



# 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](http://www.orovillecatholic.org)



## Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

### 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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

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

**Crab Feed**

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.

**Misprint**

I am so sorry for printing the wrong Christmas Mass time last week and for the inconvenience that it caused! I will do my best to avoid doing that again in the future.



**LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

**CALENDARIO LITURGICO**

**Sunday, December 29**

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

**Monday, December 30**

8:30 AM

**Tuesday, December 31**

8:30 AM

**Wednesday, January 1**

**Solemnity of Mary**

8:30 AM  
12:30 Challenge  
6:00 PM Spanish

**Thursday, January 2**

8:30 AM

**Friday, January 3**

8:30 AM followed by Adoration

**Saturday, January 4**

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

**Sunday, January 5**

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

The modern Catholic has many fronts to defend, one of them being the so-called “pagan roots” of the Christmas tree.

**“The Christmas tree comes from pagan origins and is condemned in the Bible.”**

The objector can have a field day with this one. Evergreens are a near-universal symbol of hope in the winter season. They represented resurrection (triumph of life over death) for the Egyptians, everlasting life for the Scandinavians and Druids, and agricultural anticipation (to the god Saturnalia) for the Greeks and Romans. But the tree was not recognized as a use of Christmas celebration until the time of the Reformation. (October 31, 1517)

More closely connected to the ancient Church is the use of evergreen wreaths. Your objector might say that it came around the same time as the popularity of the pagan celebration Saturnalia. The truth is, Tertullian wrote as early as 190-220 that Christians hang more “wreaths and laurels” than the pagans (who hang it for the “gate gods”) at their doors.

In this letter, Tertullian condemned the wreath as something into which to put hope as did the pagans with their temples, over that of Jesus who is the true Light in which we are the actual temples of the Spirit. He wasn’t condemning the décor! He ends with, “You are a light of the world, and a tree ever green. If you have renounced temples, make not your own gate a temple.” There’s little evidence that the Church adopted the practice from the pagans they were trying to convert.

The passage in the Bible your objector likely is referring to is Jeremiah 10:3-4.

*Thus says the Lord: Learn not the customs of the nations, and have no fear of the signs of the heavens, though the nations fear them. For the cult idols of the nations are nothing, wood cut from the forest, wrought by craftsmen with the adze<sup>1</sup>, adorned with silver and gold. With nails and hammers they are fastened, that they may not totter (NAB)*

Let’s get one thing straight: Jeremiah was not talking about Christmas trees. He was writing hundreds of years before Christmas became a celebration. He was pointing out the idolatry of the people of that day and, like Tertullian, was warning against the idolatry of those who put their hope in earthly gods and things.

“This little tree, a young child of the forest, shall be your holy tree tonight. It is the wood of peace . . . It is the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are ever green. See how it points upward to heaven. Let this be called the tree of the Christ-child; gather about it, not in the wild wood, but in your own homes; there it will shelter no deeds of blood, but loving gifts and rites of kindness.” -Saint Boniface around the year of our Lord 723  
To understand the Christmas tree in the Catholic Tradition read the following . . .

<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/st-boniface-and-the-christmas-tree>

<sup>1</sup>A tool similar to an ax

