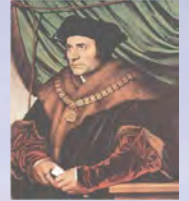




SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

51 Marketplace Irvine, CA 92602 · 949-551-8601 · www.stmirvine.org



Mass schedule

Daily– Monday to Saturday: 8 am*

Saturday Vigil Mass:

4:00 pm Vietnamese/English

6:00 pm English

Sunday Mass

8:00 am English

9:30 am English*

11:30 am English

1:00 pm Spanish

3:00 pm Chinese

5:00pm English

* Livestreamed Masses

Morning Prayer: Mon, Wed & Fri 7:30am to 7:50am

Adoration: Every Friday at 6:00pm

24 Hour Adoration: on the 22nd of every month

If the 22nd falls on a Saturday, then Adoration will be on Friday.

If the 22nd falls on a Sunday, then Adoration will be on Monday.

Confession: Saturday from 1:00pm to 3:00pm or by appointment

Baptisms and Marriages: contact the office for details

TEXT TO GIVE: 949-344-2801



@stmirvine

Welcoming all, we, the Spirit-filled parish of St. Thomas More, value our Roman Catholic faith by celebrating the sacraments, breaking open the Scriptures, and joyfully offering ourselves in service to others. Under the inspiration of our patron saint, we seek to build a caring community that embraces the values he modeled of friendship, integrity and courageous love of God.

Pastor

Parochial Vicar

Parochial Vicar Emeritus

Weekend Assistants

Deacons

Founding Pastor

Rev. Eugene J. Lee

Rev. Kiet Ta

Rev. William Krekelberg

Rev. Joseph Horn, O Praem

Rev. Joseph Justice

Deacon Tony & Mrs. Mary Patronite

Deacon Tin & Mrs. UyenLan Nguyen

Deacon Leonard & Mrs. Nancy Sun

Deacon Bernie & Mrs. Pam Ocampo

†Rev. John E. Janze

Office Information:

Office:

949-551-8601

After-hours emergency:

949-551-8601 ext. 7

Fax:

949-551-5879

Religious Education:

949-551-8029

Youth Ministry:

949-551-8602

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 8:30am-5:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am-2:00pm

**Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."**

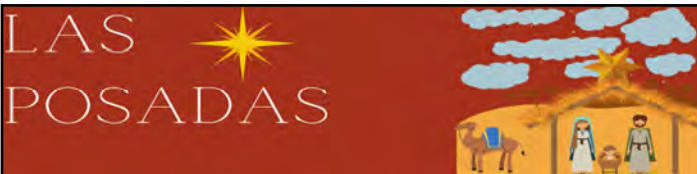
Matthew 1:23

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2017, 1988, 1977, 1988, 1970, CCD.
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December 18, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY

of
Advent



We will begin at 1:00pm by “knocking” on the St. Thomas More Parish Hall doors reenacting Mary and Joseph’s journey. *Empezaremos a las 1:00pm con pedir posada en las puertas del salón parroquial.*

**Sunday, December 18th
1:00 PM Spanish - English Mass**

Light food and piñatas following Mass. *Comida ligera y piñatas después de la Misa.* Please bring a dish to share.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Las Posadas (December 16–24)

Of the many Latin American traditions for the celebration of Advent and Christmas, the tradition of Las Posadas seems to be the best known. It originated in the last half of the eighteenth century when the boisterous Misas de Aguinaldo were no longer celebrated in Mexico. To replace these Masses, the laity decided to celebrate in their own homes by taking what they had seen dramatized in the churches: the journey of the Galilean immigrants, Joseph and Mary of Nazareth, when they were looking for an inn (posada) in Bethlehem of Judea. Like the “O Antiphons” of the official liturgy, these posadas were celebrated on nine consecutive nights.

The journey of Joseph and Mary from inn to inn sadly continues every day in the fearful and tired steps taken by so many immigrants in this country. Like the Holy Family, Latin American families look for hospitality with the hope of finding a new life for their sons and daughters. Unfortunately, many citizens of the United States behave like the people of Bethlehem, preferring to close their door in the face of the immigrants rather than welcoming them. Perhaps that is the reason that the tradition of Las Posadas has taken on so much importance among the

Latinos in the United States. We know firsthand what Joseph and Mary experienced two thousand years ago. We have to ask ourselves: When will the human heart change? When will we open the doors of our heart to our immigrant Lord?

