

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



About St. Thomas More

Priest Supvr. Fr Martin J. Ramat
Deacons Mike Mangan, Gary Zellmer, Ray Helgeson
Parish Steward Greg Kidder
Secretary Maresa Kelly
Religious Education Sandra Rodriguez

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
 767 Elliott Rd. Paradise, CA 95969
 Office Hrs: Mon. - Thurs. 9a-2p
 530.877.4501 (Office closed Fri)
Mass: Sunday at Noon
CONFESSION 1st Wednesday 5P - 6P

Important Dates

24DEC: Christmas Eve Children's Mass ODS 4p
 24DEC: Christmas Vigil Mass ODS 7p
 25DEC: Christmas Day Mass STM 12p
 25DEC: STM Office Closed
 26DEC: Grupo de Apoyo Paradise de Mujeres STM 10a
 01JAN: Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 03JAN: Sacrament of Reconciliation STM 5P

Sunday Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Cuarto Domingo de Adviento
1st Reading 2 Samuel 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

"The Lord is with you"

I have a great anxiety about how you will spend Christmas Eve.
At Christmastime in 1897 we lost Father, and it was at Christmas two years
Meditation of the Day continues on next page

DECEMBER INTENTIONS of the HOLY FATHER

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Para personas con discapacidad

Oramos para que las personas que viven con discapacidad estén en el centro de atención de la sociedad y para que las instituciones puedan ofrecer programas inclusivos que valoren su participación activa.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 24TH

Al Penna †
 Larry Campbell †
 Dan Hegenbart †
 Jack G. Peterson †

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR



Patricia Laird
 Cathy Larsen
 David Moreno
 Angela Babcock
 Sharon Calhoun
 Barbara Collins
 David Jorgenson
 Mary Helgeson Dentino
 and baby Chloe

Rod Montgomery
 Kathy & Greg DeCristofaro
 Carrie Sue Sonsteng
 Sam Kempner
 Larry Penna
 Denise Hughes

Kimberly Helgeson Avoy
 Sofia Garcia
 Bruce Hasek
 Barbara Maldonado
 Renee Kelly
 Senona Gonzalez
 Samia Zumout
 Karen Reynolds



This Week's Readings

THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

Monday; December 25th THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday; December 26th FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

1st Reading: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc-17

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Gospel: Matthew 10:17-22

Wednesday; Dec. 27th FEAST OF SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

1st Reading: 1 John 1:1-4

Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12

Rejoice in the Lord, you just!

Gospel: John 20:1a and 2-8

Thursday; Dec. 28th FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

1st Reading: 1 John 1:5—2:2

Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8

Our soul has been rescued like a bird from the fowler's snare.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-18

Friday; December 29th

1st Reading: 1 John 2:3-11

Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!

Gospel: Luke 2:22-35

Saturday; December 30th

1st Reading: 1 John 2:12-17

Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!

Gospel: Luke 2:36-40

Meditation of the Day continued from front page.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY "The Lord is with you"

ago that God called our beloved mother. This year you have been deprived of your brother, who among all people on earth has loved only you and who now reverences you. For me the frame of the festival is clearly defined—the walls of my prison cell. Never have I knelt at the manger in such poverty as I do this year; everything has been taken away—my home, my honor, my life. So I want to kneel at the manger of him who had no place to lay his head, who as a friend of his people was condemned to death, who poured out his blood like a libation, in sacrifice for the salvation of his people and of the entire world.

As gifts, I bear to the manger hunger & cold, loneliness & forlornness. Shining chains are my only ornament. I want to give my life, previously placed in the service of the King of Christmas, to him who saved me with his precious blood. With copious tears of penitence I want to wash away everything that has turned to guilt and remorse in me. It is in this spirit that I am going to make my pilgrimage to the manger.

I hope through grace to celebrate Christmas deep within my heart and mind as never before in my life. No gift, no festive meal will distract me, no candle will gleam, no fir tree will emit its fragrance.... But the Infant Jesus in the Eucharist will, as a glorious reality of Christmas, irradiate me with eternal light and fill me with the warmth of compassionate love. **I shall recite the breviary so slowly, so inwardly, that I shall taste the sweetness of every word.** I shall say many prayers of the rosary and read the Holy Scriptures. In this way, I hope, the peace of Christ will be my portion and his grace will be my glory. I am without any bitterness; **I bear everything with the patience that only Christ gives.** I hope that my prayer and the prayers of so many others will be heard; I hope that I may at some time intone the Gloria at the altar once more.

I wish you the grace of Christ so that you may with strength and love drink with me the myrrh that God's love offers us this year. Be assured that I am always with you and implore God hour by hour to reward you bounteously for everything that you have done and borne for me in loyalty and love. You are the only human being who has never for one second failed me. And so, rich blessings on your heart. The thorny crown of sorrow entwines our hearts inextricably. -FATHER ALFONS MARIA WACHSMANN

Father Wachsmann († 1944) was a German Catholic priest who took a stand against the Nazi regime early on. He was arrested by the Gestapo in 1943 and sentenced to death. This is a letter to his sister Maria. / From *Dying We Live: The Final Messages and Records of the Resistance*, Helmut Gollwitzer, Kathe Kuhn, Reinhold Schneider, Eds., Reinhard C. Kuhn, Tr. Translation copyright © 1956 by Penguin Random House LLC.

