

# St. Thomas More

Roman Catholic Church – Parish Newsletter

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# THE TOWER

## Coming into Focus

— Phil Goscienski, Interior Design Team Co-Chair

Everything in God’s time—we keep reminding ourselves as the Interior Design Team and New Construction Committee focus on the task of building the sanctuary of the Church of St. Thomas More.

As you enter or leave Mass, listen to those flags snapping in the ocean breeze. Imagine not an open space but a soaring structure whose bell tower will mark where residents from Oceanside, Vista, and Carlsbad have gathered to form one holy, Catholic community.

Our building program is far from dormant. The generous contributions of our Parish family have allowed us to fund the design stage of the project. Renzo Zecchetto Architects of Santa Monica, the architectural firm that has been chosen to design the sanctuary building, prepared the preliminary sketches found on the Parish web site, [www.stmoside.org](http://www.stmoside.org). Renzo Zecchetto will soon be developing detailed plans that will reflect the actual appearance of the building.

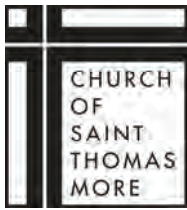
Renzo’s design of the Lux Art Institute in Encinitas made it possible for that building to be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. His design of our new church building will follow these same guidelines, which will not only contribute to the environmental benefit of the community, but also lower future heating, cooling, and maintenance costs.

The Interior Design Team, about to enter its fourth year, has visited more than a dozen churches, reviewed input from Parish “town hall” meetings, and poured over reference materials, texts, and liturgical



The Rudolph family bears witness to the importance, strength, and variety of our ministerial life at St. Thomas More!

(Continued on page 2)



## THE TOWER

In naming our Parish newsletter, we remember the Tower of London where St. Thomas More spent his last days and suffered a martyr's death.



The Tower is published semi-annually by the **Church of St. Thomas More** 1450 S. Melrose Drive Oceanside, CA 92056 (760) 758-4100 (760) 758-4165 fax www.stmoside.org parishoffice@stmoside.org



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### Parish Mission Statement

To worship God, teach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and serve God's people in word and deed.

## Coming into Focus – continued

(Continued from page 1)

guidelines. Based on the team's input, our Liturgical Consultant, Robert Habiger of Dekker/Perrich/Sabatini, an Albuquerque-based firm, is preparing a liturgical program. This document will provide our architect with information that he will use in the building's design, reflecting the needs of the congregation.



Knights of Columbus ensure valuable donations reach those in need at St. Bonaventure Mission.

The minutes of Interior Design Team (IDT) meetings, posted on the Parish web site, reveal the complexity of the team's task. Several subcommittees deliberated over individual elements that not only had to conform to ecclesiastical requirements but also would complement each other. Team members are developing design criteria for the altar, ambo, baptismal font, and pews. Everyone on the IDT now looks at sculptures, paintings, and tapestries, as well as the Stations of the Cross, with new eyes.



Faithful crew ensures a tasty Thanksgiving meal combined with a warm spirit and fellowship.

Professionals in the art and science of acoustics will be called upon early in the process to ensure that the voices of the celebrant, the readers, the choir, and the congregation will add to, not detract from, the beauty of liturgical celebrations. Instruments that range from the guitar to the pipe organ, as well as the handbell choir, must each find their voice within the space.

The transition from plans on paper to an edifice on solid ground will occur when we have both the funds on hand to qualify for a construction loan from the diocese and sufficient weekly contributions to sustain both the present structure and the new building. We pray that the Parish family will contribute generously to both so that we can replace those fluttering flags with a magnificent sanctuary. ♦



Members of our Adult Choir share their multiple talents at our "With Grateful Hearts" concert.

