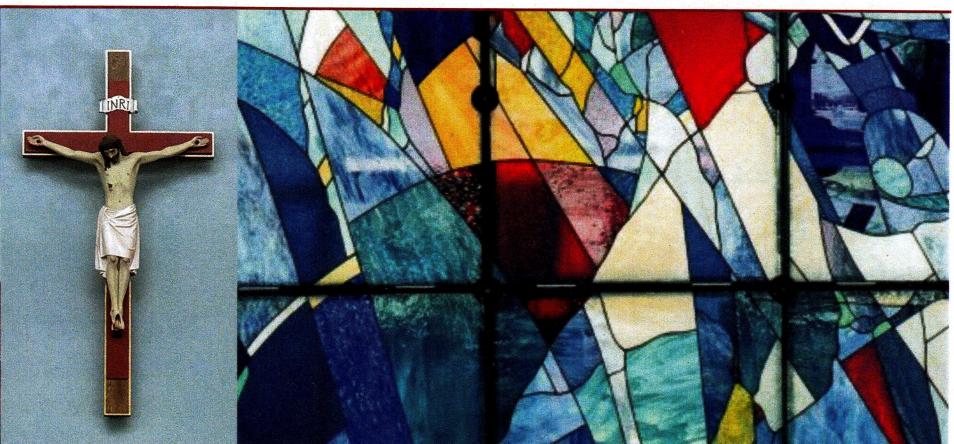
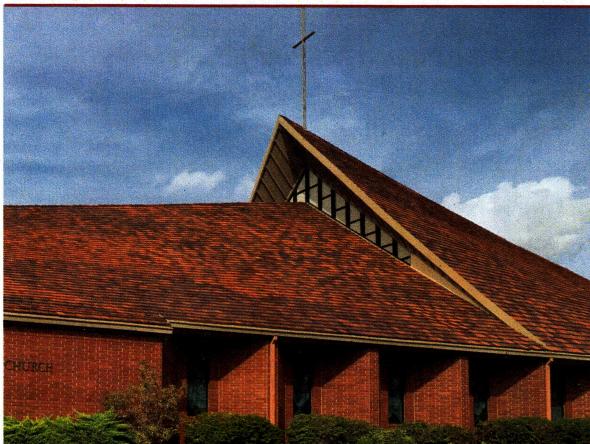




# ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH


[www.stmparadise.org](http://www.stmparadise.org)

530.877.4501

 Email: [office@stmparadise.org](mailto: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)

**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 6P  
Wednesday, Thurs., & Friday 830A

## Sunday Readings

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Sirach 15:15-20  
**Psalm** 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Dichoso el que cumple la voluntad del Señor.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** 1 Corinthians 2:6-10  
**Gospel** Matthew 5:17-37

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>

**Sunday; February 15**
*Maria Gerspacher  
Sister Mary Cunningham, H.M. †* 1030A

**Domingo; 15 de febrero**
*Margarita Rivera León y familia  
Cris y Lore Nazareno (25 aniversario de boda)* 1230P español

**Tues.; February 17**
*Carol Zellmer †  
David Brown* 6p

**Wed.; February 18**
*Larry Campbell †  
David Ferree † on the 10 year anniversary of his death* 830A

**Thurs.; February 19**
*Ken Campbell †  
Michael Sobrero †* 830A

**Friday; February 20**
*Jim & Barbarita Brown  
Daniel Priemesberger †* 830A

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

Rod Montgomery  
Steve Neeley  
Kim Steffen-Parkney  
Mary Anne Durant  
Isabel Rivera Leon  
Andrea Inzunza  
Joan Memmer  
Leo Benedetti  
Kim Avoy Helgeson  
Gloria Klinger

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

Tim Steffen  
Elaine Little  
Ron Keyes  
Theresa Durant  
Sam Kempner  
Richard Carmack  
Dolores Costello  
Barbara Braun  
Rosemary Peterson

