

Church of St. Thomas More

A Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of San Diego

1450 South Melrose Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056
760.758.4100 Phone • 760.758.4165 Fax
www.stmoside.org • parishoffice@stmoside.org



Spirituality † Tradition † Community

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor
Deacon Thomas A. Goeltz
Rev. Thomas W. Thompson, Pastoral Associate
(858-945-2251) Hospital Chaplain at
Scripps La Jolla, Scripps Green, & UCSD Thornton

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:30am-12:00 noon and 12:30-4:00pm

Mass Schedule
Saturday at 5:00pm
Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am
Tuesday-Friday at 8:15am
First Monday of the Month at 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration
Monday-Friday, 6:30am-7:30pm

Reconciliation (Confession)
Saturday, 4:00-4:30pm

March 9, 2008 • Fifth Sunday of Lent

Visit the parish website, www.stmoside.org, and click on *Our New Church* to keep abreast of our pre-construction progress.

Your contributions to the "Did You Know?" program help keep us on track. Thank you!

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Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak
michaelr@stmoside.org
758-4100 x100

The Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal

At the beginning of Lent, we began the Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) for 2008. This collection, taken up throughout all 99 Parishes of the Diocese, is seeking to raise, as in past recent years, \$2.5 million.

All Parish Households received a "love letter" from me along with a pledge/gift envelope. In the event you have lost your envelope, more are available at the Parish Office and at the Information Table on the Plaza after all Masses.

The \$2.5 million contributed by all the Parishes of the Diocese supports the mission of our local church, the Church of San Diego, through "Education in the Faith," "Priestly Ministry," and "Catholic Charities."

In support of the ACA, the Church of St. Thomas More will contribute \$34,000 as its fair share for 2008. As a benefit to our Parish, the Diocese will return to us all funds collected over and above our goal amount.

This year, as last year, funds received over our goal amount will be directed to the Operational Budget. Last year, \$17,000 was returned to the Parish for our ongoing needs.

(Continued on page 3)

Calendar Highlights

Also check the parish website for complete calendar info:
www.stmoside.org, then select "Schedules and Calendars"

The Week Ahead

- Mar 9 Spirited Seniors travel to Rolling Hills Covenant Church to see "Pageant of Our Lord"
 Mar 9 RE.A.CH classes, including high school

The Month Ahead

- Mar 16 Palm Sunday of Our Lord's Passion
 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
 Mar 20 Holy Thursday—Mass at 6:00pm
 Mar 21 Good Friday—Morning Prayer at 8:15am;
 Liturgies at 12:00pm and 7:00pm;
 Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm
 Mar 22 Holy Saturday—Morning Prayer at 8:15am;
 Blessing of Easter Food at 11:00am;
 Easter Vigil at 8:00pm
 Mar 23 Easter Sunday—Masses at 6:30am, 8:30am, and 10:30am
 Mar 29-30 Women's Guild Bake Sale
 Mar 30 RE.A.CH classes

The Year Ahead

- Apr 6 STM Music Ministry Presents
Spring Sing—Ecumenical Celebration of Song
 Apr 22 Parish Potluck with New Orleans Volunteers
 Apr 24 Spirited Seniors Present *Music by Emmalyn*
 Apr 26 Women's Prayer Breakfast
 Apr 26 Women's Guild Fashion Show
 June 6-8 Parish Campout
 June 14 Women's Guild Installation Luncheon
 June 20 Ninth Annual Golf Classic/Evening Festivities
 July 21-25 *Power Lab* Vacation Bible School

Prayer List for Deployed Military

As a faith community let us pray for all who serve our country in these troubled times. We pray especially for those connected to our parish who have been deployed:

Gy. Sgt. Barry Bull, USMC
Christian Caplinger, US Army
Brandy Amber Collins, HMI, USN
Nicholas B. Dawson
Capt. Gregory Day, USMC
Lance Corporal Brandon Doyle, USMC
MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC
Sgt. Stephen Gerke, 101st Airborne
Lt. Col Robert T. Green, USAF
Cpl. Michael Guty, USMC
Col. Kathleen Henderson
Cpl. Andrew G. Klidzejs, USMC
Med. Staff Sgt. Jana Alexander Madrid, USAF
Ronald Meyers, US Navy Search & Rescue
Lance Cpl. Steven A. Michaels, USMC
Spec. Jared Ratzlaff, US Army
SPC Robert Sullivan, US Army
Capt. Thomas Zeeff, USAF

All-powerful God, be their constant companion and strength in every adversity. May they experience your faithful presence, gentle love and compassionate healing.