# Blessed by the Sacrament of Matrimony

Carrie Haare and Billy Turley  
Michael Nichols and Kathryn Goeltz  
Briana Wasch and Patrick Hamilton III  
Carol Tsens and Patrick Matarazzo  
Colin Evans and Christine Filice  
James and Araceli Cruz

Made one through Baptism with the risen Lord

Abigail Pawelek  
Angelika Jaronski  
Victor Fresca  
Gabriela Noivo  
Danica McCormick  
Evan Uhren  
Malia Barker  
Alexis Ewing  
Bridget Villa  
Nicole Flores  
Evan Jimenez  
Luke Johnson  
Thomas Walsh  
Amanda Bell  
Gabriella Compton  
Dean D'Agostini  
Juliana Martinez  
Nolen Morente  
Carson Manning  
Kylie Browne  
Meagan Guyot  
John Wood  
Mary Bush  
Guillermo Smith Molano

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.*



## In honor and memory of those who have died

John Pokojni	Frances Espana
Hans Jacob	Edwin Mohrman
Agnes Gaugel	Katherine Grant
Betty Dow	Joseph Suozzo
Peter F. Pieri	Rose Mary Wiesen
Mary Hjelt	William Greeley
Alfred Barmasse	Jay Ahmann
Lewis Garrett	Olive Burke
Daphne Dunn	Patrick McCarthy
Lucjan, Cwiek	Raymond Brown
Theresa Burns	Freeman "Bud" Hazlett
Gene Frink	Carl Bechtold
Richard Dockery	Joyce Durette
Giuseppi "Joe" Vozza	Luis Cadenas
Joseph Linden	



## Convalescent Home Ministries — by Natasha Bukovchik-Jaksch

It is Friday, and a group of finely dressed seniors gather in the activities room of Pacific Place for their weekly Communion service provided by their faithful friends and volunteers from St. Thomas More. This is a familiar scene to many local Catholics residing in assisted living facilities. About 60 people in *The Manse*, *Pacific Place*, *Emeritus at Carlsbad* (formerly *Brighton Gardens*), *Aegis at Shadowridge*, and *Emeritus at Oceanside* (formerly *The Springs*) enjoy weekly Holy Communion and personal visits from ten dedicated and loving STM Parishioners. Once every other month Fr. Mike celebrates Mass at each place (except at *The Manse*). Like an umbrella, each Catholic church takes care of the senior living facilities in its own neighborhood. Our volunteers ensure the elderly in the Tri-City area are involved as much as possible in their church and are always remembered.

The seniors thoroughly enjoy the service; many consider it the highlight of their week. Lillian Luisi, a STM choir member and resident of *Pacific Place* says, “I feel very happy and thankful—like they’re backing



Residents look forward to our weekly visits!

me up.” She is one of six STM Parishioners currently in this assisted living facility. Lillian participates in a special way by gathering her fellow Catholics, providing hand-made hymn booklets, and leading the group in song before the services, something she loves doing. Lillian says the participants “love that we have Mass. We’re reunited among the people here and also with the church as well.”

Five Catholics enjoy a Communion service at *The Manse* every Friday with either Tom Schweighofer or Roger Burkardt. The Communion service, which is a mini-version of Mass, is mainly the same at every facility: it consists of a Gospel reading and other prayers, the “Our Father,” and the Eucharist.

Depending on the person leading, the service may consist of hymns, silent prayer, and special intentions. Tom has been doing it a few months and says, “It’s a pleasure and a tremendous privilege for me to serve there. I really enjoy it.”

At *Pacific Place*, residents in the

main building and *Arbor House*, a place for those with Alzheimer disease and dementia, have their Eucharistic gatherings each Friday with Carol Ann Kope and Nancy Clark. Carol, who has been at *Pacific Place* for over three years says, “I never realized how ‘hooked’ I’d get.” She also feels that offering the Eucharist is a great privilege. “You realize you might be giving them

Communion for their last time. It means so much to be there when they need it most,” says Carol.