Excerpt from Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, December 24, 2023



All generations shall call me blessed; because He who is powerful hath done great things to me.

Living
the
WORD
THIS WEEK



El mes de diciembre está tradicionalmente dedicado a la Inmaculada Concepción.

La Santísima Virgen María, en el primer momento de su concepción, por singular privilegio de Dios Todopoderoso, y en vista de los méritos de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y suyo, fue preservada de toda mancha del pecado original. El 8 de diciembre celebramos la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María. "Desde toda la eternidad Dios escogió con infinita sabiduría a la mujer que sería Madre de su divino Hijo. Para preparar al Verbo Encarnado un tabernáculo santo y sin mancha, Dios creó a María en gracia y la dotó desde el momento de su concepción con todas las perfecciones adecuadas a su exaltada dignidad. Santo Tomás enseña que por su intimidad con Cristo, principio de la gracia, poseía más allá de todas las criaturas una plenitud de vida divina". – Meditaciones litúrgicas, Las Hermanas de Santo Domingo

Cinco formas más de comunicarse con María Nuestra Madre

El padre Ed Broom OMV escribió un total de 10 maneras. Publicamos 5 en el boletín del 17 de diciembre de la semana pasada; A continuación se imprimen los cinco restantes:

- 1. Imita a María.** Si conocemos a alguien de una manera muy profunda, eso a menudo conduce a la imitación, y la imitación a seguir, y el seguimiento a un profundo amor por esa persona. San Luis de Montfort destaca las 10 principales virtudes de María que debemos esforzarnos en imitar: su profunda humildad, su fe viva, su obediencia ciega, su oración incesante, su constante abnegación, su pureza incomparable, su amor ardiente, su paciencia heroica, su bondad angelical y su sabiduría celestial. (Verdadera Devoción a María, San Luis de Montfort #108)
- 2. Cuéntale a María tus penas y fracasos.** Podríamos ser tentados por el enemigo, el diablo, que realmente odia a María, a sentirnos inhibidos a contarle a la Madre María nuestras penas y profundos sufrimientos. Sin embargo, las mejores madres saben muy claramente que cuando un niño está más herido y herido, es cuando necesita más tierno amor y cuidado. ¡Así debería ser con nosotros! Cuando los días parecen más nublados, sombríos, sombríos y francamente deprimentes en lo más profundo de nuestras almas, es entonces cuando realmente necesitamos abrirnos y hablar con María, nuestra Madre. María es a la vez refugio de los pecadores y salud de los enfermos: ¡dos títulos para María en sus famosas Letanías!
- 3. Invocad a María cuando sea tentada.** Nuestra vida es una batalla constante; Somos soldados tanto de Jesús como de la Madre María. Esto significa que estamos en un campo de batalla constante. Nuestros enemigos son el diablo, la carne y el mundo. ¡En esta intensa realidad de combate espiritual, debemos invocar el Santo Nombre de María en medio de la batalla y la victoria será nuestra! La famosa Batalla de Lepanto resultó una victoria sorprendente mediante la invocación de María y el recitado del Santísimo Rosario, ante la insistencia del Santo Papa Pío V. ¡Que confiemos nuestras batallas a María, que es más poderosa que todo un ejército en batalla! ¡El solo nombre de María causa terror y miedo en todo el infierno!

Cinco formas más de comunicarse con Mary continúa en la última página.



The month of 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. On Dec. 8, we celebrated the Solemnity of the

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"From all eternity God chose with infinite wisdom the woman who would be the Mother of His divine Son. To prepare for the Word Incarnate a spotless and holy tabernacle, God created Mary in grace and endowed her from the moment of her conception with all the perfections suited to her exalted dignity. St. Thomas teaches that through her intimacy with Christ, the principle of grace, she possessed beyond all creatures a fullness of divine life." – Liturgical Meditations, The Sisters of St. Dominic

Five More Ways to Communicate With Mary Our Mother

Father Ed Broom OMV wrote a total of 10 ways. We published 5 in last week's 17Dec bulletin; printed below are the remaining five:

- 1. Imitate Mary.** If we know somebody in a very deep way, that often leads to imitation, and imitation to following, and following to a deep love for that person. Saint Louis de Montfort highlights the ten principal virtues of Mary that we should strive to imitate: her deep humility, lively faith, blind obedience, unceasing prayer, constant self-denial, surpassing purity, ardent love, heroic patience, angelic kindness, and heavenly wisdom. (True Devotion to Mary, St. Louis de Montfort #108)
- 2. Tell Mary your Sorrows & Failures.** We could be tempted by the enemy, the devil, who truly hates Mary, to feel inhibited in telling Mother Mary our sorrows and deep sufferings. However, the best mothers know very clearly that when a child is most hurt and wounded, that is when the child needs the most tender love and care. So it should be with us! When the days seem to be the cloudiest, bleak, gloomy and downright depressing in the depths of our souls, it is then that we really need to open up and talk to Mary our Mother! Mary is both refuge of sinners and health of the sick—two titles for Mary in her famous Litanies!
- 3. Call upon Mary when Tempted.** Our life is a constant battle; we are soldiers of both Jesus and Mother Mary. This means we are on a constant battle-ground. Our enemies are the devil, the flesh, and the world. In this intense reality of spiritual combat, we should call upon the Holy Name of Mary in the midst of the battle and the victory will be ours! The famous Battle of Lepanto proved a striking victory through invoking Mary and the recitation of the most Holy Rosary, at the insistence of Saint Pope Pius V. May we entrust our battles to Mary, who is more powerful than a whole army in battle! The mere name of Mary causes terror and fear in all of hell!

