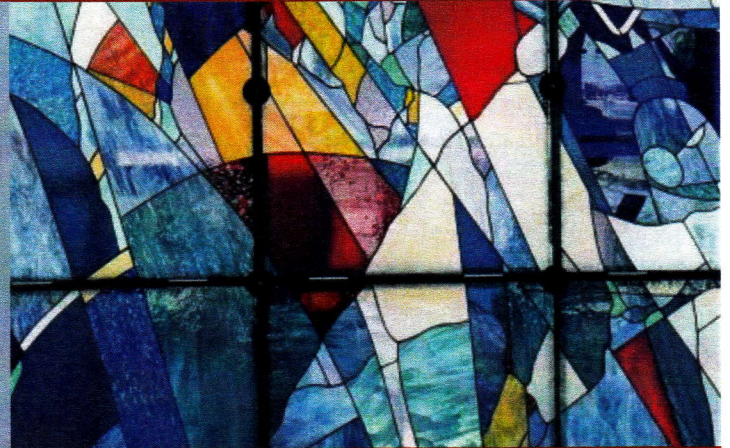
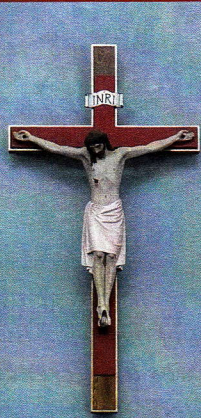


# ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



[www.stmparadise.net](http://www.stmparadise.net)

530.877.4501

Email: [office@stmparadise.org](mailto:office@stmparadise.org)

## 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

12DEC: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 12DEC: Grupo de Apoyo Paradise de Mujeres STM 10a  
 14DEC: Kids Giving Tree unwrapped gifts due today!  
 15DEC: Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary 3p  
 16DEC: Women of STM Christmas Gathering 4p  
 25DEC: Christmas (falls on a Monday)  
 01JAN: Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## Sunday Readings

*Second Sunday of Advent*  
*Segundo Domingo de Adviento*  
**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
**Psalm** 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14  
 Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.  
 Señor, muéstranos tu favor y sálvanos.  
**2nd Reading** 2 Peter 3:8-14  
**Gospel** Mark 1:1-8



## MEDITATION OF THE DAY

"Prepare the way of the Lord"

*My mother used to say that the days of Advent were the days of building a golden stairway that would lead us to a star, the star of Bethlehem.*

*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 10<sup>TH</sup>

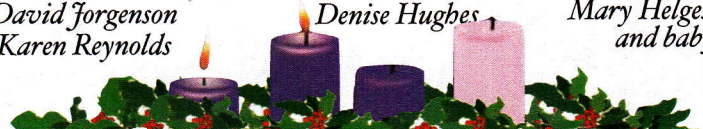
Betty Mollis †  
 Charles & Eleanor Guy †  
 Larry Campbell †

## 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 Montgomery  
 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

### SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

#### Monday; December 11<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10  
 Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14  
 (Isaiah 35:4f) Our God will come to save us!  
 Gospel: Luke 5:17-26

#### Tuesday; December 12<sup>th</sup> FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

1st Reading: Zechariah 2:14-17 or  
 Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab  
 Psalm Judith 13:18BCDE, 19  
 You are the highest honor of our race.  
 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

#### Wednesday; Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> MEMORIAL OF SAINT LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:25-31  
 Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10  
 O bless the Lord, my soul!  
 Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30

#### Thursday; Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> MEMORIAL OF SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

1st Reading: Isaiah 41:13-20  
 Psalm 145:1 & 9, 10-11, 12-13ab  
 The Lord is gracious and merciful;  
 slow to anger, and of great  
 kindness.  
 Gospel: Matthew 11:11-15

#### Friday; December 15<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Isaiah 48:17-19  
 Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6  
 Those who follow you, Lord, will  
 have the light of life.  
 Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19

#### Saturday; December 16<sup>th</sup>

1st Reading: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11  
 Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19  
 Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face  
 and we shall be saved.  
 Gospel: Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Living  
 the WORD  
 THIS WEEK

*Meditation of the Day continued from front page.*

### MEDITATION OF THE DAY "Prepare the way of the Lord"

*And this, in turn, would lead us straight to the Christ Child! In my youth, that stairway was real. Each day I could see and touch each step of it as it was being built. The first steps were made of cleanliness. We began cleaning from the inside out. First, there was the Advent fast: to clean the soul of all its past faults and sins, to make penance for them, to wash it with tears, and the heart with contrition. As in Lent, all meat, milk products, eggs, and sugar disappeared from the family table, to be replaced with fish, vegetables, and honey. The parish church became the focal point of our daily lives....*