Contact the parish office at 758-4100 x102 to add a name.

Readings for the Week Ahead

Sunday Year A; Weekday Year II
 Readings online at www.usccb.org.

Sunday, March 9 (34)

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

Monday, March 10 (251)

Daniel 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62

Psalm 23:1-6

John 8:1-11

Tuesday, March 11 (252)

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 102:2-3,16-21

John 8:21-30

Wednesday, March 12 (253)

Daniel 3:14-20,91-92,95

Daniel 3:52-56 (Psalm)

John 8:31-42

Thursday, March 13 (254)

Genesis 17:3-9

Psalm 105:4-9

John 8:51-59

Friday, March 14 (255)

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Psalm 18:2-7

John 10:31-42

Saturday, March 15 (543)

Joseph, Husband of Mary

2 Samuel 7:4-5a,12-14a,16

Psalm 89:2-5,27,29

Romans 4:13,16-18,22

Matthew 1:16,18-21,24a or

Luke 2:41-51a

Sunday, March 16 (37 and 38)

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Matthew 21:1-11 (procession)

Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm 22

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 8, 5:00pm

James Tutino ☩

Sunday, March 9, 8:30am

Missa Pro Populo

Sunday, March 9, 10:30am

Mary Donahue ☩

Tuesday, March 11, 8:15am

Jo Anne Rann ☩

Wednesday, March 12, 8:15am

James Taefly ☩

Wednesday, March 12, 9:45am

Jim Cohen ☩

Springs

Thursday, March 13, 8:15am

Laura Ludke ☩

Friday, March 14, 8:15am

Donn Wilmott ☩

Saturday, March 15, 5:00pm

Bob Petruzzo

Sunday, March 16, 8:30am

Mary Norelli ☩

Sunday, March 16, 10:30am

Frank Colbourne ☩

Prayer List

Michael Ainis
 Phyllis Allar
 The Atkinson Family
 Patricia Barbour
 Carl Bechtold
 Thomas Beck, Jr.
 Edward Bednarz
 Cindra Bell
 Tom Belprez
 Joe Bozanich
 Janet Brown
 Ann Buko
 Carl Coleman
 James Coleman
 Barbara Colton
 Tom Connors
 Thomas Cornwall & family
 Judy Crane
 Deborah Darsey
 Linda Dossman
 Daphne Dunn
 James Echter
 The Esmonde Family
 The Fiore Family
 Larry Fisk
 Edmund Fredette
 The Gandolfo Family
 Bob Gardiner
 Lewis Garrett
 Rick Gonzalez
 Anita Hage
 Susan Hallahan
 The Harker Family
 Bud Hazlett
 Frank Hoerman
 Cynthia Horner
 Bernie & Ginny Jaeger
 Sue Johnston
 Colleen Kaup
 Paul Kennedy
 Debbie Kinny
 Sr. Anne Kremenik
 Lillian Lachance
 The Lamelin Family
 Brandon LeBlanc
 Lois Leonard
 Jackie Lynn
 James MacArthur
 Lisa Martin
 Ken Mauro
 Patrick McCarthy
 Nancy Moore
 Deacon Bob Mueller
 Margie Myers
 Judith Nichols
 R. Northrup
 Patricia O'Gaffney
 Ana Patterson
 Helen Pingtella
 Ante Pitesa
 Anne Post
 Bill Pulver
 Sr. Loyola Romey
 Dorothy Rouse
 Rose Rowland
 Lynne Rumpf
 The Russo Family
 Marilyn Sinkez
 The Vernaci Family
 Lee Vincent
 Vanessa Vitiello-Koble
 Kevin Watson-Graff
 Lorie Whitmore

Call 758-4100 x102 to add a name for four weeks.

(Pastor's Column continued from page 1)

As the Diocese of San Diego moves through the "settlement process," the funds collected for the ACA are more important than ever to ensure that the ministry of Jesus continues through "Education in the Faith," "Priestly Ministry," and "Catholic Charities."

Your gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal is needed more than ever! Be mindful, as well, that your gift will also benefit St. Thomas More and will help greatly as we move forward with the build-out of our Parish Campus, with the new Church!

If you have not yet made your pledge or given your gift, please do so at your earliest convenience.

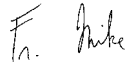
The Parish Bulletin gives you a weekly update on the ACA.

My hope is that many more of our Parish Households will feel a responsibility to support the ACA. Be a part of helping the Diocese move forward from the recent, painful past, and be a part of helping our Parish build our Church.

