



Our Parish Family includes Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish,
Saint Thomas the Apostle School, and Saint Anthony of Padua Mission Church.
www.oroillecatholic.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](#)

