

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

About St. Thomas More

Parish Steward Greg Kidder
Priest Supvr. Fr Martin J. Ramat

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
 767 Elliott Rd. Paradise, CA 95969
 Office Hrs: Mon. - Thurs. 9a-2p
 530.877.4501 (Office closed Friday)
MASS Every Sunday at 1 p.m.
CONFESSION 1st Thursday 5P - 6P

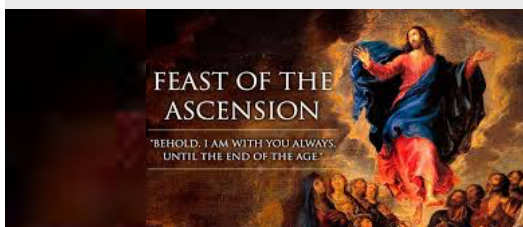
Important Dates

24May: Ascension of the Lord / Solemnity
 31May: Pentecost Sunday
 01June: Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
 01June: Mother of the Church
 27June: STM Women's **Away** Mtg in Red Bluff
 SHELTER-IN-PLACE MANDATE STILL IN AFFECT

Sunday Readings

Seventh Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 God mounts his throne to
 shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for
 the Lord.
2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20



MEDITATION of the DAY

The Sweet Foretaste of Heaven

The central idea in the liturgy today is the raising of our hearts toward heaven, so that we may begin to dwell in spirit where Jesus has gone before us. "Christ's Ascension," says Saint Leo, "is our own ascension; our body has the hope of one day being where its glorious head has preceded it." In fact, our Lord had already said in his discourse after the Last Supper, *I go to prepare a place for you. And if I shall go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself; that where I am, you also may be.*

The Ascension is, then, a feast of joyful hope, a sweet foretaste of heaven. By going before us, Jesus our head has given us the right to

Meditation of the Day continues on the next page.

May INTENTIONS of the HOLY FATHER

For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR MAY 24, 2020

Al Penna[†]

Larry Campbell[†]

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK - LET US PRAY FOR

Sam Weaver
Arianna Ospina
Gina Carr

May is the month of The Blessed Virgin Mary,
 Mother of the Church

The Week's Readings

Monday; May 25th **MONDAY of the 7th WEEK of EASTER**

1st Reading: Acts 19:1-8

Psalms 68 *Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.*

Gospel: John 16:29-33

Tuesday; May 26th **TUESDAY of the 7th WEEK of EASTER**

1st Reading: Acts 20:17-27

Psalms 68 *Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth*

Gospel: John 17:1-11a

Wed.; May 27th **WED of the 7th WEEK of EASTER**

1st Reading: Acts 20:28-38

Psalms 68 *Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth*

Gospel: John 17:11b-19

Thurs.; May 28th **THURSDAY of the 7th WEEK of EASTER**

1st Reading: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

Psalms 16 *Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.*

Gospel: John 17:20-26

Friday; May 29th **FRIDAY of the 7th WEEK of EASTER**

1st Reading: Acts 25:13b-21

Psalms 103 *The Lord has established his throne in heaven.*

Gospel: John 21:15-19

Sat.; May 30th **SATURDAY of the 7th WEEK of EASTER**

1st Reading: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

Psalms 11 *The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.*

Gospel: John 21:20-25



Continued from front page.

MEDITATION of the DAY: The Sweet Foretaste of Heaven follow him there some day, and we can even say with Saint Leo, "In the person of Christ, we have penetrated the heights of heaven." As in Christ Crucified we die to sin, as in the risen Christ we rise to the life of grace, so too, we are raised up to heaven in the Ascension of Christ. This vital participation in Christ's mysteries is the essential consequence of our incorporation in him. He is our head; we, as his members, are totally dependent upon him and intimately bound to his destiny. God, who is rich in mercy, says Saint Paul, for his exceeding charity wherewith he loved us...hath quickened us together in Christ...and hath raised us up...and hath made us sit together in the heavenly places through Christ Jesus (Eph 2:4-6). Our right to heaven has been given us, our place is ready; it is for us to live in such a way that we may occupy it someday. Meanwhile, we must actualize the beautiful prayer which the liturgy puts on our lips: Grant, O almighty God, that we, too, may dwell in spirit in the heavenly mansions (Collect). Where thy treasure is, there is thy heart also, Jesus said one day. If Jesus is really our treasure, our heart cannot be anywhere but near him in heaven. This is the great hope of the Christian soul, so beautifully expressed in the hymn...: O Jesus, be the hope of our hearts, our joy in sorrow, the sweet fruit of our life.

