

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 5P - 6P**

## Important Dates

**19DEC: Penance Svc dates & locations on back pg.**  
 24DEC: 4th Sunday of Advent Mass STM 12p  
 24DEC: Christmas Eve Children's Mass ODS 4p  
 24DEC: Christmas Vigil Mass ODS 7p  
 25DEC: Christmas Day Mass STM 12p (STM ofc closed)  
 26DEC: Grupo de Apoyo Paradise de Mujeres STM 10a  
 01JAN: Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## Sunday Readings

*Third Sunday of Advent*  
*Tercer Domingo de Adviento*  
**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11  
**Psalm** Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54  
 My soul rejoices in my God.  
 Mi espíritu se alegra en Dios, mi salvador.  
**2nd Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
**Gospel** John 1:6-8, 19-28



## MEDITATION OF THE DAY

*"The true light, which enlightens everyone"*  
**Pope Paul VI always said that** the world today needs glowing witnesses who know how to break open the dark skies of the world, not with words but  
*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 17<sup>TH</sup>

Carol Zellmer †  
 Dan Hegenbart †  
 John Woodard †  
 Steven Brown †

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LET US PRAY FOR

Arminda Rodriguez  
 Pamela Casey  
 Cathy Larsen  
 David Moreno  
 Angela Babcock  
 Victoria Wilsey  
 Barbara Collins  
 David Jorgenson  
 Karen Reynolds

Rod Mongomery  
 Kathy & Greg DeCristofaro  
 Carrie Sue Sonsteng  
 Sam Kempner  
 Larry Penna  
 Karen Phillips  
 Denise Hughes

Kimberly Helgeson Avoy  
 Sofia Garcia  
 Bruce Hasek  
 Barbara Maldonado  
 Renee Kelly  
 John Johnson  
 Samia Zumout  
 Mary Helgeson Dentino  
 and baby Chloe



## This Week's Readings

### THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

#### Monday; December 18<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Jeremiah 23:5-8

Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

#### Tuesday; December 19<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a

Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17

My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory!

Gospel: Luke 1:5-25

#### Wednesday; December 20<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6

Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

#### Thursday; December 21<sup>st</sup>

1st Reading: Song of Songs 2:8-14

Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21

Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to him a new song, kindness.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

#### Friday; December 22<sup>nd</sup>

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 1:24-28

Psalm 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd

My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.

Gospel: Luke 1:46-56

#### Saturday; December 23<sup>rd</sup>

1st Reading: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24

Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14

Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

Gospel: Luke 1:57-66

Living  
the WORD  
THIS WEEK



*Meditation of the Day continued from front page.*

### MEDITATION OF THE DAY "The true light, which enlightens everyone"

*with the witness of their lives. Yes, our lives are the strongest "word," the truest word that shouts louder than many speeches made and prepared on the desks of those who are "great" in the world.... The heavens of our world are shining today with the blazing lights of many missionaries, men and women, priests and laity, who are pouring out their perspiration and blood on the front lines of human misery.*

***The world needs the light** of bold, courageous, and loyal youth, ready to live in the truth of the Gospel at any cost, able to recognize the subtle voice of the Good Shepherd, who stirs up our conscience more than a thousand shouts and words of today's mercenaries.*

***While much darkness envelops us**, almost making us tremble in fear of our future, these stupendous bursts of light tell us that God is not yet tired of pursuing us to reveal the face of the good Father, to fascinate us with the beauty and the strength of his proposals of a real life. Yes, today we are those who walk in darkness yet see a great light. It is the same light that rent open the sky of Bethlehem to lead the shepherds of that time to the Grotto where, in front of that child, they found a great joy.*

***It is your light, Lord**, whose brightness can illuminate even the darkest night. It is the light of many courageous men and women who, because of their meeting with you, have decided to consume themselves announcing your reign and your salvation to every creature. It is the light of new families in which life is welcomed, protected, desired, and loved. It is that light that many of us have found again and rediscovered after many years of darkness, sadness, loneliness, and death inside.*

