

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: Sunday at Noon

CONFESSION 1st Thursday 5P - 6P
(Call to schedule an appointment)

Important Dates

06DEC: 2nd Sunday of Advent Mass Noon in car

Watch for Mass details on STM website & Facebook

08DEC: The Immaculate Conception

25DEC: Christmas; The Nativity of the Lord

Sunday Readings

Second Sunday of Advent
Segundo Domingo de Adviento

1st Reading: IS 40:1-5, 9-11

PS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14 Lord, let us see
your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

Forgiveness of Sins

[We cannot give ourselves] to the liturgy of Advent without being made aware that a sense of sinfulness is being forced upon us: Deliver us from our sinfulness; break the chains that bind us captive: bring us out of darkness into light. Come, come! This urgent cry is for what? To set us free. Free from what? Sin. No exceptions are allowed...and each individual calls out for his own personal

Meditation of the Day continues on the next page

DECEMBER INTENTIONS of the HOLY FATHER

For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Por una vida de oración

Oramos para que nuestra relación personal con Jesucristo sea alimentada por la Palabra de Dios y una vida de oración.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR SUNDAY; DECEMBER 6TH

Betty Mollis †

Intentions of David Brown on his birthday

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK - LET US PRAY FOR

Sharon Wilson

Sam Weaver

Beverly Hegenbart

Chip Dow Abbie West

Suzie Aldrich

The Jennett Family

The Knechtel Family

**CONTINUE TO WATCH EMAIL, FACEBOOK, &
WEBSITE FOR CHANGES TO MASS SCHEDULES!**



This Week's Readings

Monday; December 7th Saint Ambrose

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 85 *Our God will come to save us!*

Gospel: Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday; Dec. 8th Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

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

Psalm 98 *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

Wednesday; December 9th

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:25-31

Psalm 103 *O bless the Lord, my soul!*

Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday; December 10th

1st Reading: Isaiah 41:13-20

Psalm 145 *The Lord is gracious & merciful; slow to anger, and of great kindness.*

Gospel: Matthew 11:11-15

Friday; December 11th

1st Reading: Isaiah 48:17-19

Psalm 1 *Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.*

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday; Dec. 12th Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

1st Reading: Zechariah 2:14-17

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

Psalm (Jdt 13) *You are the highest honor of our race.*

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

The next Sacrament of Reconciliation is set

for Thursday, Jan. 7 at STM. An appointment is required! To schedule yours please call the church office at 530.877.4501.

Meditation of the Day continued from front page.

MEDITATION of the DAY: Forgiveness of Sins

deliverance and for that of the whole human race. But there is nothing depressing in this cry for deliverance and the deep consciousness of sin which prompts it.... The cry the liturgy puts on our lips is a cry not of despair but of absolute hope—the certain hope that God will come and save us. He is...always in movement towards his sinful creation, running to it with outstretched arms to enfold, to wipe away all tears, banish fear and haunting guilt, affording us utmost security in his forgiving love. Some may feel that I speak too often of sin, rub it in too much. Others point out that what we need is encouragement, we are too aware already of our own miseries. But are we? Often what we are meaning and what we are confusing with an awareness of sin is self-disgust, self-disillusionment, which nearly every human being suffers from. We have an image in our mind's eye of what we are like, or would want to be like, or think we are really meant to be like, and we fall short of it. We "lose face" in our own eyes, and perhaps in the eyes of others.... What we bewail is largely our human poverty and this our Lord has no intention of taking away. This is what we would like to have removed from us. We are often far more concerned with this than with sin, and while we are occupied with it, battling against it, wringing our hands over it, we cannot be shown where real sin lies. An awareness of our real sinfulness is part of holiness. You simply cannot have holiness without it, for it is the inevitable effect of God's closeness; and this is why true sorrow for sin is never morbid, depressed. It carries with it the certainty of forgiveness....

Come and enlighten us, Sun of holiness. Show us our sloth, our pride, our shirking of the demands of life, our evasions. Reveal to us our sinfulness in the light of your mercy, and then we shall be healed and know perfect joy. —SISTER RUTH BURROWS, O.C.D.

Sister Ruth is a Carmelite nun at Quidenham in Norfolk, England. She is the author of a number of bestselling books. / From Through Him, With Him, In Him: Meditations on the Liturgical Seasons. Sheed & Ward Inc., 1987.

Excerpt from Magnificat, Meditation of the Day, Dec. 6, 2020

THE SACRAMENTS

1st Communion, 1st Reconciliation, or Baptism?

Do you want information about the sacraments? Please call the parish office at 530-877-4501 or email us at office@stmparadise.org

¿Primera comunión, primera reconciliación o bautismo?

Para información acerca de los sacramentos favor de llamar a la oficina de STM.

Sacramento de la Reconciliación

Esta programado para el jueves 7 de enero, en STM. Favor de llamar a la oficina para ponerlo (a) en la lista. 530.877.4501.

Dedicación/Devoción de diciembre Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María

"PREPAREN EL CAMINO DEL SEÑOR, ENDERECEN SUS SENDEROS"

Juan el Bautista prepara el camino para Jesús. Eso ocurrió cuando nuestro Señor se iba a manifestar al pueblo de Israel para cumplir las promesas de salvación que hizo por medio de sus santos profetas.