## FEBRUARY INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO XIV

*For children with incurable diseases*

*Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.*

## INTENCIÓNES DE FEBRERO DEL PAPA LEÓN XIV

*Para los niños con enfermedades incurables*

*Oremos para que los niños que padecen enfermedades incurables y sus familias reciban la atención médica y el apoyo necesarios, sin perder nunca la fuerza ni la esperanza.*

## This Week's Readings

### SIXTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

#### Monday; February 16<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: James 1:1-11  
 Psalm 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76  
*Be kind to me, Lord, and I shall live.*  
 Gospel: Mark 8:11-13

#### Tuesday; February 17<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: James 1:12-18  
 Psalm 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19  
*Blessed the man you instruct, O Lord.*  
 Gospel: Mark 8:14-21

#### Wednesday; February 18<sup>th</sup> ASH WEDNESDAY

1st Reading: Joel 2:12-18  
 Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17  
*Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*  
 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2  
 Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

#### Thursday; Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
 Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6  
*Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.*  
 Gospel: Luke 9:22-25

#### Friday; Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

1st Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a  
 Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19  
*A heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.*  
 Gospel: Matthew 9:14-15

#### Saturday; February 21<sup>st</sup> SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

1st Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14  
 Psalm 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
*Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth.*  
 Gospel: Luke 5:27-32

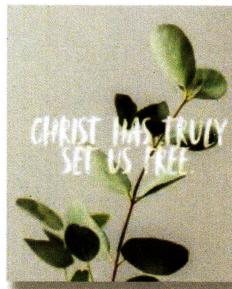
#### Sunday; February 22<sup>nd</sup>

**First Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7  
 Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17  
*Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*  
 2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19  
 Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

## MEDITATION OF THE DAY

### Set Free by Christ's Law



**In God alone can the human will find absolute and perfect peace.** God is the only end of man. All our life on earth is the truthful and exact image of a pilgrimage. Now Christ is the "Way," for we can never reach God, the supreme and ultimate good, by this toilsome and doubtful road of mortal life, except with Christ as our leader and guide. How so? Firstly and chiefly by his grace; but this would remain "void" in man if the precepts of his law were neglected. For as was necessarily the case after Jesus Christ had won our salvation, he left behind him his Law for the protection and welfare of the human race, under the guidance of which men, converted from evil life, might safely tend towards God. Going, teach ye all nations...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you (Mt 28:19-20)....

**Various natural appetites attract man on one side and the other;** the allurements of the material world impel his soul to follow after what is pleasant rather than the law of Christ. Still, we must strive our best and resist our natural inclinations with all our strength unto the obedience of Christ. For unless they obey reason, they become our masters, and carrying the whole man away from Christ, make him their slave....

**In this contest, every man must be prepared to undergo hardships and troubles for Christ's sake.** It is difficult to reject what so powerfully entices and delights. It is hard and painful to despise the supposed goods of the senses and of fortune for the will and precepts of Christ our Lord. But the Christian is absolutely obliged to be firm, and patient in suffering, if he wish to lead a Christian life....

**It is reasonable, therefore, not to expect an end to troubles in this world,** but rather to steel one's soul to bear troubles, by which we are taught to look forward with certainty to supreme happiness. Christ has not promised eternal bliss in heaven to riches, nor to a life of ease, to honors, or to power, but to long-suffering and to tears, to the love of justice and to cleanness of heart. — POPE LEO XIII

Pope Leo XIII († 1903) reigned from 1878 to 1903. / From *Tametsi Futura Prospicientibus*, Encyclical on Jesus Christ the Redeemer, St. Peter's, Rome, November 1900. [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

Excerpt from *Magnificat Magazine*, Meditation of the Day, February 15, 2026

## HOMILY NOTES

**¡Bienvenidos a febrero! Este mes está dedicado a la Sagrada Familia, una rica tradición que nos invita a reflexionar sobre la importancia eterna de la vida familiar dentro de la tradición católica.**

La Iglesia instituyó oficialmente la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia en 1893, cuando el Papa León XIII la aprobó. Posteriormente, en 1921, el Papa Benedicto XV la extendió a toda la Iglesia, tras el desarrollo de esta devoción en el siglo XVII.

