



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-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 11:1-10**Psalm** 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace
for ever.

Ven, Señor, rey de justicia y de paz.

2nd Reading Romans 15:4-9**Gospel** Matthew 3:1-12

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 7TH

Sunday; December 7	Greg DeCristofaro Shirley Richards	1030A
---------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------

Domingo; 7 de Diciembre	For Julian Torres on his birthday	1230P español
--------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------

Mon.; December 8 <i>A Holy Day of Obligation</i> <i>Immaculate Conception-Virgin Mary</i>	James McManus † Lani McManus	830A 530p 7p español
--	---------------------------------	---

Tues.; December 9	Bill Bechtold †	830A
--------------------------	-----------------	------

Wed.; December 10	For the people of St. Thomas More	830A
--------------------------	-----------------------------------	------

Thurs.; December 11	Stacey Crook	830A
----------------------------	--------------	------

Friday; December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	For the people of St. Thomas More Personas de STM	830A 6P español
--	--	--------------------

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

Samia Zumout
Greg DeCristofaro
Carrie Sonsteng
Art Sanchez
Santiago Ávila
Joe DiDuca
Carlos Torres
Bernhard Family
Tony & Francene Packett

Tim Steffen
Elaine Little
Ron Keyes
Theresa Durant
Sam Kempner
Richard Carmack
Helvia Saavedra
Celia Topete

DECEMBER INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO XIV

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

INTENCIONES DE DICIEMBRE DEL PAPA LEÓN XIV

Para los cristianos en zonas de conflictoOremos 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

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Monday; December 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1st Reading: Genesis 3:9-15, 20

Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday; December 9th

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13

The Lord our God comes with power.

Gospel: Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday; December 10th

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:25-31

Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10

O bless the Lord, my soul!

Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday; December 11th

1st Reading: Isaiah 41:13-20

Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab

The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger, and of great kindness.

Gospel: Matthew 11:11-15

Friday; December 12th Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

1st Reading: Zechariah 2:14-17 or

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

Psalm Judith 13:18bcde, 19

You are the highest honor of our race.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

Saturday; Dec. 13th Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

1st Reading: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11

Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel: Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday; December 14th**Third Sunday of Advent**

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10.

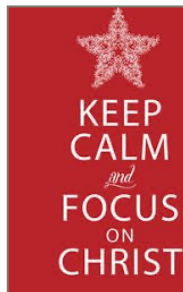
Lord, come and save us.

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

The Advent Witness of John the Baptist

Mother Church places John the Baptist before her children precisely as we are

preparing for Christmas for a good reason.... His life and message remind us that Advent is not yet Christmas—that this penitential time leads to joy only if we heed its message. John the Baptist—who leaped for joy in his mother's womb—is joy's perfect messenger because he shows us its necessary elements: repentance, humility, and sacrifice.

First, repentance. We confuse joy with pleasure. [But] Christian joy is something deeper and more lasting.... It is spiritual, not physical, something that does not depend on things outside of us but in fact works from the inside out. It can coincide with physical and even deep emotional suffering. Most of all, it comes about not because we get our own way but because God's will is accomplished in us. In short, it comes from union with him.... Thus John's message of repentance... prompts us to leave sin behind and conform our wills to God's, to reestablish union with him, our exceeding joy (Ps 43:4). Indeed, the mere knowledge of the possibility of being forgiven already causes rejoicing. The only sorrow greater than sin is not having a way out of it.... John's call to repentance announces the One Who alone can free us....

Second, humility.... Jerusalem & all Judea and all the region about the Jordan went out to see him, and yet John directed all the attention, honor, and reverence to our Lord.... His parting words say it all: He must increase, but I must decrease (Jn 3:30).... Humility means to surrender our own space, not to be concerned about our ego, our own little world. Pride refuses the Lord entry out of fear of not having its own way. Humility rejoices in God—and therefore in all circumstances.... Finally, sacrifice. John's asceticism is the first thing we notice about him. He did not live for this world. He was not out to make a name for himself, to become wealthy or popular or even comfortable. His life was constantly being surrendered as a witness to Christ.... John the Baptist shows that we attain joy only by the giving of ourselves, by renouncing ourselves & our own desires in the gift of self to another. This renunciation witnesses to the truth of higher, even eternal, goods.... John the Baptist extends to us the truest joy—that of being in union with our Lord, experiencing his increase in our hearts, and serving him generously. —FATHER JOHN SCALIA

Father Scalia is a priest in the diocese of Arlington, Virginia, where he serves as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and the pastor of Saint James in Falls Church. / From *That Nothing May Be Lost: Reflections on Catholic Doctrine & Devotion*. © 2017, Ignatius Press, San Francisco, CA. www.ignatius.com.

Excerpt from *Magnificat Magazine*, Meditation of the Day, December 7, 2025

HOMILY NOTES



Bienvenidos a diciembre y al Santo Tiempo de Adviento. Dedicamos este mes a la Inmaculada Concepción. El Papa Sixto IV estableció la festividad y misa oficial de la Inmaculada Concepción para el 8 de diciembre. Esta fecha fue elegida acertadamente, ya que es exactamente nueve meses antes de la Natividad de María, el 8 de septiembre.