I am asking that every Household make a pledge/gift. No amount is too small. Your gift will help the ministries of our local Church here in San Diego and will benefit our Parish as we continue to make real our dreams.

A reminder for our 127 households that tithing: your tithe includes your gift of the Annual Catholic Appeal. You do not have to make a separate pledge/gift.

I thank you for your generosity!



Lenten Fish Dinners Every Friday of Lent

(No Dinner on Good Friday)

Serving Time: 5:30-6:30pm

Price: Adults one fish-\$6, two fish-\$7, three fish-really?

Children one fish-\$4

This dinner is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and their wives. Serving time should allow you adequate time to eat your dinner, socialize, and attend the Stations of the Cross. Feel free to bring your neighbors and friends. We promise friendly and smiling faces will serve you!

Women's Guild Bake Sale

The ladies of St. Thomas More Women's Guild will be calling on parishioners whose last names begin with the letters A-H for donations of home-made baked goods for the Bake Sale on March 29-30, the week **after** Easter. Please bring your baked goods when you come to Mass, and drop them off at the designated tables.

New Orleans Update

Our volunteers are all home safe and sound, although many are recovering from illness. Thank you for your prayers! Mark your calendars for the evening of Thursday, April 22, and plan to join them for a potluck and picture/story sharing.

Lenten Communal Penance Services

| | | |
|----------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| March 10 | 7:00pm | St. Margaret, Oceanside |
| March 11 | 6:30pm | St. Patrick, Carlsbad |
| March 12 | 7:00pm | St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad |
| March 14 | 7:00pm | St. Mary Star of the Sea, Oceanside |
| March 17 | 6:30pm | St. Mark, San Marcos |
| March 18 | 6:30pm | St. Francis, Vista |

FORE — SIGN UP NOW!

St. Thomas More 2008 Golf Classic
Save the Date ~ Friday, June 20, 2008
Check the table on the Plaza!

For more info, contact John Murphy at
945-9935 or murphy8801@cox.net



High School Youth Ministry

Making Time—Making Excuses—Eccl. 3:1

Monday, March 10, 7:00-8:30pm

Second Wednesday Adoration Night

Wednesday, March 12

7:00pm Blessed Sacrament Chapel

8:30pm Pick Up at Starbucks

Yes, Young Adults Are Welcome!

For more information, call Gale at 726-7236



Middle School
Youth Group

**March
MADNESS!**

March 10

7:00pm

Wear your team colors!

6th Graders wear - Red

7th Graders wear—Blue

8th Graders wear—Black

Bring a Friend!

Ron & Louise Briseno

760-758-4100 x153

Our Mission is to: worship God,

Mass Schedule: Saturday at 5:00pm; Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am; Tuesday-Friday at 8:15am; first Monday of the month at 7:00pm; watch bulletin for holidays

Rite of Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday from 4:00-4:30pm (or by appointment)

Eucharistic Adoration: Monday-Friday from 6:30am-7:30pm

Liturgical Ministry: Contact Douglas Lynn at 758-4100 x140

Choirs and Music Ministry: Contact Douglas Lynn at 758-4100 x140

Communion for the Homebound/Hospitalized: Contact Parish Office

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Parish Office

Matrimony: Contact Parish Office a minimum of 9 months in advance
For further information, call Rev. Michael Ratajczak at 758-4100 x100

teach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ,

Inquiry into the Catholic Faith: First and third Thursday evenings

Religious Education for Youth & Children: Two times a month, September-May, on Sundays

Religious Education for Adults: Various times, September-May

Liturgy of the Word for Children: 8:30 and 10:30am Masses

Little Rock Scripture Study: Weekly sessions, morning or evening

High School Youth Ministry: Monday evenings

Middle School Youth Ministry: Two Monday evenings per month

Preparation for the Sacraments:

Baptism (for infants): Begins with an appointment with the Pastor

Baptism (7-14 yrs.)/RCIA: One to two year process with children and parents

Baptism (adults)/RCIA: One to two year process; weekly sessions

First Reconciliation: In home process begins in Level 1

First Communion: In home process begins after first reconciliation

Confirmation: Minimum two year process of preparation; begins in high school

For further information, call Kathleen Bell at 758-4100 x110

and serve God's people in word and deed.

There are many groups who serve the parishioners and provide outreach to the local community.

For further information, call Chris Smith at 758-4100 x120

Thank You from Brother Benno's!