—Friar Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



Saturday 12/17	4:00pm 6:00pm	†All Souls in Purgatory Anthony Cruz
Sunday 12/18	8:00am 9:30am 11:30am	Pro Populo Teresa Tran †Frank Vo †Patsy O'Sullivan †Antonio Maralit †Graciano Santos †John Gener †Dr. Jose Navarro Sr. †Paul Park
Monday 12/19	8:00am	†Feliciano Felipe
Tuesday 12/20	8:00am	†Anna Nguyen
Wednesday 12/21	8:00am	†All the souls in the Vu Family
Thursday 12/22	8:00am	Long Tran
Friday 12/23	8:00am	Modesto & Corazon De Silva
Saturday 12/24	8:00am	Baby Johanna Harris Susan Navarrete Neil & Valorie Curtis and Family †Ken Freund †Dr. Jose Navarro, Jr.

*Come to me, all you who labor
and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.*

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
EVERY FRIDAY AT 6PM TO 7PM
24 HOUR ADORATION IS ON THE 22ND OF EACH MONTH



Extra Confessions this week at STM:

Monday - Friday,
December 19th-23rd
at 8:30am

No Confessions on
Saturday, Dec 24th

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalm — The king of glory shall come in (Psalm 24).

Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Thomas More



Next Food Pantry is Tuesday, December 20th



For volunteer opportunities, please contact us at
volunteer@svdpstm.org.

Donations are greatly appreciated and can be made
through the E-GIVING link on the Saint Thomas More
Website at www.stmirvine.org



Young Ladies Institute CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

Candy is available for pick-up!

Dec. 18th (8am to Noon)



Gratefully wishing all of you a blessed holiday season!



Collections and Expenses

11-28-22 to 12-4-22

	Collection	E-Giving	Total
Sunday Collection	\$16,251	\$9,679	\$25,930
Maintenance Fund	\$355	\$768	\$1,123
Other income	\$12,785	\$1,388	\$14,173
Retired Religious	\$10,264	\$0	\$10,264
Total income	\$39,656	\$11,835	\$51,491

Regular Expenses	\$41,156
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Believe & Grow Capital Campaign	\$14,100	\$3,414	\$17,514
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We appreciate your continued financial support of the parish during these challenging times. If you would like to give, please click on the e-giving link in the top corner of the STM website to set up or update your e-giving. If you have questions, please call the office. All donations to the *Believe & Grow Together Campaign* will be used exclusively to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church. Moreover, Maintenance Fund donations can be used to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church and for the maintenance and repairs of the existing Parish buildings and property.

Thank you for your generosity!



Rest in the Love of Christ

Julie Boxley



PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING



Flory Aguilar
Carole Caplett
Marietta Charbonneau
Beata Durdovic
Kathy Ellis
Merrie French
Bill Flood
Marco Gama
Susie Giannantonio
Alina Gram
Tina Halberg
CJ Hassett
Julissa Huerta
Brooke Huismans
Sharon Jones
Natalia Julian
Ty Vivian Knisely
Richard & Elizabeth Kulas
Kevin Lee
Patrick Lee
Kathy Meals
Shella Arciaga Mercado
Jim Miller

Elena Monico
Ernie Natividad
James Natividad
Susan Nakagama
Karen Norton
Cathal O'Regan
Deacon Tony Patronite
Gerald Pilkington
George Quitariano
Paula Jane Ramirez
Donna Rohrer
Eileen Rossi
Ann Rupp
Sr. Jeanne D'Arc Salinger, R.S.M.
Norma Santiago
Jack Scharff
Susan Shadley
Cheryl Skudlarski
Fred Spitzkeit
Jesus Villanueva
Raymund Villanueva
Roger Wells
Michele Wills

Please email bulletin@stmirvine.org to add a name.
Names will be included for one month, if requested.



CONFIRMATION

WED 7PM

Sponsor Forms & Saint Reports Are Due

Attention C2 families! Sponsor forms and Saint reports are due by December 17th. Please turn in sponsor forms in person to the youth ministry office and please email saint reports to Confirmation@stmirvine.org. If you have any questions, please let us know.



YOUTH MINISTRY

SAT 8AM

Youth Ministry Office Is On Break.

The Youth Ministry office will be spending the rest of the month preparing for next year. YTH NITES will be on hold from 12/18-1/01. Please call the office if you need anything.



CONFIRMATION

WED 7PM

Confirmation Class Schedule.

C1: Wed 12/14, Wed 1/18, Wed 2/11

C2: Wed 12/7, Wed 1/11, Wed 1/25



YOUTH MINISTRY

SUN 6PM

Theology Of The Body YTH NITE

Join us on Sunday (1/08) for YTH NITE! YTH NITES are for High School teens to come together in community, have dinner, and learn how to apply their Catholic faith to their lives. We can't wait to see you! YTH NITE begins after the 5PM Mass and ends at 8:00PM!



