



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.

www.orovillecatholic.org



Fourth 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
Wed-Fri: 8:30 AM

Fr. German Ramos
Parochial Administrator
frramosoro@gmail.com

Thomas O'Connell
Deacon

Jennifer Willin
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 AM - 12 PM
Fridays | 9AM-12PM, 1-3PM

School Office
1380 Bird Street
Oroville, CA 95965
Phone: 530-534-6969
Fax: 530-534-9374
www.stschool.net

PARISH INFORMATION /
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 require 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://orovillecatholic.org>)."

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.

Prayer Requests

To add/remove a name, please email: saintthomasbulletin.oroville@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued prayers for those in need.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

-Frank Clanton	-Ann&Russ
-Thomas	Lewis
Edward Winter	-Jose Ignacio
-Ann Lewis	Ramirez-
(Loseke)	Gutierrez
-Alan Armstrong	-Jodi Williams
-The Monsen	-Mason Ray
Family	Williams
-Victor and Joan	-John Ritter
Briggs	-Margaret
-Jimmy Potestio	Carnahan
-Patty Webber-	-Patricia Laird
Smith	-Julie Silveira
-Jane Frericks	-Daniel Briggs
-Ray Firpo	-Jeffery Spoor
-Jose Lopez	-Kana McCauley
-Pamela Stair	-Matthew Huey
-Kayhli & Kelsie	-Lisa S. Bollinger

Christmas Poinsettias

The altar Society will be decorating the church for Christmas at 10:00 on December 24th. Many parishioners donate a plant in remembrance of a family member or bring a plant as a gift of love. The poinsettias may be dropped off in the church vestibule *after Sunday Masses on 12/22 and on Tuesday, 12/24 at 10AM.* May our Lord Jesus bless you at Christmas and always.
—St. Thomas Altar Society.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday, 12/24—Christmas Eve
5:30 PM Family Mass
12 AM—Midnight Mass

Wednesday, 12/25—Christmas Day
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM
12:30 PM in Challenge
5:00 PM Spanish Mass

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST—
SOLEMNITY OF MARY
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
MASSES AT 8:30 AM, 12:30 PM IN
CHALLENGE, BILINGUAL 6 PM**

The CRAB FEED is back hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Dinner is on Sat. Jan. 25th.

Doors open at 5:30pm,
dinner at 6:30pm.
Dinner includes a

Crab OR Steak option for \$75,
or Crab AND Steak 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 available at Marcozzi Jewelers, Briggs Firestone, St. Thomas the

Apostle School Office and at Church Masses. The Dinner is in the Church Hall at 1330 Bird St. Oroville, Ca. For further information you may contact Jim Cupido @ 533-5599.

Bulletin Due Dates

1/5 due THURS 12/26 @ 5PM

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

CALENDARIO LITURGICO

Sunday, December 22

8:00 AM
10:30 AM
12:30 PM @St. Anthony's in Challenge

Monday, December 23

8:30 AM

Tuesday, December 24

5:30 PM Family Mass
12 AM—Midnight Mass

Wednesday, December 25

8:30 AM
10:30 AM
12:30 Challenge
5:00 PM Spanish

Thursday, December 26

8:30 AM

Friday, December 27

8:30 AM followed by Adoration

Saturday, December 28

4:00 PM Confession
5:30 PM English Mass
7:00 PM Spanish Mass

Sunday, December 29

8:00AM
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 PM

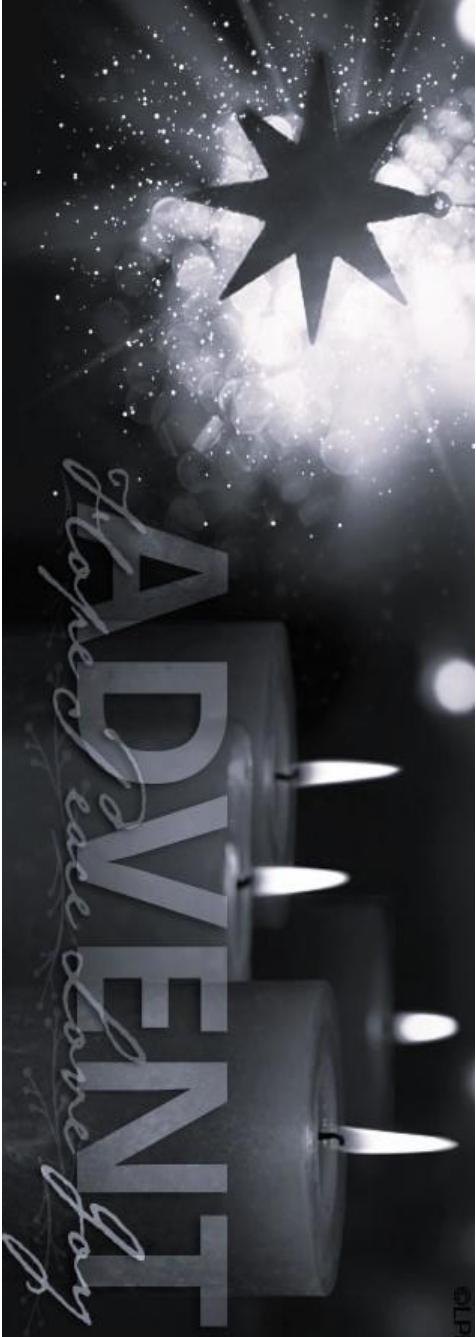


**Pregnant?
Worried?
Need Help?**

*You are not alone.
We can help.*

The Gabriel Project
Call: 800-910-0191

Pastors voice Catholicism and paganism



The modern Catholic has many fronts to defend, one of them being the so-called “pagan roots” of Christmas. Around Christmastime, you are likely to hear the objection that Christmas is a Christo-pagan holiday, a mash-up of pagan beliefs and Christian celebration. Here is an objection you might meet, and a helpful way to respond.

“Christians coopted Christmas from the winter solstice celebration of Sol Invictus.”

Yes, there were mid-winter celebrations in religions outside Christianity during the time of the early Church. In fact, as with Easter, the Eastern and the Western churches observed Christmas differently, and, until recently, the Armenians didn’t celebrate it at all. The West led the way with a distinctive Nativity-based celebration, concluding with the holy Mass. Christmas was not an assimilated celebration until the fourth century.

Does that mean that the apostle John, and Ss. Polycarp and Irenaeus—three men who were apostolically connected—did not celebrate Christmas? It could. But there is nothing wrong with this. There was never a debate about the birth of Christ; rather, the debate was about the celebration of it as Christmas took time to develop.

The person who maintains Christmas’s “pagan roots” has to ask himself the following questions:

1. After centuries of the Church being persecuted for not observing pagan holidays, where is the proof of influence?
2. Who influenced whom? Did Christianity influence pagans to begin to adopt a more public and concrete celebration, or did Christians “Christianize” a pagan event? We can observe historically that the two celebrations were present at the time, but neither scenario is a problem for the Christian, because the Church has the ability to Christianize people *and celebrations alike*. *Light overcame darkness at the celebration of Sol Invictus, and, in Christ, darkness was defeated by the real luminousness of Christ. Paganism had a hint, but Christianity had the fulfillment.*



Remind your objector of what Paul said to the Greeks at the Areopagus: “For as I passed along, and observed the object of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, “to an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you . . . that [every nation of men] should seek God, in the hope that they might feel after him and find him (Acts 17:23,27).

A desire for the “unknown God” is written on the hearts of all men.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* puts it this way:

The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for (27).

['Pagan Christmas'? Nope! | Catholic Answers Magazine](#)