Father Gabriel of Saint Mary MaGdalen, o.c.d.

Father Gabriel of Saint Mary Magdalen († 1952) was a Belgian Carmelite priest, teacher, and spiritual director.

Excerpt from **Magnificat**, May 2020, Sun., May 24th, Meditation of the Day

May, the Month of Mary

As the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary has a unique position among the saints, indeed, among all creatures. She is exalted, yet still one of us. Redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son and united to Him by a close and indissoluble tie, she is endowed with the high office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, by which account she is also the beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of this gift of sublime grace she far surpasses all creatures, both in heaven and on earth. At the same time, however, because she belongs to the offspring of Adam she is one with all those who are to be saved. (Lumen Gentium, no. 53)

Mary embraces God's will and freely chooses to cooperate with God's grace, thereby fulfilling a crucial role in God's plan of salvation. Throughout the centuries, the Church has turned to the Blessed Virgin in order to come closer to Christ. Many forms of piety toward the Mother of God developed that help bring us closer to her Son. In these devotions to Mary, "while the Mother is honored, the Son, through whom all things have their being and in whom it has pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, is rightly known, loved and glorified and . . . all His commands are observed." The Church honors her as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf.

St. Thomas More Welcome Home to the Ridge Campaign Begins This Week!

To support the rebuilding effort and returning and new residents, next week, our parish will launch a Welcome... Campaign targeting new and returning residents to the Ridge. We will present these residents with a "Welcome Home to the Ridge" gift consisting of a 5-ft tall Crepe Myrtle & reusable tote filled with goodies. Each presentation will be a small but mighty symbol of our love and gives STM a "face" to our new "neighbors." STM received a matching grant North Valley Community Foundation & The Butte Strong Fund that will enable us to reach out to more than 600 new & returning residents. The Campaign kicks off late next week with Greg & Yvonne Kidder. If you are interested in being a gift presenter, contact the church office to be added to the list. We already have a list of 160 new & returning residents to visit. We'll provide more details next week including a "How-to" and updates on the first visits.



Support St. Thomas More 1 of 3 Ways

Did you give your offering for this week? Our parish continues to pay its bills. Thanks be to God. If you haven't yet given your weekly offering you can TAKE ACTION 1 of 3 ways:

1. **Mail** your check to the office: St. Thomas More Catholic Church 767 Elliott Rd. Paradise, CA. 95969
 2. **Drop off** your check at the STM office during normal business hours Mon. to Thurs., 9a to 2p.
 3. **Go online** to stmparadise.net and click the STM PARISH GIVING button. It will take you to a special page that allows you to give by check, credit, or debit. It's simple, easy and quick!
- **The church office is open during normal hours** - Mon. to Thurs. 9a to 2p to take your calls. If you have something to drop off, do so during business hours; just knock and leave the item at the office door. We need to ensure safe social distancing practices.
 - **A daily cleaning & disinfectant process** is in place at STM.
 - **Mass is being celebrated privately by Fr. Martin** and offering intentions of the person(s) in our register.
 - **To request that a card be sent to a sick or bereaved parishioner** please call or email the church office.
 - **Our local St. Vincent de Paul team** is working from home. The Diocese team is training & working cases onsite using special COVID-19 protocols.