R.E.P. CORNER



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Religious Education Classes & the REP Office will be on break for the Christmas holidays



from December 19th through January 8th.

We look forward to seeing you and your family in the new year!



The REP staff wishes all of our students, teachers and families a happy, holy and joyous Christmas!

See you all in 2023!

For any questions, call the REP Office at (949) 551-8029 or email rep@stmirvine.org.



The Library Corner



Can you name all the Catholic Church Traditions of Advent and Christmas seasons? Here is a list of a few of them: The Advent Wreath and Candles adopted in the late 1920s; the Nativity Scene or Creche dates back to 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi; the feast day of Saint Nicholas of Myra, who is the precursor to Santa Claus, dating from the fourth century; the Jesse Tree or Christmas Tree adopted in the sixteenth century, which stays up until the day after Epiphany; the feast day of the Immaculate Conception, solemnized on December 6, 1708, under Pope Clement XI; the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the procession of Las Posadas; the Christmas Eve celebration of the midnight Mass, which is widely believed that the birth of Jesus occurred at midnight and is also the end of Advent; the Christmas Day celebration of the Mass and is also the start of Christmastide; Christmastide is the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany as a sacred and festive season, established in 567 at the Council of Tours; the feast of Saint Stephen who was the first martyred Christian; the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, January 1, was dedicated to the day of Mary in 1965; the feast of the Epiphany, also known as the Three King's Day, marks the adoration of the baby Jesus by the Magi, Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, and ends the Christmas season.



CHRISTMAS MASSES

SATURDAY, DEC. 24

4PM | 6PM | 8PM (Viet/Eng)

SUNDAY, DEC. 25

12AM (Midnight) | 8AM | 10AM | 12PM (Span/Eng)

2PM (Chinese/Eng) | NO 5PM Mass

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

SATURDAY, DEC. 31

4PM (VIET/ENG) | 6PM | 10:30PM

Followed by Adoration and celebration

**(Countdown to the New Year in silence
while adoring the King of Kings)**

SUNDAY, JAN. 1

8AM | 9:30AM | 11:30AM

1PM (SPAN/ENG) | 3PM (CHINESE/ENG) | 5PM



SUGGESTED PLENARY INDULGENCE OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2022

TE DEUM. YOU ARE GOD: WE PRAISE YOU

A *partial indulgence* is granted the Christian faithful who recite the hymn, *Te Deum*, as an act of thanksgiving. The indulgence will be a *plenary* one if this hymn is publicly recited on the last day of the year.

FR. EUGENE'S COMMENTARY & SUGGESTION

Here at Saint Thomas More Church we will have Mass on Saturday, December 31 at 10:30 pm. Immediately after Mass we will begin a "silent countdown" into the new year while in Eucharistic adoration. (What a great way to enter 2023!—to be on our knees before the King of kings offering silent homage.) During this Adoration, we will be offering the Te Deum prayer.

CONDITIONS FOR RECEIVING A PLENARY INDULGENCE

1. Do the prescribed work.
2. Receive Holy Communion within several days (before or after) of the indulgenced act.
3. Go to confession within several days (before or after) the indulgenced act
4. Pray for the Pope. An Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be can suffice.
5. Be free from attachment to all sin, even venial sin.
6. OTHER NOTES: · In order to be capable of gaining indulgences one must be baptized, not excommunicated, and in the state of grace (free of mortal sin) at least at the completion of the prescribed works. · To gain an indulgence, one must have at least the general intention of doing so and must carry out the enjoined works at the stated time and in due fashion, according to the sense of the grant. · Plenary indulgences can be applied to one's self, or to a person who has died. · Only one plenary indulgence may be obtained per day. · A single sacramental confession suffices for gaining several plenary indulgences; but Holy Communion must be received and prayer for the intention of the Holy Father must be recited for the gaining of each plenary indulgence. · Special exceptions can always be made for those who are sick or disabled in which case please inquire with the priest.

THE HOLY INNOCENTS



**FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS
PRO-LIFE ROSARY,
PROCESSION AND MASS**
at St. John the Baptist in
Costa Mesa
WED, DEC 28th
7:30 PM

We will gather at 7:00pm in the courtyard, and our rosary procession will take place on the parish grounds. Mass will begin at 7:30pm, followed by refreshments in the parish hall. No Confessions this evening.