[La Sagrada Familia] sufrió las pruebas de la pobreza, la persecución y el exilio. Glorificó a Dios de una manera incomparablemente exaltada y pura. Y sin duda ayudará a las familias cristianas —de hecho, a todas las familias del mundo— a ser fieles a sus deberes cotidianos, a soportar las preocupaciones y las tribulaciones de la vida, a ser abiertas y generosas a las necesidades de los demás y a cumplir con alegría el plan de Dios para con ellas.— San Juan Pablo II

Una de las formas claves de aumentar la devoción a la Sagrada Familia es consagrar a su familia a través de las oraciones a continuación:

### CONSAGRANDO TU FAMILIA A LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

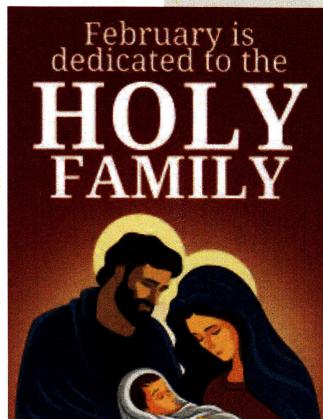
Oh Jesús, nuestro amantísimo Redentor, que, habiendo venido a iluminar al mundo con tu enseñanza y ejemplo, quisiste pasar la mayor parte de tu vida en humildad y sujeción a María y José en el pobre hogar de Nazaret, santificando así a la Familia que sería ejemplo para todas las familias cristianas, recibe benignamente a nuestra familia que se dedica y consagra a ti este día. Protégenos, guárdanos y establece entre nosotros tu santo temor, la verdadera paz y la concordia en el amor cristiano: para que, viviendo según el divino modelo de tu familia, podamos, todos sin excepción, alcanzar la felicidad eterna.

María, querida Madre de Jesús y Madre nuestra, por tu amable intercesión, haz que esta nuestra humilde ofrenda sea aceptable a la vista de Jesús, y obtén para nosotros sus gracias y bendiciones.

Oh San José, santísimo Custodio de Jesús y María, ayúdanos con tus oraciones en todas nuestras necesidades espirituales y temporales, para que podamos alabar a nuestro divino Salvador Jesús, juntamente con María y contigo, por toda la eternidad.

Rezar tres veces:  
Padrenuestro... Aven María... Gloria...

Amén



**The month of February is devoted to the Holy Family, a rich tradition that invites us to reflect on the eternal significance of family life within the Catholic tradition.**

The Church officially instituted the Feast of the Holy Family in 1893 when Pope Leo XIII approved it. It was later extended to the universal Church in 1921 by Pope Benedict XV, following the development of the devotion in the 17th century.

“[The Holy Family] underwent trials of poverty, persecution, and exile. It glorified God in an incomparably exalted and pure way. And it will not fail to help Christian families – indeed, all the families in the world – to be faithful to their day-to-day duties, to bear the cares and tribulations of life, to be open and generous to the needs of others, and to fulfill with joy the plan of God in their regard.” — St. John Paul II

One of the key ways to increase devotion to the Holy Family is to consecrate your family to them through the prayers below –

### CONSECRATING YOUR FAMILY TO THE HOLY FAMILY

O Jesús, our most loving Redeemer, who, having come to enlighten the world with Your teaching and example, did will to spend the greater part of Your life in humility and subjection to Mary and Joseph in the poor home of Nazareth, thus sanctifying the Family that was to be an example for all Christian families, graciously receive our family as it dedicates and consecrates itself to You this day. Protect us, guard us, and establish among us Your holy fear, true peace, and concord in Christian love: so that by living according to the divine pattern of Your family we may be able, all of us without exception, to attain to eternal happiness.

