



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 Bilingual

Wednesday, Thurs., & Friday 830A

Sunday Readings

1st Reading Isaiah 2:1-5**Psalm** 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Vayamos con alegría al encuentro del Señor.

2nd Reading Romans 13:11-14**Gospel** Matthew 24:37-44

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30TH

Sunday; November 30 For All the Faithful Departed † 1030A

Domingo; 30 de Noviembre Por Todos los Feles Difuntos † 1230P español

Tues.; December 2 Leo & Gert Valentine † **830A**Wed.; December 3 Lou Hubbert † 830A
For the Intentions of Dorothy Cliff

Thurs.; December 4 Intentions of Raul & Helvia Saavedra 830A

Friday; December 5 Thomas Durant † 830A
For the Intentions of David Brown

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

Rod Montgomery
Raul Saavedra
Jose Raul Rivera
Mary Anne Durant
Isabel Rivera Leon
Andrea Inzunza
Joan Memmer
Leo Benedetti
Kim Avoy Helgeson
James McManusSamia Zumout
Greg DeCristofaro
Carrie Sonsteng
Art Sanchez
Santiago Avila
Joe DiDuca
Barbara Mesa
Carlos Torres
Bernhard FamilyTim Steffen
Elaine Little
Ron Keyes
Theresa Durant
Sam Kempner
Richard Carmack
Helvia Saavedra
Celia Topete

NOVEMBER INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO XIV

For The Prevention of Suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts
might find the support, care, and love they need in
their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

INTENCIONES DE NOVIEMBRE DEL PAPA LEÓN XIV

Para la prevención del suicidio

Oremos para que quienes luchan con pensamientos suicidas encuentren
el apoyo, la atención y el amor que necesitan en su comunidad,
y se abran a la belleza de la vida.

PRAY FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY



This Week's Readings

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Monday; December 1

1st Reading: Isaiah 4:2-6

Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday; December 2nd

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Gospel: Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday; Dec. 3rdMemorial of Saint
Francis Xavier, Priest

1st Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Gospel: Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday; Dec. 4th

1st Reading: Isaiah 26:1-6

Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday; Dec. 5th

1st Reading: Isaiah 29:17-24

Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday; Dec. 6th

1st Reading: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26

Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday; December 7th

Second Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

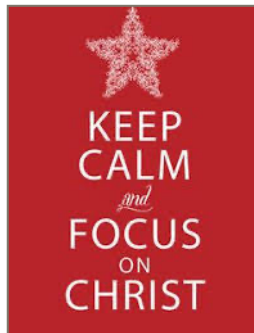
Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

Waiting for Christ

Each new year, as it passes, brings us the same warnings again and again,

and none perhaps more impressive than those with which it comes to us at this season.... The year is worn out. Spring, summer, autumn, each in turn, have brought their gifts and done their utmost, but they are over, and the end is come.... Thus the soul is cast forward upon the future, and in proportion as its conscience is clear and its perception true does it rejoice solemnly that the night is advanced, the day is at hand, that there are a new heaven and a new earth (Rv 21:1) to come, though the former are failing. Nay, rather, because they are failing, it will soon see the king in his beauty and behold a land that stretches afar (Is 33:17).

These are feelings for [those] waiting....calmly though earnestly, for the advent of Christ. And such, too, are the feelings with which we now come before him in prayer day by day. The season is chill and dark, and the breath of the morning is damp, but all this befits those who are by profession penitents and mourners, watchers and pilgrims.... True faith does not covet comforts. It only complains when it is forbidden to kneel, when it reclines upon cushions.... Its only hardship is to be hindered, or to be ridiculed, when it would place itself as a sinner before its judge....

One year goes and then another, but the same warnings recur. The frost or rain comes again; the earth is stripped of its brightness; there is nothing to rejoice in. And then, amid this unprofitableness of earth and sky, the well-known words return: the prophet Isaiah is read, the same epistle and Gospel bidding us to awake from sleep and welcome him who comes in the name of the Lord, the same prayers, beseeching him to prepare us for judgment. O blessed are they who obey these warning voices, and look out for him whom they have not seen, because they have loved his appearing (2 Tm 4:8)....

At present, we are in a world of shadows..... Suddenly it will be rent in twain and vanish away, and our Maker will appear. He will look on us, while we look on him.

— SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

Saint John Henry Newman († 1890) was a convert to the Catholic faith & a preacher of great eloquence. He was made a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879. / From *Waiting for Christ: Meditations for Advent and Christmas*. Copyright © 2018, Augustine Institute, Greenwood Village, CO. All rights reserved.

Excerpt from *Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, November 30, 2025*

HOMILY NOTES

El 30 de noviembre comienza el primer domingo de Adviento y culmina nuestro mes especial de devoción a las Benditas Ánimas del Purgatorio. Sin embargo, la oración por nuestros queridos difuntos, las Benditas Ánimas del Purgatorio, continúa.

RECORDANDO A NUESTROS SERES QUERIDOS MUERTOS DURANTE LA TEMPORADA NAVIDEÑA

Los católicos pueden recordar a sus seres queridos fallecidos durante la Navidad incluyéndolos en rituales como encender velas conmemorativas o poner un plato extra en la mesa. (Una tradición irlandesa).

