

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

About St. Thomas More

Priest Supvr. Fr Martin J. Ramat
Deacons Mike Mangan & Gary Zellmer
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

22JAN: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 23JAN: Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of the Unborn
 24JAN: Grupo de Apoyo Paradise de Mujeres STM 10A
 01FEB: Sacrament of Reconciliation STM 5P
 02FEB: Presentation of the Lord ODS 8A
 03FEB: Women's Retreat @ Christ the King thru 5Feb
 04FEB: Adoration & Holy Hour STM 10A
 05FEB: Crown Rosary w Secular Franciscans STM 10A

Sunday Readings

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

III Domingo Ordinario

1st Reading Isaiah 8:23-9:3

Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation.
 El Señor es mi luz y mi salvación.

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Gospel Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

The Gaze and the Call of Jesus

Jesus' gaze, when he walked the earth, would cause a profound awakening in others. When he passed by, the eyes of the blind were opened.

Meditation of the Day continues on next page

JANUARY INTENTIONS of the HOLY FATHER

For Educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Por los Educadores

Oramos para que los educadores sean testigos creíbles, enseñando fraternidad en lugar de competencia y ayudando sobre todo a los más jóvenes y vulnerables.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 22ND

Eufemia Petra Garcia †

Malaquias Balladares †

For the health of Maria Anoba

For the health of Judy Moreno

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK; LET US PRAY FOR



*Maria Anoba
 Judi Moreno
 Dan Hegenbart
 Parmenio Ospina
 Leo Benedetti
 Gloria Cummings
 Victor Furrer
 Sharon Wilson*

*Cothena L. Brown
 Eduardo Dominguez Espinoza
 Kathy & Greg DeCristofaro
 Renee Kelly
 Samia Zumout*

*Victoria Wilsey
 Richard Pesce
 Angela Coker
 Kimberly Helgeson Avoy
 Barbara Maldonado
 Sam Kempner
 Jim Barnes*

This Week's Readings

THIRD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Monday; January 23rd

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE
LEGAL PROTECTION OF
UNBORN CHILDREN

1st Reading: Hebrews 9:15, 24-28

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

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds.

Gospel: Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday; Jan. 24th

MEMORIAL OF SAINT FRANCIS
DE SALES, BISHOP AND DOCTOR
OF THE CHURCH

1st Reading: Hebrews 10:1-10

Psalm 40:2 & 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11

Here am I Lord; I come to do your will.

Gospel: Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday; Jan. 25th

FEAST OF THE CONVERSION
OF SAINT PAUL, APOSTLE

1st Reading: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22

Psalm 117:1bc, 2

(Mark 16:15) Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.

Gospel: Mark 16:15-18

Thursday; January 26th

MEMORIAL OF SAINTS
TIMOTHY AND TITUS,
BISHOPS

1st Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-8

Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10

Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Gospel: Mark 4:21-25

Friday; January 27th

1st Reading: Hebrews 10:32-39

Psalm 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40

The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

Saturday; January 28th

MEMORIAL OF SAINT THOMAS
AQUINAS, PRIEST AND
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

1st Reading: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

Psalm Luke 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel; he has come to his people.

Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

Meditation of the Day continued from front page.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY The Gaze and the Call of Jesus

Paralytics threw away their crutches. Those who were sick sprang from their beds completely cured. Jesus had a divine attraction about him which tore at hearts that were thirsting for love and truth. He satisfied their longing because he himself was love, truth, and life.

Jesus always looks at us with infinite kindness. He watches over us. He never tires of knocking at the door of our hearts. Nor does he tire of waiting for us to open to him, because he loves us. He will take our mortal life into his own divine hands so that he might give us eternal life. He will close our eyes here on earth, that he might open them to the true light. He will always be our consolation and our happiness. He will not allow us to weep like those who have no hope.

The Father looks with a glance that gives. By means of that eternal and infinite gaze, the Father communicated his essence to the divine Word. That gaze is life-giving, since it is the gaze of God himself. Let us ask Jesus to look at us...with this life-giving gaze that produces saints. Let us beg for those divine glances that open the soul to holy expansiveness. And let us allow ourselves to be bathed in those most holy glances that purify, sanctify, unite, and intimately bind the divine heart to our own. Jesus wishes that his eternal gaze at his Father pass on through our souls and our eyes. His is a gaze of purity, tenderness, and adoration. Let us always keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, that we may know him, discern his desires, better understand his teachings, and penetrate into his heart.

— BLESSED CONCEPCIÓN CABRERA DE ARMIDA

Blessed Concepción († 1937), also known as "Conchita," was a wife, mother, widow, and mystical writer. She was the first Mexican laywoman to be beatified.

