



# Saint Thomas the Apostle CATHOLIC PARISH

ESTABLISHED 1857 | DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO 1886



Our Parish Family includes Saint Thomas, the Apostle Parish, Saint Thomas, the Apostle School and Saint Anthony of Padua Mission Church.



## Second Sunday of Advent

### Parish Mission

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we the church answer the call of Christ to be a visible sign of His presence by participating in: Scripture and Sacraments, Worship and Prayer, Spiritual and Academic Education, Evangelization and Witnessing, Service and Charity, Fellowship and Community. Through our words and actions with our universal community of believers, we strive to share the love of God with the greater Oroville community and throughout the world.

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### Saturday Vigil

5:30 PM  
7:00 PM (Spanish)  
at St. Thomas in Oroville

#### Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM at  
Saint Thomas in Oroville,  
12:30 PM Saint Anthony's  
in Challenge

#### Daily Mass

Monday: 8:30 AM  
Tuesday: 6:00 PM  
Wednesday-Friday: 8:30  
AM

**Fr. German Ramos**  
Parochial Administrator  
frramosoro@gmail.com

**Thomas O'Connell**  
Deacon

**Shirlee Ohls-Morris**  
Parish Bookkeeper

**Mrs. Kelly Floyd**  
School Principal

**Mrs. Tamara Landers**  
School Bookkeeper

**Mrs. Kattie May**  
School Secretary

**Parish Office**  
1330 Bird Street

Oroville, CA 95965  
Phone: 530-533-0262  
Fax: 530-533-1148

Mon-Thurs | 9:00 AM - 12:00  
PM

Fridays | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM,  
1:00-3:00 PM

[www.oroillecatholic.org](http://www.oroillecatholic.org)

#### School Office

1380 Bird Street  
Oroville, CA 95965  
Phone: 530-534-6969  
Fax: 530-534-9374  
[www.stschool.net](http://www.stschool.net)

PARISH INFORMATION / I  
INFORMACIÓN PARROQUIAL

**Baptisms (Bautizos)** Please contact the parish office  
**Sick Calls or Sacrament of Anointing (Unción de los Enfermos)**

Please contact the parish office as soon as possible

**Weddings (Matrimonios)**

Minimum of six (6) months required for preparation. Please contact the parish office.

**Funerals** Please contact the parish office, for assistance in arranging a funeral service. We can also arrange a reception after the funeral if desired.

**Sick Calls**

Father Ramos would like to reach out to those parishioners who are homebound, or otherwise unable to attend Mass. If you, or someone you know, needs to receive a visit, or Sacraments you can find a Sick Call/Home Visit Request form in the Church Vestibule, the Parish Office or an on-line fillable electronic form, in English and Spanish, on the STAP website (<https://orvillecatholic.org>).

**Announcements**

**Mass Intentions:**

If you wish to have your intentions offered up at Mass, you may do so by contacting the Parish Office at 530-533-0262.

**Food Drive**

St Thomas is collecting nonperishable food to donate to the Salvation Army, which will go to support most needy in our community. Please bring what you can, either boxed or canned, and place it in the vestibule.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Please join us on December 12, 2023, to celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Mañanitas and Rosary will be held at 5:00 AM after we invite you to join us in Fitzgerald Hall for our tamale sale, coffee, hot chocolate, and Mexican pastries. The procession will commence at 4:00 PM and will be accompanied by Danza de Fe and Mariachi music. The Mass will follow the procession. After Mass, we invite you to a Taco Dinner, Raffles, Mariachi Music, and Folclórico Totia de Marta. The event is organized

by the Guadalupana Society of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church.

**Thanks and Congratulations**

The Altar Society and the Catholic Ladies Relief Society are grateful to all who supported our Holiday Boutique and Raffle. Congratulations to Lydia VanderLaan who won the Altar Society's \$500 cash prize and to Zooba Zwicker who won the CLRS basket.

**Casting Call**

Calling all angels, shepherds, sheep, innkeepers, wise men baring gifts, and Holy Family. We are looking for children ages 2 through 16, who wish to join the cast, for the Christmas Eve Family Mass. Please join us for Practice on Sunday December 17 at 11:30 AM (right after Mass)

**Celebrate the Season**

Our Second Annual Christmas Concert is scheduled for Friday, December 15 at 7:00 PM in the church. Following the concert there will be a reception in the Community Center. This event will feature hymns by members of the St. Thomas Music Ministry, and familiar Christmas songs for all to sing.

**Advent Penance Service**

In preparation for Christmas, we will have a Penance Service on Tuesday, December 19 at 6:00 PM. Father Ramos has invited several priests from our deanery to assist in hearing confessions.

**Poinsettias for the Church**

The altar Society will be decorating the church for Christmas after the 10:30 Mass on December 24th. All parishioners are invited to help by donating poinsettia plants. Many parishioners donate a plant in remembrance of a family member or bring a plant as a gift of love. The poinsettias may be brought to the Parish Office on Tuesday December 19 through Friday December 22 between 9:00a.m. and 12:00 noon. Poinsettias may also be brought to the church on Sunday December 24 after the 10:30 Mass until 1:00 p.m. May our Lord Jesus bless you at Christmas and always. — St. Thomas Altar Society.