Los católicos también rezan por las almas del purgatorio, celebran una misa por sus seres queridos fallecidos y participan en servicios religiosos o eventos en el cementerio diseñados para honrar a los seres queridos. Damos la bienvenida al Adviento y a la alegría del nacimiento de nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo. Sin embargo, para muchos, la Navidad también puede ser un momento estresante, especialmente al afrontar la partida de un ser querido.

10 maneras de honrar a nuestros seres queridos muertos

1. Participe en servicios conmemorativos como una "Misa del Recuerdo" o únase a eventos como la iluminación de un "Árbol del Recuerdo" en los cementerios católicos, donde puede encender una vela o colocar un adorno en memoria del difunto.
2. Encienda una vela conmemorativa en un lugar especial de su hogar para encenderla en su memoria durante el Adviento, en la mañana de Navidad o en las comidas.
3. Añade un adorno especial a tu árbol de Navidad en su memoria.
4. Crea una corona de recuerdos con fotos u objetos que te los recuerden.
5. Ofrezcan oraciones por las almas del purgatorio. (Las oraciones se publicaron en la edición del 2 de noviembre del Boletín STM y hay copias en el nártex).
6. Reza por la liberación de las almas del purgatorio el día de Navidad*, día en que se cree que reciben una liberación especial. (Ver la oración y las notas de oración en la parte superior de la última página). (Nota: En inglés.)
7. Honre su memoria a través de actos de servicio a su parroquia.
8. Done a su parroquia o organización benéfica que fue importante para ellos.
9. Visita su lugar de descanso, deja una corona o decora su urna con luces.
10. Regale un regalo simbólico en su memoria a su parroquia.



November 30 begins Advent and is the end of our special month of devotion to the Holy Souls in Purgatory! However prayer for the our beloved dead, the holy souls purgatory, continues on!

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED DEAD DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Catholics can remember their beloved dead during Christmas by including them in rituals like lighting memorial candles or setting an extra place at the dinner table. (An Irish tradition.)

Catholics also pray for the souls in purgatory, have a Mass celebrated for their beloved dead, and participate in church services or cemetery events designed to honor loved ones.

We welcome the Advent Season and await the joy of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. However, there are those for whom the Christmas season is a stressful time, especially when coping with the passing of loved ones.

Here are 11 ways to honor our beloved dead

1. Participate in memorial services such as a "Mass of Remembrance" or join events like the lighting of a "Tree of Remembrance" at Catholic cemeteries, where you can light a candle or place an ornament in memory of the deceased.
2. Light a memorial candle in a special place in your home to be lit in their memory during Advent, on Christmas morning or at mealtimes.
3. Add a special ornament to your Christmas tree in their memory.
4. Create a memory wreath of photos or objects reminding you of them.
5. Offer prayers for the holy souls in purgatory. (Prayers published in the Nov 2 edition of the STM Bulletin & copies are in the narthex.)
6. Pray the release of souls from purgatory prayer on Christmas Day*, a day they are believed to be particularly released. (See top of back page for prayer and prayer notes.)
7. Honor their memory through acts of service to your parish.
8. Donate to their parish or to a charity that was important to them.
9. Visit their resting place, leave wreath or decorate their urn with lights.
10. Give a symbolic gift in their memory to your parish.
11. Need to talk someone? The STM Grief Support Ministry is available to support people grieving the death of a loved one. Call Cheryl Barron at 530-514-8859.

SOURCE: : <https://covenantcatholic.org/devotion-of-the-month/november-dedicated-to-the-poor-souls/>; EWTN Seasons & Feast Days / All Souls Day.

***Notes on the Christmas Day Prayer for Release of Our Beloved Souls From Purgatory**

A traditional Christmas Day prayer to ask for the release of souls from purgatory is attributed to St. Gertrude the Great. The prayer is: "Eternal Father, I offer You the most precious blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen." Note: This prayer is traditional and can be prayed, but the Church officially cautions against claiming it releases a specific number of souls (per Pope Leo XIII's 1897 decree, Acts of the Holy See 32 p. 24) While it's believed that many souls are released on Christmas day, the Church encourages prayer & charity to help alleviate their suffering.

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.

Attention: Important Mass Change

Tuesday Mass time change for December!

Father Chuck will celebrate Tuesday Mass at 8:30A.

**Knights of Columbus See's Candy Sale**

It's baaacck! The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree members are once again selling yummy See's Candy just in time for the Christmas Season. Candy sales fund their scholarship program.

A 1-pound box is just \$30.00 and makes a great Christmas or hostess gift. Please support the Knight's scholarship fund by purchasing a box or two after Mass.

**ANNUAL
WOMEN OF STM**

**Christmas
Party**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH
5:00 p.m.
AT THE REHMANN HOME

**Holiday
in Paradise**

*Paradise Community Chorus &
Paradise Symphony Orchestra*

Get tickets from Madeline Riley, Pat Strickland, Tina Howard, Chris & Rolawn Rehmann, or Lenora Wong! This will be a wonderful concert & fabulous way to ring in the Christmas Season here on the Ridge!

Special Meeting Dec. 10

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.

Our first meeting is December 10th at 6p, in the St. Vincent de Paul Room.

After Dec. 10, the meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

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

**MEN'S MINISTRY**

Friday, Dec. 5 | 7A | Church Hall Small Room

**ADORATION**

Friday, Dec. 5 | Following 830A Mass
Adoration ends at 6P