Five More Ways to Communicate with Mary continues on the back page.

PARISH UPDATES



JOIN US AT  **LAS POSADAS CELEBRATION!**

Friday; Dec. 29 | 5:30p | St. Thomas More

*We will pray a rosary in Spanish,
There will be a piñata for the kids,
And a potluck for everyone!*

This is one of Mexico's biggest holiday celebrations which commemorates Mary & Joseph's journey through Bethlehem as they search for room at an inn.

During the celebration, participants reenact Mary and Joseph's journey, going door to door asking for a place to stay. After being turned away, they are accepted and invited to stay in a stable where the infant Jesus would later be born. Traditional songs and prayers are recited during the procession with plenty of drink, food, and sweets when it concludes.

Please bring your favorite dish to share.

Five More Ways to Communicate with Mary continued from page 3.

Five More Ways to Communicate With Mary Our Mother

4. Promote the love of Mary as mother. *If indeed we have truly experienced the love, care, and tenderness of Mary in our daily lives, then undoubtedly we will want to make Mother Mary known far and wide. Mary is not loved and honored due to one principal reason: she is not known! How can she be made known? Many ways! Encourage the reading of good books on Mary like The Glories of Mary by St. Alphonsus Liguori, True Devotion to Mary by St. Louis de Montfort, and Mater Redemptoris & The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Rosary, both by Saint Pope John Paul II. Encourage recitation of the Holy Rosary and praying it daily, give out Rosaries with pamphlets on how to pray the Rosary, and finally, encourage the wearing of the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.*

5. Die in the arms of Mary. *The most important moment in our life is the very moment that we die. This moment will determine for all eternity our eternal destiny—either heaven or hell. Why not prepare to die in grace, to die a holy death, at least 50 times a day? How, you might ask? Simply by praying the most Holy Rosary. Every time we pray the Hail Mary, we are preparing ourselves for a holy and happy death with these words: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Therefore, let us rejoice with the keen awareness that we all have a heavenly Mother, Mary the Mother of God, the Mother of the Church, and our dear Mother. She knows us, cares for us, protects us, but especially, she loves us! Indeed, in the midst of the trials, struggles, intense battles of life let us find our refuge in the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus!*

Cinco formas más de comunicarse con Mary viene de la página 3.

Cinco formas más de comunicarse con María

4. Promover el amor de María como madre. *Si realmente hemos experimentado el amor, el cuidado y la ternura de María en nuestra vida diaria, entonces sin duda queremos dar a conocer a la Madre María en todas partes. María no es amada ni honrada por una razón principal: ¡no es conocida! ¿Cómo puede darse a conocer? ¡Muchas maneras! Fomentar la lectura de buenos libros sobre María como Las Glorias de María de San Alfonso María de Liguori, La Verdadera Devoción a María de San Luis de Montfort y Mater Redemptoris y La Santísima Virgen María y el Rosario, ambos de San Papa Juan Pablo II. Fomente la recitación del Santo Rosario y su rezo diario, reparta rosarios con folletos sobre cómo rezar el Rosario y, finalmente, fomente el uso del Escapulario Marrón de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo.*

5. Muere en los brazos de María. *El momento más importante de nuestra vida es el mismo momento en que morimos. Este momento determinará por toda la eternidad nuestro destino eterno: el cielo o el infierno. ¿Por qué no prepararse para morir en gracia, para morir en santidad, al menos 50 veces al día? ¿Cómo?, te preguntará. Simplemente rezando el Santísimo Rosario. Cada vez que rezamos el Ave María, nos estamos preparando para una muerte santa y feliz con estas palabras: Santa María, Madre de Dios, ruega por nosotros pecadores ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte. Amén. Por eso, alegrémonos con la viva conciencia de que todos tenemos una Madre celestial, María, Madre de Dios, Madre de la Iglesia y Madre querida nuestra. Ella nos conoce, nos cuida, nos protege, pero sobre todo, ¡nos ama! En efecto, en medio de las pruebas, de las luchas, de las intensas batallas de la vida, ¡encontremos nuestro refugio en el Inmaculado Corazón de María y en el Sagrado Corazón de Jesús!*

FUENTES: <https://catholicexchange.com/10-ways-can-love-mary>

Sacrament of Reconciliation



January 3, 2024 | 5p - 6p | St. Thomas More