“La Santísima Virgen María, en el primer instante de su concepción, por singular privilegio y gracia de Dios omnipotente, en consideración a los méritos de Jesucristo, Salvador de la humanidad, fue preservada de toda mancha de pecado original.”-(Papa Pío IX, Ineffabilis Deus, Denzinger n. 1641)

LA PRIMERA SEÑAL DE SU VENIDA

En la tradición católica, diciembre es el primer mes del año litúrgico. Comenzamos el año con la expectativa de la llegada del Niño Jesús, reflexionando con asombro sobre todo lo que significa su nacimiento. La Sagrada Escritura nos dice que la señal de la venida del Salvador es la Virgen (Isaías 7:14). Esta Virgen es la Madre de Dios y el Arca de la Nueva Alianza. Al considerar a la Santísima Virgen María y la clase de criatura que debió ser quien llevó a Dios en su vientre, nos sentimos impulsados a amarla y venerarla como la Inmaculada.

¿Por qué diciembre está dedicado a la Inmaculada Concepción?

Casi 350 años después de que se estableciera la fiesta, la Santísima Virgen se apareció a Santa Catalina Labouré, dándole una visión detallada de la Medalla Milagrosa que quería que se acuñara y distribuyera. Prometió grandes gracias a todos los que llevarán la medalla en la que se escribiría la oración: “Oh, María, sin pecado concebida, ruega por nosotros que recurrimos a Ti”. Se han atribuido muchos milagros al uso de la Medalla Milagrosa, lo que da una prueba más de la Inmaculada Concepción.

Aunque diciembre es el mes del nacimiento de Nuestro Señor, la Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción es un precursor oportuno, pues nos recuerda que no se admitió ninguna impureza en el Arca que llevó a Jesús durante los nueve meses previos a su nacimiento. Por ello, todo el mes pasó a estar dedicado a la Inmaculada Concepción, en honor a la pureza inmaculada tanto de la Madre como del Hijo. Esta devoción de diciembre nos permite profundizar nuestra comprensión de esta Verdad y honrar a María como el ejemplo más alto del propósito cumplido de la humanidad: estar unidos a Dios en perfecta pureza y hacer la voluntad de Dios con perfecta obediencia, humildad y amor. La Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción, el 8 de diciembre, un día santo de precepto, celebra a María Inmaculada, pura y sin mancha desde el momento de su concepción.

Horarios de misa en STM: 830A & 530P (English) | 7P (Español)

FUENTE: <https://covenantcatholic.org/devotion-of-the-month/december-dedicated-the-immaculate-conception-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary/>

Welcome to December and the Holy Advent Season. We devote this month to the Immaculate Conception. Pope Sixtus IV established the official feast and Mass of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8th. This date was fittingly selected, as it is exactly nine months before Mary's Nativity on September 8th.

“The Blessed Virgin Mary, at the first instant of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace of the omnipotent God, in consideration of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of Mankind, was preserved from all stain of original sin.”-(Pope Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus, Denzinger n. 1641)

THE FIRST SIGN OF HIS COMING

In Catholic tradition, December is the first month of the Liturgical year. We begin the year in anticipation of the coming of the Christ Child, pondering with wonder all that His birth signifies. Sacred Scripture tells us that the sign of the coming of the Savior is the Virgin (Isaiah 7:14). This Virgin is the Mother of God & the Ark of the New Covenant. As we consider the Blessed Virgin Mary and what manner of creature she must be who carried God in her womb, we are moved to love and venerate her as the Immaculate.

Why December is Dedicated to the Immaculate Conception

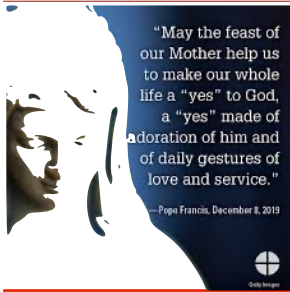
Nearly 350 years after the feast was established, the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Catherine Labouré, giving her a detailed vision of the Miraculous Medal that she wanted struck and distributed. She promised great graces to all who wore the medal upon which was to be written the prayer: “O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee.” Many miracles have been attached to the wearing of the Miraculous Medal, giving further proof of the Immaculate Conception.

Although December is the month of the birth of Our Lord, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a fitting precursor as it reminds us that there could be no impurity admitted into the Ark that carried Jesus for 9 months before His birth. Thus, the entire month came to be dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, honoring the spotless purity of both the Mother and the Son.

This December devotion allows us to deepen our understanding of this Truth, and honor Mary as the highest example of mankind's purpose fulfilled – to be united to God in perfect purity & to do the will of God with perfect obedience, humility, and love. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Dec 8, a Holy Day of Obligation, celebrates Mary Immaculate, pure & spotless from the moment of her conception.

Mass times at STM: 8:30A & 530P (English) | 7P (Español)

Source: <https://covenantcatholic.org/devotion-of-the-month/december-dedicated-the-immaculate-conception-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary/>

**REMINDER!****Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary****A Holy Day of Obligation - Monday; Dec. 8****MASS TIMES: 8:30A & 530P (English) | 7P (Español)****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

Attention: Important Mass ChangeTuesday 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

LAST PERFORMANCE - TODAY - 3P!

Get tickets from Madeline Riley, Pat Strickland, Tina Howard, Chris & Rolawn Rehmann, or Lenora Wong!
A great musical tradition 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. 12 | 7A | Church Hall Small Room

**ADORATION**Friday; Dec. 12 | Following 830A Mass
Adoration ends at 6P