Juan predicaba "un bautismo de conversión para el perdón de los pecados", y hoy, en este Tiempo de Adviento Dios también nos invita a arrepentirnos de nuestros pecados, pues "no quiere que nadie perezca, sino que todos se arrepientan". Tenemos que vivir de verdad como bautizados, porque el, por su parte, cumplirá con sus promesas



December Devotion The Immaculate Conception

December is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first moment of her conception, by a singular privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior and hers, was preserved from all stain of original sin. This age-old belief of the Church was defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854 as an article of revealed truth.

Mary was in need of redemption and she was indeed redeemed by the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. The manner of Mary's redemption, however, was unique. Instead of being freed from original sin after having contracted it, she was preserved from contracting it. This was a most fitting favor for the Mother of the Redeemer.

PRAYER:

INVOCATION O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

TO THE VIRGIN IMMACULATE O Virgin Immaculate, Mother of God and my Mother, from thy sublime height turn upon me thine eyes of pity. Filled with confidence in thy goodness and knowing full well thy power, I beseech thee to extend to me, thine assistance in the journey of life, which is so full of dangers for my soul. And in order that I may never be the slave of the devil through sin, but may ever live with my heart humble and pure, I entrust myself wholly to thee. I consecrate my heart to thee for ever, my only desire being to love thy divine Son Jesus. Mary, none of thy devout servants has ever perished; may I too be saved. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Eternal rest, etc.

Prayer Source: The Prayer Book, by Reverend John P. O'Connell, M.A., S.T.D. and Jex Martin, M.A., The Catholic Press, Inc., Chicago, IL. 1954

Check ODS website for details on the
Weekday 8:30A Mass, at ODS,
with Father Martín.

PARISH UPDATE



Lost something? If you have left any item(s) at Church, please contact the office. Our lost & found basket is full of items!

Due to Butte County being moved to the Purple Tier, STM Mass will be live streamed from ODS via Facebook Live & Zoom. Please visit our website to livestream both Masses with Fr. Martin. STM Sunday Mass during Advent is now scheduled at Noon.

While working through this latest state mandate, due to the county move to the purple tier, we will give thanks to Our Lord Jesus Christ for his mercy and kindness; for the rains that have come and are still to come. However, until such time as it is deemed appropriate we must hold off on delivering baskets for our Welcome Home to the Ridge Program. But we can still continue bag prep! If you would like to help please call the church office to schedule.



•**Bag prep:** We need your help to put together the gift bags. We've set up a special room with all the components and easy-to-follow instructions.

Attention St. Thomas Parishioners! If you aren't receiving STM Parish Email Messages or haven't received your donation envelopes let us know! Call 530.877.4509 or e-mail us at office@stmparadise.org to request.

We must postpone until further notice, The Women of St. Thomas More meeting scheduled for Sat., Dec. 5th at 10 a.m. This is due to the latest Covid Mandate, Questions? Call or text Rolawn at 678.429.3848.

PARISH REMINDER



During the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, you can visit the Lord in the presence of His most Blessed Sacrament for as short as ten minutes or even less. What is important is that in our Eucharistic adoration or short visits to the Blessed Sacrament, we acknowledge Him deeply in our life as our God and Savior and give Him quality time and what is due Him by virtue of religion. The Church is open during office hours.



About The Pope's Dec. Intention: For A Life of Prayer

In the Pope's Video for December, this prayer intention is entrusted to all the Catholic Church through the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (WPN), which includes the Eucharistic Youth Movement (EYM).

In a year marked by the global Covid-19 pandemic, the Holy Father shares with us the secret of Jesus' life, "the key for us to be able to enter into dialogue with the Father": prayer.

Through a life of prayer, it is possible to have a personal & profound relationship with Jesus Christ and to change our hearts. Prayer – listening to Jesus, contemplating Jesus, speaking with Him as with a friend– transforms our lives. It's the path to drawing closer to the Father

The Pope's prayer during the pandemic

The Pope himself is a man of prayer, and The Pope Video bears witness to this with images taken from the most emotive moments of 2020: the prayer service for the pandemic in an empty St. Peter's Square; a pilgrimage of the crucifix of San Marcelo in Via del Corso, in the middle of Rome; and moments of recollection before the Byzantine icon of Salus Populi Romani at the Roman Basilica of St. Mary Major.

Jesus Christ: a life marked by prayer

For Pope Francis, prayer cannot be reduced to just a space or moment of interior contemplation. "By praying, we change reality. And we change our hearts," he says in The Pope Video.

Prayer always produces a change. "We can do many things, but without prayer, it does not work," he says. In the General Audience on Nov. 4, he also took advantage of the opportunity to explain Jesus' life of prayer.

"During his public life, Jesus constantly availed himself of the power of prayer. The Gospels show this to us when he retired to secluded places to pray. These are sober and discreet observations that allow us only to imagine those prayerful dialogues. They clearly demonstrate, however, that even at times of greater dedication to the poor and the sick, Jesus never neglected his intimate dialogue with the Father."

Prayer as the heart of the Church's mission

Today, the Pope's WPN connects millions of Catholics worldwide from diverse countries, cultures, social and ecclesial contexts, through prayer: not just through The Pope Video, but also through the prayer platform Click to Pray and the Camino del Corazón, a path of prayer for the mission. Prayer is essential for the mission of the Church. Let us pray that our personal relationship with Jesus may always be nourished by the Word of God and by a life of prayer.

TO WATCH "The Pope Video" go to the our website [STMparadise.net](https://www.stmparadise.net) or click this link: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-s-december-prayer-intention-for-a-life-of-prayer.html>