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR  
CALENDARIO LITURGICO**

**Sunday, December 10**

8:00AM

10:30 AM

12:30 AM @St. Anthony's in Challenge

**Monday, December 11**

8:30 AM

**Tuesday, December 12**

5:00 AM Mañanitas and

Rosary

4:00 PM Procession,

followed by Mass

**Wednesday, December 13**

8:30 AM

**Thursday, December 14**

8:30 AM

**Friday, December 15**

8:30 AM

12:30 PM @St. Anthony's in Challenge

6:00 PM Bilingual

**Saturday, December 16**

5:30 PM Vigil

7:00 PM Spanish Vigil

**Sunday, December 17**

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

12:30 AM @St. Anthony's in Challenge

**Rosary:** *St. Thomas:* after the 8:30 AM Mass during weekdays, and after the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday Masses

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

4:00 PM Tuesdays

4:00 PM Saturdays

Or by Appointment

**Adoration of the Blessed**

**Sacrament:**

Every Tuesday: 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

Every Friday: 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

3rd Saturday of Every Month, 8:00 PM



## Editor's Note

With holidays coming, the printer needs the bulletin early. Please have all posts emailed to [stthomasbulletin.oroville@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasbulletin.oroville@gmail.com) no later than 8:30 AM on Friday mornings. I will be posting the bulletin Sunday afternoons, rather than Monday afternoons until after the first of the year. Thanks and sorry for any inconvenience.

## Crab Feed

The Crab Feed is back, hosted again by the Knights of Columbus. The dinner will be on Saturday January 27th, 2024. Doors open at 5:30pm with dinner being served at 6:30pm. Dinner will include a Crab or Steak option for \$75 or a Crab and Steak option for \$85. Dinner will include Clam Chowder, Bread and Salad with Ice Cream for dessert. Those ordering Steak will have Potatoes and a vegetable included in their meal. Tickets will be available at Marcozzi Jewelers, Briggs Firestone, ST Thomas the Apostle School Office and at Church Masses starting Dec. 7th. The Dinner will be in the Church Hall at 1330 Bird St. Oroville, Ca. For further information you may contact Jim Cupido @ 533-5599.

## Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus will host their monthly Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, December 17th. The breakfast includes: pancakes, eggs, sausage, hashed brown potatoes & drink. Adults \$8, Kids 5-12 \$4. Come and enjoy this meal with your parish family.

## The Pastors Voice

“Why can't we sing Christmas carols in church during Advent?”

As the seasons change, so too does the rhythm of the church's year. This helps us all to appreciate the beauty of time and God's presence in our lives. However, keeping pace with sacred time is becoming much more difficult these days. If you look at the culture today, it can seem that this time of year is one enormous Halloween-Thanksgiving-Christmas extravaganza. Keeping Christ, not just in Christmas, but at the center of our lives, can be an uphill battle.

Just as with the seasons of nature, there is a beautiful rhythm to the liturgical year. This helps us to understand life transitions and how the rituals of the church year prepare us to receive Jesus in every season. Time itself has been marked by Jesus' life, death and resurrection. For example, “B.C.” stands for the English phrase “before Christ” and “A.D.” stands for the Latin phrase “*anno domini*” which means “the year of the Lord”—denoting what year this counting from the year we mark as when Jesus was born.

Advent is not just a precursor or “prelude” to Christmas, but a journey in and of itself, with Christmas as the destination. At the heart of Advent is a sense of anticipation and hope as we prepare for the birth of Christ and his second coming.

So why are we asked to reserve Christmas carols for the Christmas season (in other words, starting with the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve?) It is not because the church is a Grinch, but because Advent is its own season and we are asked to celebrate it in its own right.

Advent begins the liturgical year and with it comes the unfolding of beautiful readings that build toward the birth of Christ, from one week to another, along with complementary music, colors and rituals.

While it is tempting to skip right to Christmas after Thanksgiving, staying true to our Catholic faith means also being true to the marking of sacred time. Our Advent prayer helps us to do that, especially our Advent music. During the season of Advent, we watch, we wait and we prepare – for the birth of Jesus and for the time He will return.

[Why can't we sing Christmas carols in church during Advent? - The Compass \(thecompassnews.org\)](http://thecompassnews.org)

## Please Remember in Your Prayers

Frank Clanton	Jose Ignacio Ramirez
Thomas Edward Winter	Jose Ignacio Ramirez-Gutierrez
Ann Lewis (Loseke)	Jodi Williams
Alan Armstrong	Mason Ray Williams
Monsen Family	John Ritter
Victor and Joan Briggs	Margaret Carnahan
Jimmy Potestio	Patricia Laird
Patty Webber-Smith	Julie Silveira
Jane Frericks	Conner Briggs
Ray Firpo	Jeffery Spoor

## Catechist Corner

Second Sunday of Advent  
12/12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Wisdom of the Saints; “Live a virtuous life, give all you can with little regard to yourselves, base all your actions and everything you do on how it will contribute to the greater glory of God, dress your body and soul with dignity, imitating Christ courageously and confidently, letting all the world know where your loyalty is.” St. Teresa of Calcutta