We delivered almost three pickup-truck loads of food items to Brother Benno's and \$385 in cash and checks due to your generosity. In this time of increasing need, your thoughtfulness and sharing mean so much to a good number of people.

At Brother Benno's, a worker helping unload the trucks inquired where we were from. On hearing STM, he said he would have to stop by some time to visit, and that he was thinking about becoming Catholic, because everyone he met from STM was friendly, generous, and sharing. It just shows that the best way to evangelize is through example. —*Deacon Tom*

Small Church Communities

Good News! We have two new Small Church Communities formed. One group meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm, and a couples group meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm. Both groups are still taking in new members.

Our small church communities meet weekly to reflect on the scriptures, pray, and share their faith. If you are interested, or need more information about Small Church Communities, contact Sondra Parks at 598-1269 or sondraparks@hotmail.com.

In Memoriam:



Please pray for the souls of:

Judy Morrison, who died on February 19. Her Memorial Service was celebrated at All Hallows Catholic Church in La Jolla on February 27. Please keep the Morrison family in your prayers.

Bob Gardiner, who died on February 27. His Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Carlsbad on March 7. Please keep his wife, Fran, and the family in your prayers.

Mary Hjelt, who died on February 21. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, March 15, at 10:30am. Please keep the Hjelt family in your prayers.

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Holy Thursday Dinners

It is a tradition in our Parish on Holy Thursday to have dinners in Parishioners' homes after the liturgy. Loaves of bread and bottles of wine are blessed after Mass for consumption at these dinners. We need "Hosts" who provide the setup in their home, and "Guests" who will be assigned to those homes to bring a dish to share. Host families determine the number of guests they can accommodate and if their home is suitable for children. This is a random assignment of Guests to Host homes. This event is not for Host homes who have pre-planned dinner guests invited. This is meant as a way to meet new fellow parishioners as well as extend the blessings and meaning of this holy night. Sign ups to be either a Host Home or a Guest are concluding this weekend, March 8-9, after the 10:30am Mass. If you would like more information, call Henny Jocelyn at 726-1177 or Lisa Reaves at 945-3212.

Women's Guild

March Luncheon Meeting—Monday, March 10, at 11:00am.

Bake Sale Coming Up—See page 3 for details.

Caring Drivers Needed

Several STM parishioners need round trip transportation to church, grocery stores, and medical appointments. If you can help, please contact STM's Disabilities Facilitator at 599-7151.

2008 Annual Catholic Appeal

February 25, 2008

Our parish assessment for this year is \$34,000. All money raised over this assessment is returned to us for our Parish use. It will be directed toward our Operational Budget. Thank you to those who have responded to date!

Household returns: 75

Total pledged: \$12,296.50

Average gift: \$163.95

Materials were mailed to all registered households and are also available at the Parish information table on the Plaza after weekend Masses and at the parish office during the week.

Liturgy & Music

Worship God

Douglas Lynn
Director of Music/Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries
douglasl@stmoside.org; 758-4100 x140



MAKING ROOM IN THE PEW

—Melissa Musick Nussbaum

I'm short. I aim for the aisle seat at the movies so I can lean out and see. If I'm seated in the middle of the row, it's certain some tall person (anyone over 5' 3") will sit in front of me, obscuring the view.

In church, I'm a front-pew parishioner. I want to see the chalice raised and the bread broken. If I'm not in front, Mass is a sea of backs and necks and hats and hairdos. I will leave knowing where he keeps his Skoal tin and where her dyed hair ends and the naturally colored growth begins. But what's happening on the altar? The lector could cha-cha to the ambo and I'd have to hear about it later.

My children resist the front pew. During his teen years, our oldest began calling us "the publican family" He liked that Gospel about the publican whose piety was always loud and, well, front-row.

Abram was at his best those not infrequent Sundays when we squabbled at home and in the car and through the parking lot, only stopping at the church door. It was not peace; it was a cease-fire. The hostilities would resume on the way home, with a few forays—the wrist wrench during the sign of peace, the underhanded pinch during the liturgy of the Word—across enemy lines during Mass.

On those Sundays, we walked in smiling, greeting other parishioners and giving the

obligatory, "Fine, thanks," to questions regarding our health and well-being. Abram would follow, his head down, muttering, "The publican family goes to Mass."