Reminder: Mass Virtual Options

1. Livestream Fr. Martin at **ODS** <https://www.ourdivinesavior.org/social-media->
2. Self-select time to view St. John the Baptist (**SJB**) Chico on Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcg6Zfo6jcnHdXDbU54XC8A>
3. Watch **EWTN** live on tv or online at <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live>
4. **From the e-version of this bulletin you can:** [Click here to see daily and weekend livestream Mass with Fr Martin](#) or go to the STM webpage or the ODS webpage ourdivinesavior.org and go to the link See Daily and Weekend Livestream Mass with Fr. Martin.

We regret to announce that long-time faithful servant and secretary of St. Thomas More, Marilyn Riley, died Monday May 11th. Fr. Brendan will be conducting her graveside funeral on Wednesday, May 27th, 1 p.m., at Calvary Cemetery in Citrus Heights, CA. Please add Marilyn and her family to your prayers this week.



An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and lead us to everlasting life. And may the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Diocese Pastoral Council Needs At-Large Member

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas More,

The Diocese Pastoral Council is looking for a person who is interested in being part of the input and information team to the Bishop as an "At-Large Member." This is a three-year commitment. Meetings take place six times a year. If you feel called to serve in this capacity please contact Deacon James for more information by calling 530.893.2348 or you can send an email to jburrkett7.jb@gmail.com.

REMINDERS!

For Mass Intentions please call the St. Thomas More Parish Office during office hours, Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 530.877.4501. You also may email Mass intentions to the office at office@stmparadise.org.

YOUR 40 CAN DONATIONS dropped off in person at the office during office hours as noted above. REMEMBER THE NEEDY! The food baskets are still in the vestibule. Your donations will go to the Community Resource Coalition. Sheltering in place has caused community need to grow exponentially. Questions? Call Greg DeCristofaro at 873-4132.

The Women of St. Thomas More set next meeting for Sat., June 27. It was decided this will be an **AWAY** meeting and will involve travel to Red Bluff for, hopefully, a late lunch & Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. More details soon!

Protect the Body God Has Given You! Keep Your Immune System Strong!

As the coronavirus pandemic continues and we work to flatten the curve it is especially important to protect your health by keeping your immune system strong.

- **Wash** your hands often & avoid touching your face.
- **Wear** a face covering when you go out in public.
- **Drink** plenty of water (at least 8 cups daily).
- **Exercise** (walk your neighborhood, a park, or a treadmill)
- **Eat** 5 to 7 servings of fruits & veggies daily
- **Rest!** (Get 7 to 8 hours of sleep nightly)

You Are Invited to Join the Charismatic Praise & Worship Prayer Group the 4th Monday of Each Month

When the quarantine is lifted, **STM is invited** to join with ODS and others from a variety of backgrounds each month in an atmosphere of love and mutual support. When it resumes, this Charismatic Praise & Worship Prayer group will help us grow in the love and knowledge of God, and offers a way to show this love in ourselves and to our neighbors.

Each Prayer Meeting includes a time of praise and worship in song along with a teaching. There also is time for prayer ministry and intercession. Everyone is welcomed to share what God has done or is doing in their lives as this is key to building up the faithful through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Songs of praise and worship connect with God through song and prayer for his majesty, his love, and his faithfulness; and thanks Him for his grace in our lives. This time of praise and thanksgiving may be in words, songs or through that way of praying without words.

The group will meet each month on the 4th Monday at ODS (566 Lassen Ave., Chico) in the Parish Office Prayer Rm; 6:30p to 8p. Questions? Call Deacon James: 893-2348.

We'll let you know the exact date & time !



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO
DIÓCESIS CATÓLICA ROMANA DE SACRAMENTO

Church activity related to COVID-19 is updated weekly on the diocesan website and includes links to all pertinent information related to the outbreak of the Coronavirus:

www.scd.org/coronavirus

You can also access this link from the STM website homepage:

www.stmparadise.net



When the shelter-in-place mandate ends, the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will resume. It's offered the first Thurs. each month during the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Come spend some quiet time with the Lord.