Excerpt from Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, Jan. 22, 2023

"To love the Church is not to criticize her, not to destroy her, not to try to change her essential structures, not to reduce her to humanism, horizontalism and to the simple service of human liberation. To love the Church is to cooperate with the work of Redemption by the Cross and in this way obtain the grace of the Holy Spirit come to renew the face of this poor earth, conducting it to its consummation in the design of the Father's immense love." — BLESSED CONCEPCIÓN CABRERA DE ARMIDA



El mes de enero está dedicado al Santo Nombre de Jesús, debido a que se celebra el 3 de enero. Es un momento ideal para fortalecer nuestra conexión con el hermoso nombre de nuestro Señor, "Jesús", que significa "Dios salva". El nombre de Jesús no es solo el nombre de nuestro Salvador, sino que también, por su significado, declara el propósito de Su existencia, recordándonos la increíble bendición de la salvación. ¡Démosle, pues, gran honor a ese nombre! Y recuerda que el nombre de Jesús en arameo es "Yeshua, que es como se llamaba a Jesús en su propio idioma nativo (Nota: el nombre Josué también se deriva de este nombre).



The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, due to its celebration on Jan. 3. This is an ideal time to strengthen our connection to the beautiful name of our Lord, "Jesus," which means, "God saves." The name of Jesus is not only the name of our Savior but also, by its meaning, states the purpose of His existence, reminding us of the incredible blessing of salvation. Let us therefore give that name great honor! And remember that Jesus's name in Aramaic is "Yeshua", which is what Jesus was called in his own native language (Note: the name Joshua is derived from this name, too).

El 23 de enero es un día reservado para orar al Santo Nombre de Jesús en nombre de los no nacidos

¿Qué dice Dios sobre el aborto y los no nacidos? La palabra de Dios constantemente proclama la suma importancia de proteger la vida en el útero tanto en el Antiguo como en el Nuevo Testamento. Como cuerpo de Cristo, la Iglesia debe tomar la iniciativa de extender nuestras manos y corazones a aquellos que desean conocer la Verdad. Además, la Iglesia debe convertirse en la fuente de inspiración para quienes se ven abrumados por el miedo cuando consideran expresar sus puntos de vista sobre el aborto. Este tema le importa a Dios, por lo que debemos responder con actos de adoración y rendición mientras abogamos por los indefensos. Considera el Salmo 139:13-14 en la vida de Jesús mientras descansa en el vientre de María: Porque tú formaste mis entrañas; tú me formaste en el vientre de mi madre. Te alabo, porque estoy hecho terrible y maravillosamente. Maravillosas son tus obras; mi alma lo sabe muy bien. O Jeremías 1:4-5: "Y vino a mí la palabra del Señor, diciendo: 'Antes que te formase en el vientre, te conocí, y antes que nacieras, te santifiqué; te he nombrado profeta para las naciones'". También considere leer Lucas, capítulo 1 que incluye el Magnificat. Dios ve la vida desde el momento de la concepción. La verdad bíblica muestra que Dios forma una relación personal con su pueblo en el útero y es más evidencia de que los niños no nacidos poseen plena personalidad.

Entonces, ¿cómo debemos orar? Creemos que Jesús es el camino, la verdad y la vida. Sus pensamientos son mucho más elevados y mucho más significativos que los nuestros. Por lo tanto, oremos juntos para que Dios rompa nuestro corazón por lo que rompe el suyo. Oremos para que los tres grupos –personas de la Palabra, personas que guardan silencio y aquellas que, en su compasión fuera de lugar, favorecen los temores situacionales de un embarazo no planificado en lugar de derramar misericordia sobre la injusticia del aborto– dejen de lado cualquier pensamiento mundano para convertirse, en cambio, en un "Pueblo de la Palabra" unificado. Debemos luchar, y debemos estar unidos en la palabra de Dios.

ORACIÓN PARA LA SEMANA: *Oración por los no nacidos*

"Precioso Señor, habitaste en el vientre de tu querida madre, santificando el vientre y elevando la dignidad de toda vida humana. Rezo hoy por la plena protección legal de cada niño por nacer." Amén

FUENTES: <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/pro-life/what-does-the-bible-say-about-abortion/> ORACIÓN: <https://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/golden-arrow.html>

January 23rd is a Day Set Aside to Pray to the Holy Name of Jesus on Behalf of the Unborn

What does God say about abortion and the unborn? God's word consistently proclaims the utmost importance of protecting life in the womb in both the Old & New Testaments. As the body of Christ, we, the Church, must take the initiative to extend our hands and hearts out to those desiring to know the Truth. Moreover, the Church must become the source of inspiration for those overcome with fear when considering speaking their views on abortion. This issue matters to God, so we must respond with acts of worship and surrender as we advocate on behalf of the defenseless. Consider Psalm 139:13-14 in the life of Jesus while resting in Mary's womb: For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.[a] Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. And Jeremiah 1:4-5: "Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'" You may also consider reading Luke, chapter 1, which includes the Magnificat. God sees life from the moment of conception. Biblical truth shows that God forms a personal relationship with his people in the womb which is further evidence that preborn children possess full personhood.