***It is your light, Lord**, the light of that little child born in Bethlehem, who broke open the story of humanity and who still today desires to cross our paths, too often full of darkness, to dye them with the color of hope. Thank you, Lord, because our darkness does not frighten you. Thank you, because you came with your light to meet those of us who have walked in the darkness for a long time. -MOTHER ELVIRA PETROZZI*

*Mother Elvira is the foundress of Comunità Cenacolo, which welcomes the lost & desperate in 71 houses in 20 countries. / From Mother Elvira—Community Cenacolo, Young men of Community Cenacola in Medjugorje. Printed by the Community. © The Association of St. Lawrence. [www.comunitacenacolo.it](http://www.comunitacenacolo.it)*

*Excerpt from Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, December 17, 2023*

### **PENANCE SERVICES**



**Tues. Dec. 19th | St. Thomas the Apostle | Oroville**

**Thurs. Dec. 21st | Immaculate Conception | Corning**

**Fri. Dec. 22nd | St. John the Baptist | Chico**

All services start at 6 p.m.

### **Important Note**

*No evening masses on Dec. 19, 21, 22 at St. John.*

*No confessions Saturday, Dec. 23rd at St. John.*



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

**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



**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

**Cinco maneras de comunicarse con María Nuestra Madre**

Father Ed Broom OMV en realidad ofrece un total de 10 formas. Publicaremos los cinco restantes en el boletín del 24 de diciembre.

- 1. Hablar con ella.** Acostúmbrate a hablar con frecuencia con María, nuestra queridísima Madre; Confía en ella, háblale desde el corazón, ámala y confíale tu vida. Esto es muy agradable para ella y para su Hijo Jesús, el Hijo de Dios y el Hijo de la Santísima Virgen María.
- 2. Comienza tu día con María.** Al despertar cada mañana nuestra primera acción debe ser la de la oración, ¿y qué oración? ¿Por qué no empezar el día entregándote totalmente a Jesús, en todo lo que dices, haces y piensas, a través del Inmaculado Corazón de María?
- 3. La amo.** Una Madre nunca se cansa de escuchar a su hijo decir: "Mamá, te amo mucho". El corazón de la madre salta de alegría. Lo mismo hay que decir de María nuestra Madre. Cuando decimos: "Madre María, te amo", entonces María, Madre de Dios, experimenta una gran alegría en su purísimo e Inmaculado Corazón. Entonces, durante el transcurso del día simplemente di: "¡Madre María, te amo!"
- 4. Camina con Ella.** Hay una canción dedicada a María titulada Santa María del Camino, que significa "Nuestra Señora del Camino". Por eso, cuando viajamos al trabajo, a la escuela o a cualquier lugar, invita a la Madre María a que vaya con nosotros. Es una buena compañera de viaje y puede protegernos de muchos peligros en nuestros viajes, tanto físicos como morales.
- 5. Confía y encomienda a María.** Si realmente confiamos en una persona, entonces podemos confiarle nuestros cuidados, sabiendo que esa persona especial nos protegerá y cuidará. Dios Padre confió a su Hijo unigénito al cuidado de María. Por tanto, podemos confiar nuestra vida totalmente al cuidado de María, nuestra Madre querida y amorosa. "Nunca se supo que cualquiera que huyera bajo su protección quedara sin ayuda". (El Memorare, San Bernardo)

**Five Ways to Communicate With Mary Our Mother**

Father Ed Broom OMV actually provides a total of 10 ways. We will publish the remaining five in the Dec. 24 bulletin.