*But there was a difference. In Lent, the Russian women donned dark garments, took off their jewelry, and allowed no music in the house.... Not so in Advent. On the contrary, there was talk of new clothing. There was a flurry of buying materials and of sewing. There was much music in the air, and the practicing of hymns and songs to be sung on the Holy Night. Even the fast itself was one of joyous expectation. Masses, Communion, confessions, and evening services in the church followed one another closely throughout the days. To accompany these inner preparations, outward cleaning and scrubbing went on feverishly all about the house, with everyone humming snatches from ageless tunes. The first to be cleaned and polished were the icons, which shone and became alive under the flickering shadows of the votive lamps—red and blue and green. To my childish eyes, they were the forerunners of the lovely candles on the Christmas tree. -SERVANT OF GOD CATHERINE DE HUECK*

DOHERTY

*Catherine de Hueck Doherty († 1985) was born in Russia and founded the Madonna House Apostolate in Combermere, Canada, which today serves the poor in six countries. / From Donkey Bells: Advent and Christmas. Mary Bazzett, Ed. © 1994, Madonna House Publications, Combermere, Ontario, Canada. www.madonnahouse.org.*

*Excerpt from Magnificat Magazine, Meditation of the Day, December 10, 2023*



**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

### El Ángelus

El Ángelus se recita tradicionalmente por la mañana (6A), al mediodía y por la noche (6P) durante todo el año, excepto durante el tiempo pascual, cuando en su lugar se recita el Regina Coeli.

El ángel del Señor declaró a María. Y ella concibió del Espíritu Santo.

➤ Ave María llena eres de gracia....

He aquí la esclava del Señor. Hágase en mí según tu palabra.

➤ Ave María llena eres de gracia....

Y el Verbo se hizo Carne. Y habitó entre nosotros.

➤ Ave María llena eres de gracia....

Ruega por nosotros, oh santa Madre de Dios. Para que seamos dignos de las promesas de Cristo. Dejanos rezar.

Derrama, te suplicamos, oh Señor, tu gracia en nuestros corazones, para que nosotros, a quienes la encarnación de Cristo tu Hijo fue dada a conocer por el mensaje de un ángel, seamos llevados por su pasión y cruz a la gloria de su resurrección. . Por el mismo Cristo Nuestro Señor. Amén.

ORAMOS: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/12.1.cfm>

FUENTES: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/12.1.cfm>



**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

### The Angelus

The Angelus is traditionally recited morning (6A), noon & evening (6P) throughout the year except during Paschal time, when the Regina Coeli is recited instead.

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

And she conceived of the Holy Ghost.

➤ Hail Mary, full of Grace....

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

➤ Hail Mary, full of Grace...

And the Word was made Flesh. And dwelt among us.

➤ Hail Mary, full of Grace...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let Us Pray

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

SOURCE: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/12.1.cfm>

PRAYER SOURCE: <https://www.catholicgallery.org/prayers/7-powerful-marys-intercession-prayers/>



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



## PARISH UPDATES

### THE WOMEN OF STM NEED YOUR HELP!

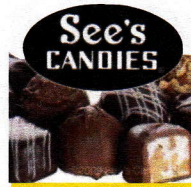
Every year, the Women of St. Thomas More partner with the Lions Club to help bring Christmas cheer to children here on the Ridge. We need your help to purchase gifts. Simply choose a tag from the Giving Tree in the church Narthex and buy a gift based on the description on the tag (e.g., boy or girl and age.) Bring your unwrapped gift back to STM and place under the tree. On Dec. 14 Lori MacPhail and the women of STM will take the gifts to the staging area at the Lions. The children's Christmas party will be held the next day. Questions? See Lori MacPhail.



Please buy a gift for the Children's Giving Tree!

1. **Choose** a tag (or tags) from the tree.
2. **Buy** a gift as listed on the tag.
3. **Attach** tag to the **UNWRAPPED GIFT** & place under the Giving Tree in the Narthex.

Help us & the Lion's Club give kids on the Ridge a special Christmas.  
**Unwrapped gifts due by Friday Dec. 14.**



**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!



The Women of St. Thomas More are cordially invited to the **10th Annual Women of STM Christmas Celebration**

Saturday | Dec. 16 | 4 p.m.

6475 Apple Creek Drive Paradise  
Husbands & guests welcome

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

Join your Catholic brothers and sisters as we encounter the living Jesus Christ, experience profound renewal, and are sent out on 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? You can 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.

### GATHER AT STM TO PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET & ROSARY

Please join us at St. Thomas More to pray Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Rosary

**Join us Friday, Dec. 15 at 3p!**