Nancy has been subbing for the Homebound Eucharistic Ministry for two years, serving at *Emeritus at Carlsbad* and *Pacific Place*. As she shares how humbled she is by the experience, the tears begin to flow. “I find the entire experience of bringing Communion to these residents extremely humbling. I look at the people to whom I minister and see how they look forward to and are grateful for the smallest gesture of kindness and acknowledgment,” she says. “This is my very favorite thing. I’m touched every time I go. God just takes over.” Nancy prays before each visit that she represent the love of God and become the person whom God intended her to be. The seniors recognize Christ in her and are so happy she is with them.

*Emeritus at Carlsbad* is unique in that it has a team of five individuals (Jean McCloskey, Betty Nelson, Frank Coxon, Roger Burkardt, and Nancy Clark). Each one takes one Friday a month and is there for about two hours. Jean McCloskey has been bringing Communion to Catholics in three different buildings for three years and goes the first Friday. She makes the prayer time personal by sharing something special like a unique prayer or a reading. With



Fr. Mike celebrates Mass for the residents.

these individuals whose days on earth are numbered, Jean feels bringing the Eucharist to them is nourishment for the soul. “The Eucharist is so important. How many consolations do we have left when we’re that ill, old, and in pain? I think it’s a tremendous consolation,” says Jean. She hopes more people will volunteer in this ministry. “If they only knew how gratifying it is—we don’t do it for that, but it happens,” says Jean.



Ministers and residents share a special bond.

Every Wednesday, for about an hour, Joyce Frink hosts the Communion service at *Emeritus at Oceanside* and visits individually with the residents. “I try to give them a little personal attention to make them feel special,” she says. The staff is very helpful in gathering the residents and assisting them during the service. After five years of service, Joyce is passing on this opportunity to the equally compassionate Joanne Robinson. With tears in her eyes she sadly says, “I really will miss it. It’s been better for me than for them.” (Joyce is transferring her talents to our Core Team of Bereavement Ministers.)

Lil Hair, resident at *Emeritus at Oceanside* seems to benefit just as much. Grinning from ear to ear with her mini-plush dog in her lap, Lil tells how she attends every week and always looks forward to it. “I wouldn’t miss it. Oh, I love it! I’m so thankful and so glad they come.” For her and other seniors it is a special

treat when Fr. Mike celebrates Mass, especially since he brings his dog, Herman. When asked what she loves most about the Eucharistic gatherings Lil says, “Everything—to be able to be a part of it.”

Since *Aegis at Shadowridge* opened its doors eight years ago, Ann Eriksson has been visiting the seniors every Friday. They do not gather in a group like the other facilities, except when Fr. Mike comes for Mass, but visit and pray one-on-one with Ann in their rooms. This offers her a special opportunity to form a relationship with each of them. The number of residents fluctuates on a constant basis at all facilities. “Sometimes they feel scared or like nobody is listening to them, and you have to be their sounding board. Other times they’re very lonely and just need to talk,” says Ann. “There’s a lot of receiving and blessings from both ends,” she adds. “I have been called to this ministry many years ago and know that this is where God wants me to be,” she says. Ann feels we are all “on this earth to make the best of our lives and we should be of service to one another.” She says being with the elderly has been a real treat because of the love and satisfaction she gets from their interactions.

The elderly Catholics in our area at assisted living facilities are a part of

our community even if they may never step foot in STM again. It is our job to keep them included and loved. “All the community needs to be involved in the life of these assisted living facilities,” says Fr. Mike. It is as easy as driving a senior to Mass on a Holy Day, visiting a fellow Parishioner who is recovering from surgery, or making something for them. You can donate small religious items, handmade cards, or finished coloring pages by your children or grandchildren for our volunteers to distribute. Look for the colorful collection box in the hallway outside the Faith Formation office in the Parish office. “If we had more people helping it would lighten the load. When you see a need you step up to it,” says Jean McCloskey. “I think that the love you give will come to you at some point in your life,” says Ann. The volunteers confirm that it is in the giving that we receive. As Joyce Frink so aptly says, “It’s more of a blessing to give than to receive.” The look of heartfelt gratitude in the seniors’ eyes is worth more than a handful of diamonds. We thank the current ministers for their years of gracious service and invite new people to experience God’s blessings through this avenue of Christian stewardship. ♦



A vibrant spirit is shared by all at Pacific Place!