- 1. Talk to Her.** Get into the habit of talking to Mary, our dearest Mother, often; confide in her, speak to her from your heart, love her and entrust your life to her. This is most pleasing to her & to her Son Jesus, the Son of God & the Son of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 2. Start your Day with Mary.** Upon waking up every morning, our first action should be that of prayer, and what prayer? Why not start your day by giving yourself totally to Jesus, in all you say, do and think, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary?
- 3. Love Her.** A Mother never gets tired of hearing her child say: "Mom I really love you." The mother's heart leaps with joy. The same must be said about Mary our Mother. When we say: "Mother Mary, I love you", then Mary the Mother of God experiences great joy in her most pure and Immaculate Heart. So, during the course of the day simply say: "Mother Mary, I love you!"
- 4. Walk with Her.** There's a song dedicated to Mary titled Santa Maria del Camino—meaning, "Our Lady of the Way". So when we travel to work, school or anywhere, invite Mother Mary to go with us. She is a good traveling companion and can protect us from many dangers in our travels, perils both physical and moral.
- 5. Trust & Entrust to Mary.** If we are truly confident in a person then we can entrust our cares to that person, knowing that this special person will protect & care for us. God the Father entrusted His only begotten Son to the care of Mary. Therefore, we can entrust our lives totally to the care of Mary, our dearest and most loving Mother. "Never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection was left unaided." (The Memorare, St. Bernard)

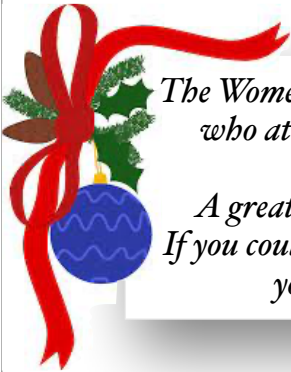
SOURCE: <https://catholicexchange.com/10-ways-can-love-mary>

## PARISH UPDATES

### THE WOMEN OF ST. THOMAS MORE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS RESPONSE!



As you know, each year, the Women of St. Thomas More partner with the Lions Club to help bring Christmas cheer to children here on the Ridge by purchasing age- and gender-appropriate gifts. We needed your help to do this and boy did you respond! On behalf of the children and the Women of STM thank you for your generosity. We simply could not have done this without support from you, our St. Thomas More parish family.



*The Women of St. Thomas More thank everyone who attended our 4th Annual Christmas celebration Saturday. A great time of fellowship, food, and fun. If you couldn't make it this year, we hope to see you at next year's celebration!*

### REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE 10th NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS July 17 to 21, 2024

Join your Catholic brothers and sisters in an encounter the living Jesus Christ! And experience profound renewal as we are sent out on a mission for the life of the world.

**When:** July 17-21, 2024

**Where:** Lucas Oil Stadium Indianapolis, Ind.

This historic 5-day gathering of missionary disciples will be a new Pentecost, a powerful anointing and personal commission to invite others to know Christ. Your life—and our Church—will never be the same.

**Questions?** Get more information and/or register at

<https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/register>

You can also contact Deacon Kevin Staszko at [kstaszko@scd.org](mailto:kstaszko@scd.org) or 916-733-0152.



**The Knights of Columbus annual See's Candies Sale is**

**On Now!** Proceeds support their Scholarship Fund. Please support the Knights & buy a Christmas gift or two. See's Candies make yummy gifts!



### Penance Services | Servicios de penitencia

**Tues. Dec. 19th | St. Thomas the Apostle | Oroville**

**Thurs. Dec. 21st | Immaculate Conception | Corning**

**Fri. Dec. 22nd | St. John the Baptist | Chico**

All services start at 6 p.m.  
Todos los servicios comienzan a las 6 p.m.

**Important Note | Nota IMPORTANTE**

*No evening masses on Dec. 19, 21, 22 at St. John.*

*No confessions Saturday, Dec. 23rd at St. John.*

*No habrá misas vespertinas los días 19, 21 y 22 de diciembre en St. John.*

*No hay confesiones el sábado 23 de diciembre en St. John.*

**GATHER AT STM TO WELCOME THE NEW YEAR WITH THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS FOR THE ROSARY & PRAYERS**

Please join us at St. Thomas More

**Sunday, Jan. 7 at 10A!**