Join us for the **Christmas Novena** that will be recited after the 8am daily Mass (except Sunday) starting on December 16 and ending on December 24. Brochures with the Christmas Novena are available at the entrance of the Church. The Novena can be prayed at home.

Do you like decorating?

The Art & Environment Ministry would like to invite the parish community to help decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 24 at 9:30 am.



Obtain FINANCIAL PEACE at STM!

The Dave Ramsey Show is about real life and how it revolves around money. Dave Ramsey teaches you to manage and budget your money, get out of debt, build wealth, and live in financial peace. Managing your money properly will reduce stress, improve your marriage, and provide security for you and your family. Listen to Dave Ramsey Podcasts, Sirius radio, Ramsey App and Youtube. It's about your family. It's about your future. Financial Peace begins Saturday Jan 7th at 9am in the St. Nicholas room. It starts with you being sick and tired about being sick and tired.

..... a class that will change your life forever.

For more information go to: stmirvine.org
or email: financialpeace@stmirvine.org
To register for class: fpu.com/1156313



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*They shall name him
Emmanuel,
which means
"God is with us."
— Matthew 1:23*

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

New for 2023

Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Mondays 7-8:30 pm January 9 - April 3, 2023
OR

Tuesdays 10-11:30 am January 10 - April 4, 2023
St. Thomas More Parish
Register at GriefShare.org





WE ARE HIRING!

Capital Campaign Administrative Assistant/Friday Receptionist

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS as Capital Campaign Administrative Assistant:

Works as a liaison with the Capital Campaign Committee, assists Pastor with projects and deadlines, processes monthly statements for capital campaign, coordinates campaign activities, maintains and updates database, interacts with donors regarding pledges, prepares and mails thank you letters, attends and participates in staff meetings, performs any other job-related duties as necessary in the department and/or as assigned by supervisor.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

Ability to maintain confidentiality, attention to detail, excellent knowledge of Google Suite, Excel, Word, graphic design experience with various publishing and social media platforms, good public relations skills, ability to work flexible hours.

Applicants apply to Lisa Bergler, Office Manager at Lbergler@stmirvine.org or contact her at (949) 551-8601 ext. 213.

Why should I become a registered member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church?

If you are attending Mass on a regular basis at St. Thomas More, we invite you to engage with us. Registered parishioners enjoy these benefits:

- STM offers opportunities and support as you journey in faith, through praying, serving, giving, learning and belonging.
- Registered parishioners receive important updates throughout the year so that you can keep up-to-date on important parish news.
- Registered parishioners receive preference when choosing dates for celebrations such as weddings or funerals.
- Other parishes often request verification of a person's status as a practicing Catholic, attendance at Mass, etc., when that person has been asked to be a Godparent or Sponsor. Without registration, no such verification can be made.
- Your Sunday offerings are confidentially recorded by parish staff for proof of donation for tax purposes.

Registering with St. Thomas More Catholic Church is a statement of faith and confidence in the life and work of your parish.

Register today online at www.stmirvine.org or call the parish office at 949-551-8601.

CATHOLIC CORNER

Joseph had a dream.
In his dream an angel told him that Mary would have a baby—*God's own son!*
Look at both of the angels below.
Circle five things that make Angel #1 different from Angel #2.

© J.S. Paluch Co., Inc. • 800-566-6150 • Year A • Fourth Sunday of Advent
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St. Thomas More Ministries



Liturgy Support

Altar Servers	Mary Jane Rin	(9) 627-7125
Art & Environment	Amee Cuevas	(9) 551-8601
Eucharist to the Homebound	Fran Necikowski	(7) 505-4816
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Jerry Donaldson	(9) 552-5485
Lectors	Ed Ferguson	(951) 313-4942
Music Director, Including Wedding Music	Keith Rattay	(9) 551-8601
Sacristans	Pam Ocampo	(9) 468.6704
Ushers	Frank Ornelas (9) 857-9044	Joe Martin (9) 385-3741

Parish

Believe and Grow Together Campaign	Lisa VanDorpe	(7) 357-3080
Bulletin Editor	Lisa Bergler	(9) 551-8601
Building Committee	Keith Rattay	(9) 551-8601
Deacons	Tony Patronite, Tin Nguyen, Leonard Sun & Bernie Ocampo	(9) 551-8601
Hospitality/Donut Ministry	Deacon Tony Patronite	(9) 307-6215
Parish Business Manager	Stephanie Miller	(9) 551-8601
Parish Office Manager	Lisa Bergler	(9) 551-8601
Welcoming Committee	Vince Salico	(7) 389-7726