## Angels in the Wings — by Natasha Bukovchik-Jaksch

Who cleans up the candle drippings, scrubs out lipstick stains from the linens, dry cleans Fr. Mike's vestments, and stuffs the bulletins? We give these tasks little thought, but someone has to do them. When most of us are sipping our morning coffee or



Candle drippings and lipstick are among stains cleaned weekly to ensure all is crisp and clean for weekly worship.

returning home after Mass, a group of dedicated, humble individuals work tirelessly behind the scenes, doing the liturgical housekeeping. Like the nameless woman who went with Jesus and the disciples, providing for their needs without wanting acknowledgement, these people serve from the kindness of their hearts without expecting a thank you. There simply is not enough room to list everyone by name, and many wish to



Prepared for weekday Masses and multiplied for weekends

remain anonymous. But God sees these great, and sometimes not-so-simple, acts of service, as does the staff. As Henny Jocelyn, St. Thomas More's Receptionist, says, "You know who you are, and so do we!"

Four daily sacristans and a lead daily sacristan handle much of the behind-the-scenes work. They prepare the worship space for Mass by gathering all that is needed for the celebration (including hosts and wine, patens and cups, and the Sacramentary, to name a few), selecting people to bring up the offertory gifts, and making sure there are enough Eucharistic Ministers and readers for the Mass, while acting themselves as altar servers. These selfless people clean up after Mass by gathering everything used, putting it all back, and purifying the cups and patens. Henny adds, "Some sacristans will even make the water warm to wash father's hands." Our lead sacristan additionally sees that there are always enough altar candles and hosts for Mass. She carefully divides up the altar bread into smaller bags to keep them fresh.

As if cleaning their own homes was not enough work, four 'Holy Liturgical Housekeepers' put in countless hours in service on the upper and lower levels. They polish the altar and chapel furniture, remove wax, polish the candlesticks, and make sure all the altar cloths, albs, and vestments are clean. Other duties include cleaning the glass door to the Chapel, polishing trays and the thurible (vessel for incensing), and washing the holy water font. "Never does a week go by that I don't see trips to the dry cleaners and folks picking up piles of towels and bringing them back clean and pressed," remarks Henny.



Yes, weekly.

Eight 'Altar Linen Ladies' know the tricks of removing red wine and lipstick from white linen since they do it weekly. "The altar linens always come back snowy white and pressed to perfection," says Henny. Dedicated to washing and ironing, these diligent workers take care of the cloth items used on the altar during each Mass including the small altar linens,



Vestments require care too...

purificators (linens to wipe the chalice), corporals (altar cloths), finger towels, and chalice drying towels. Their tedious yet important job is one that might go unnoticed, but if not done, all would notice.

One noble and unassuming woman has earned the title of ‘Secret Angel’ given her wish for anonymity and



Baptism banners made with loving hands

because of the essential duties she completes with a pure and humble heart. She has assumed responsibility for washing all the dirty mops and rags. “The stack is sometimes bigger than she is. Before you know it they are back in their places ready to be used again,” says Henny. She also removes and replaces the black drape around the altar and helps with chair break down and set-up. As she comes and goes, Fr. Mike’s dog, Herman, gets a good walk from her too. This lovely woman is loved by all.

