carry it; it is the cross which will carry you. Jesus took upon himself the bitterest cross, and he will add a balm to it before giving it to you—that is certain. The sweetness of the crosses accepted with the joy of free will is a great mystery, yet very real. That is why you must embrace it with open arms. — FATHER

JEAN DU CŒUR DE JÉSUS D'ELBÉE

Father d'Elbée († 1982) was a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. / From *I Believe in Love: Retreat Conferences on the Interior Life*, Marilyn Teichert with Madeleine Stebbins, trs. © 1974, Marilyn Teichert and Madeleine Stebbins. Published by Sophia Institute Press, Manchester, NH. www.sophiainstitute.com.

Excerpt from *Magnificat Magazine*, Meditation of the Day, August 30, 2026



HOMILY NOTES



Al concluir el mes dedicado al Inmaculado Corazón de María, seguimos afrontando los desafíos del mundo, de la carne y del demonio. Recordemos que el Corazón virtuoso de María es nuestra luz guía y fortaleza siempre presentes, que nos inspira a imitarla y a seguirla de cerca mientras ella nos abre las puertas del Cielo. En

1917, Nuestra Señora de Fátima dijo a los niños pastores: «[Jesús] quiere establecer en el mundo la devoción a mi Inmaculado Corazón». Fue el venerable Papa Pío XII quien, movido por una profunda devoción al Corazón de Nuestra Señora, hizo universal esta devoción mediante el establecimiento de una fiesta litúrgica. Es importante, pues, que sigamos reflexionando sobre el corazón puro de María, su amor inquebrantable y su excelsa virtud. Una forma de hacerlo es a través de la oración, incluidas las tres que se presentan a continuación.

TRES PODEROSAS ORACIONES AL INMACULADO CORAZÓN DE MARÍA

Inmaculado Corazón de María, lleno de amor a Dios y a la humanidad, y de compasión por los pecadores, me consagro a ti. Te confío la salvación de mi alma.

Que mi corazón esté siempre unido al tuyo, para que aborrezca el pecado, ame a Dios y al prójimo, y alcance la vida eterna junto a aquellos a quienes amo.

Que experimente la bondad de tu corazón maternal y el poder de tu intercesión ante Jesús, durante mi vida y a la hora de mi muerte. Amén.

Oh Inmaculado Corazón de María, refugio de los pecadores, te imploro, por los méritos infinitos del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y por las gracias que Dios te ha concedido desde tu Inmaculada Concepción, la gracia de no extraviarme nunca más. Madre, manténme a mí, pecador, constantemente bañado en la luz de tu Inmaculado Corazón. Amén.

Oh Inmaculado Corazón de María, lleno de bondad, muestra tu amor hacia nosotros. Que la llama de tu corazón, oh María, descienda sobre todos los hombres. Te amamos inmensamente. Graba el verdadero amor en nuestros corazones para que sintamos un deseo continuo de ti. Oh María, dulce y humilde de corazón, acuérdate de nosotros cuando estemos en pecado. Tú sabes que todos los hombres pecan. Concédenos, por medio de tu Inmaculado Corazón, la salud espiritual. Que veamos siempre la bondad de tu corazón maternal y que nos convirtamos por medio de la llama de tu corazón. Amén.



As the month dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary ends, we continue to navigate the challenges of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Remember that Mary's virtuous Heart is our ever present guiding light and fortress, inspiring us to emulate her and follow her closely as she opens for us the gates of Heaven. Our Lady of Fatima in 1917 told the shepherd children "[Jesus] wants to establish in the world the devotion to my Immaculate Heart." And it was Venerable Pope Pius XII, who, holding a deep devotion to Our Lady's heart, made this devotion universal via a set feast day. It is

important then, that we continue to reflect on Mary's pure heart, steadfast love, and towering virtue. One way to do this is through prayer, including the three printed below.

THREE POWERFUL PRAYERS TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
full of love for God and mankind,
and of compassion for sinners, I consecrate myself to you.
I entrust to you the salvation of my soul.
May my heart be ever united with yours,
so that I may hate sin, love God and my neighbor,
and reach eternal life with those whom I love.
May I experience the kindness of your motherly heart
and the power of your intercession with Jesus
during my life and at the hour of my death. Amen.

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, refuge of sinners,
I beg of you by the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,
and by the graces God has granted to you since your
Immaculate Conception,
the grace of never going astray again.
Mother, keep me, a sinner,
constantly bathed in the light of your Immaculate Heart.
Amen.