So how are we to pray? We believe Jesus is the way, the Truth, and the life. His thoughts are so much higher and so much more significant than ours. Therefore, let us pray together that God breaks our hearts for what breaks His. Let us pray that three groups – people of the Word, people who are silent, and those who, in their misplaced compassion, favor the situational fears of an unplanned pregnancy rather than showering mercy on the injustice of abortion – lay aside any worldly thoughts to become, instead, a unified "People of the Word." We must fight, and we must be united in God's word.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: *Prayer for the Unborn*

"Most precious Lord, You dwelt within the womb of your dear mother, sanctifying the womb, and elevating the dignity of all human life. I pray today for the full legal protection of every unborn child." Amen.

Sources: <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/pro-life/what-does-the-bible-say-about-abortion/> Prayer: <https://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/golden-arrow.html>

PARISH UPDATES

Put on the whole armor of God,
that ye may be able to stand
against the wiles of the devil.
-Eph 6:11

BIG STRONG MEN NEED TIME WITH GOD TOO!!

STM Invites All Parish MEN to a Retreat March 3 to 5!

All MEN of the Parish are invited to a Retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center in Citrus Heights March 3,4,5! The theme is Walking With Jesus to the Ends of the Earth.

This weekend will provide you with a chance to step away from life's chaos to reconnect with Jesus. Our greatest relationship is the one we have with our Lord!

The Retreat Center provides everything! Room cost is \$250 for a single & \$230 for a double. Scholarships are available.

Questions? All big strong men should see Deacon Gary Zellmer after Mass.



KEY DATES THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD & SAVIOR

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday; Jan. 23	9A to 2P	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Tuesday; Jan. 24	9A to 2P	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Wed.; Jan. 25	9A to 2P	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Thursday; Jan. 26	9A to 2P	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Friday; Jan. 27	9A to 2P	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Note Change to Schedule For the Divine Mercy Chaplet

For 2023 we will gather every 3RD Friday of the month at 3P to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by the Holy Rosary.

GOT YOUR SHIRT? Order Your 75th Anniversary Shirts Now!

Order your 75th Anniversary shirt now to get your shirt in time for our Anniversary celebrations at the end of Feb.

Pick up an order form in the Narthex for all the details. There are two styles available: t-shirt or golf shirt. Both styles are available for women or men. These are very attractive shirts emblazoned with a specially-designed 75th Anniversary logo that you'll be proud to wear. View the shirt samples in the Narthex. Questions? see Jim or Barbara Collins after Mass.

THERE'S STILL TIME. RESERVE NOW! STM Invites All Women of the Parish to a Retreat Feb. 3 to 5!

Women's Spiritual Retreat | Feb. 3 to 5 | Retreat Center
All ladies of the Parish are invited to the Christ the King Retreat Center in Citrus Heights for a special STM Retreat Feb. 3 to 5. The theme is "Walking With Jesus to the Ends of the Earth."

The Greatest Relationship that we can have is the one with our Lord.

The Retreat Center provides everything! Room cost is \$250 for a single & \$230 for a double.

Scholarships are available. No one has ever been turned away for the inability to pay.

Ride sharing is available for anyone who cannot drive or prefers not to drive.

This Retreat promises to be a wonderful time to be together and to deepen our relationships with the Lord.

To book your room please contact Christ the King Retreat Center by phone (916) 725-4720 x307 or go to STM.org and click the link below: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E93406&id=487> For more info on Christ the King by email send inquiries to retreatck@passionist.org

Questions? See Cheryl Barron after Mass or call her at 530-514-8859.

The St. Thomas More Parish Extends Condolences to the Family and Friends of These Who Have Passed Recently

- † Theresa Bunch passed away on January 5th. A graveside service was held Friday, January 20 at the Paradise Cemetery.
- † Eleanor Guy passed away on January 1st. Eleanor's graveside service details are still to be announced.
- † Kenneth Ghimenti passed away December 23. The details of his Funeral Mass are still to be announced.

Please keep Theresa, Eleanor, Kenneth, their families & friends in your prayers this week.