Preparing the weekly bulletin and envelopes is also a labor of love. A group of six enthusiastic, committed volunteers spend about an hour and a half every Friday stuffing 800 bulletins and stapling envelopes as needed. They talk about old times and laugh a lot. It’s a fun group, and they’re having a good time being of service. Many of the same ‘Bulletin Stuffers’ double as special mailing helpers. The ‘Special Stuffers’ label, stuff, and seal mailings such as *The Tower* newsletter and the Lenten and Advent brochures. These helpers give

countless hours to help complete the necessary, albeit monotonous jobs.

We also salute the invaluable and faithful, do-it-all helpers and the creative, talented, and devoted Baptismal banner makers. The staff feels blessed to have those who come in the office to do anything from organizing to filling and folding. “They do whatever is needed, and those are wonderful folks to have,” says Henny. Eight banner makers grace the Church with their attractive and personal gifts to those we welcome in Baptism.

Kudos to the giving folks who have organized coffee and donuts after Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Got Towels?

They have purchased, set-up, and cleaned-up for coffee and donuts for eight years now. Our faith community is very grateful for their generous spirit and service!

All of these ‘angels’ may go unseen, but their work does not. Speaking on behalf of the STM staff, Henny says, “We who work in the office know they are doing so many things for the Parish, and we value all they do more than you



Always faithful servants, our Angels in the Wings tend to details that some take for granted.

know. Nothing just happens, someone has to step up and do it and these folks do.”

Assistance is always welcome with any of the items mentioned in this article. To help or find out more about these ministries, the team coordinators are listed below:

Elaine Cassidy, Weekday Sacristans

Marge Gillen, Altar Linens

Kathy Wilson, Holy Housekeeping

Germaine Wilmott, Bulletin Stuffers

Mary Williams (*followed by Germaine*)  
Tuesday/Thursday Coffee and Donuts

Henny Jocelyn, Baptismal Banners

A warm and heartfelt thank you to each of our Angels in the Wings—know that you are appreciated! In so many ways, at so many times, you make all the difference. ♦

*Please contact Henny or Chris in the Parish Office to join the cause!  
760-758-4100 x100*



Oh, and about those mops...they are *also* cleaned weekly!



## LENTEN/EASTER LITURGIES AND EVENTS

**Ash Wednesday** .....February 25  
Masses at 8:15am, 12:00noon, 5:30pm, and 7:30pm

**Friday Fish Dinners** .....February 27-April 3  
Friday evenings, 5:30pm to 7:00pm

**Stations of the Cross** ..... February 27-April 3  
Friday evenings at 7:00pm

**Faithful Families Parish Mission** ..... March 29-30  
Sunday & Monday evening, 7:00-9:00pm

**Holy Thursday** ..... April 9  
Mass at 6:00pm

**Good Friday** ..... April 10  
Good Friday Liturgy at 12:00noon and 7:00pm  
Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm

**Easter Vigil** ..... April 11  
8:00pm

**Resurrection of the Lord** ..... April 12  
Masses at 6:30am, 8:30am, and 10:30am

Church of St. Thomas More

## FAITHFUL FAMILIES PARISH MISSION



**CHRIS MUGLIA & FAMILY**  
Renowned Musician & Speaker



**DEACON MITCH RENNIX**  
Men's Ministry  
Workshop Leader



**MARY MOORE**  
Speaker & Nationally  
Syndicated Columnist

**Sunday & Monday, March 29-30, 7:00-9:00pm**

Presented by Sound Mission Ministries

[www.soundmission.com](http://www.soundmission.com)

## Upcoming Events at St. Thomas More Parish

Church of St. Thomas More presents

# Spring Sing



"...so that  
they may be  
one..."

John 17:11

**Sunday, April 26**

**4:00pm**

Upper Level of the Parish Center

**Church Choirs from North County  
Classic Brass  
Congregational Hymn Sing**

**Annual Golf Classic – Our Tenth Anniversary!**

**Friday, May 1, 2009**



- ◆ **Golf at Fallbrook Golf Club**
- ◆ **Miniature Golf at Boomers!**
- ◆ **Evening Festivities at STM**



FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
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