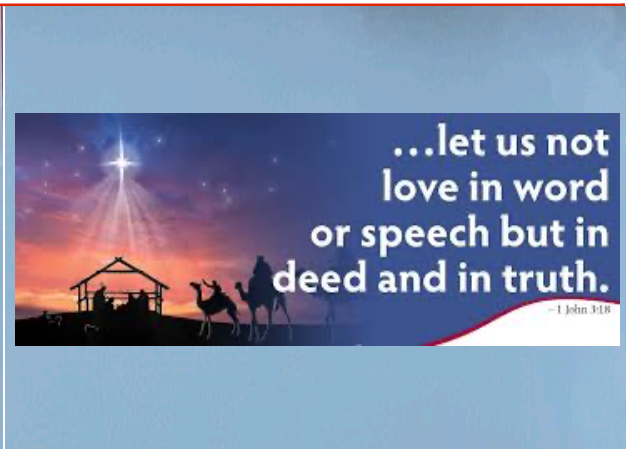


ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

25DEC: Christmas; The Nativity of the Lord 11A
27DEC: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 12p
01JAN: 2021 New Year's Day Mass 11A
All Masses will be Drive-In & Live-streamed

Sunday Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Cuarto Domingo de Adviento
1st Reading 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16
Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
Proclamaré sin cesar la misericordia del Señor.
2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

Ave!

Ave!—Hello! This is a simple salutation, but from the moment the Archangel Gabriel used it, this greeting was sanctified inasmuch as it is associated with the sublime mystery of salvation, inasmuch as it awakened adoration, thanksgiving, and tenderness within Mary! Ave!

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 20TH

Jim Brown †
Steven Brown †

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK - LET US PRAY FOR

Sharon Wilson
Sam weaver
Beverly Hegenbart
Chip Dow
Abbie West
Suzie Aldrich
Fa. Jennett
Fa. Knechtel
Parmenio Ospina

SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOLLOWS TODAY'S MASS FROM THE WOMEN OF STM TO KATIE CHANDLER



0 Come, 0 Come,
EMMANUEL

This Week's Readings

From December 17 to the end of the Christmas Octave the Masses of the day are obligatory.

Monday; December 21st

1st Reading: Song of Songs 2:8-14
2nd Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Psalm 33 *Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to him a new song.*
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Tuesday; December 22nd

1st Reading: 1Samuel 1:24-28
Psalm 1Sm2 *My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.*
Gospel: Luke 1:46-56

Wednesday; December 23rd

1st Reading: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
Psalm 25 *Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.*
Gospel: Luke 1:57-66

Thursday; December 24th Morning Mass

1st Reading: 2SM 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalm 89 *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*
Gospel: Luke 1:67-79

Friday; December 25th Christmas Mass During the Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98 *All the ends of the earth have seen the saving*
2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel: John 1:1-18

Saturday; Dec. 26th Feast of St. Stephen The First Martyr

1st Reading: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Psalm 31 *Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.*
Gospel: Matthew 10:17-22

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: Ave!

This should be my salutation, addressed to everyone with Mary's joy. Ave! This is an announcement of grace, reconciliation, renewal, and resurrection. Ave! This is a wish of divine benediction.

I was deeply impressed with the story of a holy priest who, for love of Mary, responded Ave every time someone knocked on his door. At the last moment of his life, at his request, everyone who had gathered around his bed began to sing the Magnificat: "My soul magnifies the Lord." How many times a day during his life had he said, Ave? How many times, in the seventy years he lived, had his lips formed that word?

From the depths of my love, I want to offer you a crown, Lord, woven of the most beautiful Aves of my life, to make reparation for the Ave of Judas that served as a sign of his betrayal (Ave, Rabbi), and for the Ave of the Roman soldiers spoken in mockery (Ave, King of the Jews). — VENERABLE FRANCIS XAVIER NGUYỄN VĂN THUÂN

Cardinal Nguyễn Văn Thuận († 2002) was imprisoned by the Vietnamese government for thirteen years. / From Prayers of Hope: Words of Courage, English edition. Copyright © 2012, Daughters of St. Paul/Pauline Books & Media, Boston, MA. All rights reserved. .

Excerpt from Magnificat, Meditation of the Day, Dec. 20, 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

EL AMOR DEL SEÑOR ES PARA SIEMPRE

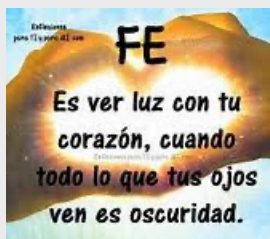
Hoy llegamos al último domingo de Adviento. Nos viene bien pensar, con amor y agradecimiento, que el paso que dio el Hijo de Dios al encarnarse de la Virgen María es irreversible: Él será verdadero Dios y verdadero hombre por toda la eternidad.

Jesús "será grande y será llamado Hijo del Altísimo".



~ PILDORAS DE FE ~

Hoy quiero decirte con entera seguridad: Dios te ama, eres importante para Él y quiere darte lo mejor. ¡El hará cosas maravillosas para hacerte sentir amado y consolado!, ¿Sabes por qué?, porque Dios no se ha olvidado de ti, aunque sientas que Él permanece callado y parezca no responder, Él se encuentra allí en silencio, en la brisa suave, en el cantar de las aves, en el sonido que hacen las hojas al caer, vigilándote, sosteniéndote e impulsando tu espíritu con su gracia y su pasión. ¡Ten fe!.



Editado por Nilda Vega

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.



PRAYER OF POPE PIUS XII This prayer, dedicated to Mary Immaculate, was composed by the Pope for the Marian Year (Dec. 8, 1953-Dec. 8, 1954), which was proclaimed to mark the centenary of the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

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

TO THE VIRGIN IMMACULATE Enraptured by the splendor of your heavenly beauty, and impelled by the anxieties of the world, we cast ourselves into your arms, O Immaculate Mother of Jesus and our Mother, Mary, confident of finding in your most loving heart appeasement of our ardent desires, and a safe harbor from the tempests which beset us on every side.

Though degraded by our faults and overwhelmed by infinite misery, we admire and praise the peerless richness of sublime gifts with which God has filled you, above every other mere creature, from the first moment of your conception until the day on which, after your assumption into heaven, He crowned you Queen of the Universe.

O crystal fountain of faith, bathe our minds with the eternal truths! O fragrant Lily of all holiness, captivate our hearts with your heavenly perfume! O Conqueress of evil and death, inspire in us a deep horror of sin, which makes the soul detestable to God and a slave of hell!

O well-beloved of God, hear the ardent cry which rises up from every heart. Bend tenderly over our aching wounds. Convert the wicked, dry the tears of the addicted and oppressed, comfort the poor and humble, quench hatreds, sweeten harshness, safeguard the flower of purity in youth, protect the holy Church, make all men feel the attraction of Christian goodness.

In your name, resounding harmoniously in heaven, may December Devotion continue on back page.

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.

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

December Devotion continued from page 3.

In your name, resounding harmoniously in heaven, may they recognize that they are brothers, and that the nations are members of one family, upon which may there shine forth the sun of a universal & sincere peace.

Receive, O most sweet Mother, our humble supplications, and above all obtain for us that, one day, happy with you, we may repeat before your throne that hymn which today is sung on earth around your altars: You are all-beautiful, O Mary! You are the glory, you are the joy, you are the honor of our people! 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



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.

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. Today, the Pope's WPN connects millions of Catholics worldwide from diverse countries, cultures, social and ecclesial contexts, through prayer.

TO WATCH "The Pope Video" go to the our website 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>