Sacraments

Baptism Coordinator	Windy Lozano	(9) 551-8601
Confirmation	Abraham Villela	(9) 551-8602
First Communion	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
First Reconciliation	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)	Deacon Bernie & Pam Ocampo	(9) 468-6604
Marriage Case Support	Contact office	(9) 551-8601
Marriage Encounter	Mike & Lisa Bergler	(9) 551-8601
Wedding Coordinator	Marcella Maurer	(9) 551-8601

Service

Bereavement	Rosie Muñoz	(9) 551-8601
Children's Homeless Lunch Ministry	Kim Lee	(7) 293-8987
Chinese Community	Deacon Leonard Sun	(7) 932-1689
Filipino Community	Mernie Empalmado	(9) 307-7479
Grief Share Ministry	K.C. Riley	(7) 875-8126
Hispanic Ministry	Frank Ornelas & Victor Cota	(9) 857-9044
Homeless Lunch Ministry	Jessica Silva	(9) 294-2875
Knights of Columbus Council #13111	Mike Smith	(9) 300-1913
Respect Life	Chris Gonzales	(9) 551-8601
STM Veterans	Sgt. Bob Kohler	(9) 552-1895
St. Vincent de Paul	Bill Chacon	(9) 331-1020
Vietnamese Ministry	Huan Le	(7) 261-9893
Young Ladies Institute	Cathy Wachtel	(9) 857-5037

Spiritual Development

Adult Faith Formation / Bible Study	Tara Reynaud	(9) 551-8601
Christ Renews His Parish	Tony Patronite	(9) 307-6215
Devotional Life Committee	Julie Whiteside	(7) 615-7205
Cursillo	Susan Navarrete	(9) 345-9130
Legion of Mary	Trisha Smith	(7) 473-3714
Library	Sam & Diana Adams	(7) 321-2405
Life Teen – High School & Young Adults	Abraham Villela	(9) 551-8602
More Moms	Krystal Padley	(7) 345-2598
Religious Education	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
Spanish Bible Study	Teresa LeMire	(7) 832-1770
When Women Pray	Paula Hines	(7) 746-1802

If you are feeling called to serve in one or more of our ministries, please email: serve@stmirvine.org

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Advent

DECEMBER 18, 2022

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."*

MATTHEW 1:23

TRUE GRATITUDE

Advent's four Sundays each have their own focus: "Stay awake!" (First); John the Baptist (Second); Rejoice! (Third); Joseph/Mary (Fourth). We might need to have a little pity on the Fourth Sunday, however, since the hectic realities of the secular calendar can overwhelm it, particularly in those years when there are only one or two (or zero!) days before Christmas. This year we have the luxury of a whole week! What shall we do with this gift from God? Perhaps a bit more charity or social action on behalf of God's poorest. Maybe take some time to listen for the voice of God in our dreams, as Joseph did. Attend daily Mass, Advent reconciliation, or pray the "O" antiphons (which began this Saturday evening). As with every gift, we show true gratitude by using it. Let us do so, as Paul tells us in Romans, for the sake of the name of Jesus, whose coming we await.

WHOSE HOUSE?

Interest in genealogy is much, much older than current fascination with using DNA analysis to trace our heritage. Matthew's Gospel opens with the genealogy of Jesus, going all the way back to Abraham, Israel's father in faith. This is what immediately precedes today's Gospel reading, and is crucial to how we hear the opening sentence: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." It's not so much as a starting point, but a pivot point that places Jesus firmly in the "house of David" through Joseph (in first-century Judaism, lineage and heritage was traced solely through males). An essential understanding of the Messiah was that he would come from the house and lineage of King David. For those of us who follow Jesus in faith, it's important to recall that it was through Joseph that Jesus both came from the house of David and was made a son of the covenant of Moses.

WHOSE HOME?

Matthew's Gospel also contains an angelic annunciation scene; we hear from it today. Another pivot point is presented, when the angel says "Do not be afraid to take Mary into your home." As with most angelic appearances in scripture, the angel provides an instruction not to fear. More importantly, Joseph is instructed by God's messenger to take Mary into his home. When Joseph and Mary were betrothed, they were officially constituted as husband and wife; the next step—approved by an angel—would have been for Joseph to take Mary into his home. So he provided a safe place for a young woman in a troubled pregnancy, and offered her child a home, a heritage, and a lineage. This rather difficult and risky move on Joseph's part might inspire us in this season to seek out and help out in those places where people are longing to have a house and—more importantly—a home.

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24