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, full of goodness,
show your love towards us.
Let the flame of your heart, O Mary, descend on all people.
We love you immensely.
Impress true love in our hearts so that we have a continuous
desire for you.
O Mary, gentle and humble of heart,
remember us when we are in sin.
You know that all men sin.
Give us, by means of your Immaculate Heart, spiritual health.
Let us always see the goodness of your motherly heart
and may we be converted by means of the flame of your heart.
Amen.

Source: <https://covenantcatholic.org/devotion-of-the-month/august-dedicated-to-the-immaculate-heart-of-mary/>; national catholic register; Aug 9, 2026.; <https://covenantcatholic.org/devotion-of-the-month/august-dedicated-to-the-immaculate-heart-of-mary/>; <https://www.catholicgallery.org/prayers/immaculate-heart-mary-prayers/>

**ADORATION**

Friday, Sept. 4 | Follows 830A Mass
Adoration extended to 7:30p thru September

**MEN'S MINISTRY**

Friday, Sept. 4 | **930A** | Church Hall Mtg Rm.



LUMEN CHRISTI

STM YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

CALLED INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH
JESUS CHRIST. ROOTED IN THE LIFE
AND TEACHINGS OF HIS CHURCH.
TOGETHER WE SHARE HIS LOVE WITH
OTHERS SO THAT THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
MAY ILLUMINATE THE WORLD.

NEXT MEETING

Sept. 3 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:

Heidi & Justin | (530) 864-0809

SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday;
Sept. 26TH**

A Taste of Heaven on Earth
Chocolate & Wine Festival
TICKETS ON SALE NOW
AFTER MASS!

\$15 per person
Kids 10yrs and under are free

Women of STM Meeting

Saturday; Sept. 12TH
10A

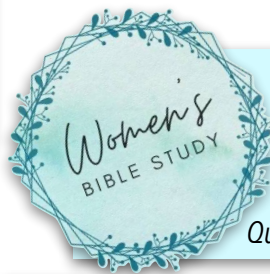
St. Vincent de Paul Rm
(in the church)

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

The annual Chocolate & Wine Fest is almost here and we need your help with planning and support.

All women of the parish are automatic members of this group so please join us on Sept. 11 at 10A and bring your goods ideas.

Questions? See Susie Boyd, Cathy Keesling or Cheryl Barron.

**at St. Thomas More Resumes Thursday, Sept. 10 at 130P**

The ladies Bible study will meet in the Family Life Center small meeting rm. Study will continue with Matthew chapter 14. There are a few things planned to vary & add to the study. All ladies are welcome!

Questions? Call Gail Crowley at 530.877.8474.

Dear STM Family,

Our love and thanks to all of you who have prayed especially over the last year for our sweet daughter Kim, who has been fighting cancer for the last 12 years. She was taken home to the Father, whom she loved so much, on July 20, 2026. Her funeral Mass will be held on Sept. 5, 2026 (her birthday) at Christ Child Catholic Church in the Santa Cruz mountains.

Words can't express how much we appreciate the love and support we've received from all of you through the spiritual strength in Masses offered, cards, hugs, and prayers. We truly appreciate your love and kindness, and we thank God so much for our family at St. Thomas More.

In Christ's Love — Deacon Ray and Donna Helgeson

Pancake Breakfast - Sunday Sept. 6

Immediately following the 1030 and 1230p Masses



\$10. per Adult | \$30. per Family

Good food | good cause | good fellowship

ST. THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7773

**Got Your Ticket for Ministry Days 2026?**

All Catholic ministry leaders & volunteers in the Diocese of Sacramento are invited to Ministry Days 2026, Saturday, Sept. 26. This is the largest gathering of its kind & this year the day focuses on mental health, and challenges us all to encounter the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the ultimate source of mercy and healing. Enjoy a great day of prayer, networking, and fellowship as we discuss new ways to serve families navigating the complexities of mental health. Tickets on sale now at www.ministrydays.com.

Get your tickets Now - ON FiRE 2026 | Saturday, Sept. 12 | 9A - 7P

Don't miss the 17th annual ON FiRE at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, CA. This year we are excited to welcome the Joe Melendrez, Francis Cabildo, and Fr. Edwin Leonard to the main stage to inspire and challenge the youth from all over Northern California. For more information and ways you and your teen can get involved visit www.onfirenorcal.com

Consigue tus entradas ahora - ON FiRE 2026 | Sábado, 12 de Septiembre de 9A a 7P

No te pierdas la 17ª edición anual de ON FiRE en Six Flags Discovery Kingdom en Vallejo, CA. Este año nos complace dar la bienvenida a Joe Melendrez, Francis Cabildo y al Padre Edwin Leonard en el escenario principal para inspirar y desafiar a los jóvenes de todo el Norte de California. Encuentra más información y descubre cómo tú y tu hijo adolescente pueden participar en www.onfirenorcal.com