Mary, dear Mother of Jesus and Mother of us, by your kindly intercession, make this, our humble offering, acceptable in the sight of Jesus, and obtain for us His graces and blessings.

O Saint Joseph, most holy Guardian of Jesus and Mary, help us by your prayers in all our spiritual and temporal needs; so that we may be enabled to praise our divine Savior Jesus, together with Mary and you, for all eternity.

Recite three times:  
Our Father... Hail Mary.... Glory Be...

Amen

**MEN'S MINISTRY NEW TIME!**Friday, Feb. 20 | **930A** | Church Hall Mtg Rm.**Knight's Valentines Day Pancake Breakfast****TODAY! AFTER BOTH MASSES**

The St. Thomas More Knights of Columbus host a Valentine's Day breakfast of pancakes, eggs & sausage after both Masses today. This gives us a wonderful opportunity to gather with loved ones and fellow parishioners to share the love we have for each other.

**Cost** is \$10.00 per person or \$30.00 per family.

**Proceeds** go to the scholarship fund.

**Questions?** See Jim Collins after Mass.

**Ladies Bible Study This Thursday!**

The Ladies Bible Study is now studying the Gospel of Matthew. Please join us Thursday at 1P in the Parish Hall's small meeting room.  
All ladies are welcome.

**Questions?** Call Gail Crowley 530-877-8474  
**Next study session Thursday, February 19 at 1P**

**ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS!!****Mass Time Change For the month of March:  
The Tuesday 6P Mass will move to 830A**

This move is only for the month of March and enables Father Chuck to support brother priests at local parishes during Lent.

Sorry for the inconvenience. Thanks for understanding.

**ATTENTION WOMEN OF THE PARISH****THE NEXT WOMEN OF STM MEETING  
SATURDAY; FEB. 21 at 10A**

**Did you know...** all women of STM are automatic members of this women's group? Please stop by and check out this wonderful group of spirit filled ladies!

You'll be pleasantly surprised.



**Attention All Men of STM:** Listen, Jesus is calling! Have you signed up for The Men's Retreat yet? It's Feb 27 to March 1.

Why should you go? So glad you asked! Below are the top 10 experiences that will happen when you go to the Men's Retreat.

**At the Men's Retreat you will:**

1. Relax the body and the spirit!
2. Find time for peace, recollection, and reflection.
3. Discover answers to pressing problems.
4. Be released from tensions and fears.
5. Get help from God to make important decisions.
6. Learn more about your Catholic faith.
7. Gain new insight on God's personal love for you!
8. Enjoy a weekend of good food & great company.
9. Engage in interesting & practical talks on spiritual issues.
10. Receive a rich blessing! This year's retreat will focus on "Listen, Jesus is calling! A pilgrimage of our hearts".

*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in the midst of them." —Matthew 18:20*

The Retreat is getting close but there's still time to register online at <https://christthekingretreatcenter.org/> or by mail (the address is on the Info Sheet), or call 916-725-4720.

Registration: \$290-Single | \$260-Double  
Ride share available, see Gary | Partial scholarships available just call  
Pick up a flyer in the narthex for details.

**Feb. 18 | 18 de febrero**

- **830A Mass (English)**
- **530P Liturgy of the Word (English)**
- **7P Liturgia de la Palabra (Español)**  
(Música: Voces de Fe)

**STM Updates Online Giving Platform!**

St. Thomas More now offers WeShare, an online giving platform that offers our parishioners a convenient and flexible way to give to STM anytime, from anywhere!

WeShare accepts credit cards, bank transfers, pay apps like Apple Pay, even bitcoin! Simply focus your smartphone's camera on the QR code (at left), click the link, and follow the prompts. Easy!

Find WeShare online at [stmparadise.com](http://stmparadise.com). At the top of the Home Page click Online Giving, follow the prompts. You can also take a pic of the QR code above & keep it in your phone for future giving.