Now, with my 89-year-old mother living with us, we choose the front pews still. My mother can see and hear better there, and she's only feet from the Communion ministers who come to her, bringing with them the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

Then, there's the two of our grandchildren in town, she a restless 2 and he a wandering 4. They behave better if they can watch the movement and hear the whispered commentary of a parent or grandparent. "Look, Anna, she's saying, 'Thanks be to God' with her hands. No words at all." The signers fascinate them, and the children can now exclaim "Alleluia" with the hearing and the deaf of our parish.

Of course, it's hard for our daughter and her husband to get the four of them to church on time. We often lay down our coats on the pew, the sign for saved seats.

So, you can see, I have a lot of good reasons for sitting in my pew. I didn't pay a pew fee, of course, and would never advocate bringing such a system back. I have squatter's rights, the nine-tenths of the law that is possession. I've been sitting there for a long time. Just ask anyone at the 8:45 Mass. They can tell you where the Nussbaums sit.

A new family has joined our parish. They have young children. They like our pew, too. Perhaps they also want to watch the Gospel book raised. Perhaps their children, like ours, behave better when they observe the processions in and out and the bowing down and the liftings high.

The first time I saw the new family in our pew, I felt a twinge of irritation. But, publican that I am, I smiled and greeted them as I slid into another row. It was the next Sunday when I understood how inhospitable my habit had become. I walked into church to see this family as they prepared to take their seats. A longtime parishioner beckoned to the new parishioner mother. The LP was

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

8:45am - 7:30pm

Family Hour: 6:30 - 7:30pm

Orthodox Lent
Begins

Intention for the Day

**That the Orthodox Church and
Catholic Church may soon reunite to
strengthen the Body of Christ.**

whispering and the NP was listening intently. Then I saw the mother speak to her family and motion for them to move. I knew what had happened. They had been warned. These seats are not open.

We will soon gather on Holy Thursday. We will hear John's story of Jesus and his disciples at table together before the feast of Passover. I will listen, and hear, perhaps for the first time, how Jesus "rose from supper and took off his outer garments." He left his seat. He took off any of the clothes that might signify high rank or order. He put on an apron, the sign of the servant.

But before he could strip down and dress for the work of washing the disciples' feet, Jesus had to leave his seat—the seat, as painters have depicted it, at the head of the table, in the very front row.

Later in the same story, Jesus will tell Peter that he has to do what Jesus has done: get up from his seat and begin serving.

"I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

Jesus has given me a model to follow. But first, I have to get out of my seat.

Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

Kathleen Bell
Director of Faith Formation
kathleenb@stmoside.org; 758-4100 x110

What's Faith Got to Do With it?



As your family concludes this Lenten Season and your Rice Bowl sacrifices are transformed into gifts for those in need, please:

- Exchange the cash you have saved into a **check**
- Make checks payable to St. Thomas More
- Return your donation by March 30 so that we may gather them into one and send our STM gift to Catholic Relief Services
- Reinforce with your children the connection between their sacrifice and almsgiving . . . helping others in need. Make it concrete so that this becomes a way of life for them!
- Questions? Kathleen Bell 758-4100 x110 or
kathleenb@stmoside.org

Almsgiving

Keep in mind that almsgiving in the form of peanut butter and jelly is welcome year-round for the children of our local community who are hungry.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Update:

2008 GOAL: 365 jars
TOTAL to date: 227 jars



Little White Books



The Little WHITE Book for the Easter Season is now available. These six-minute meditations reflect on the weekday Gospels of Easter, 2008. They help us to celebrate the whole of the Easter season from March 24 until May 11.

Your \$2.00 donation helps cover the cost of the book. They are available, while supply lasts, at the Information Table, or on the Lower Level of the Parish Center. There are 5 books in Spanish.



Today is a **REACH** day!

Being ON TIME is a great Lenten practice!

Do you have your cross in your pocket?

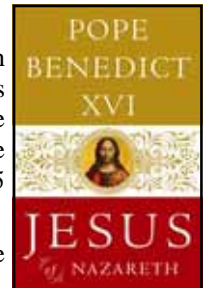
Father Mike's Bookies !



The Life of Thomas More, by Peter Ackroyd, is our next book for discussion on April 2. As you are reading, feel free to email Fr. Mike with questions or ideas you would like him to address or the group to discuss.

The fourth, and final book in this year's discussion series is *Jesus of Nazareth* by Pope Benedict XVI. You are welcome to begin this book before the June 25 discussion.

Copies of both books are available on top of the file cabinet outside the Faith Formation Office.



Little Rock Bible Studies

St. Paul's Letter to the Romans

Starting March 26, 9:00am and March 27, 7:00pm

The letter to the church at Rome is unquestionably the most important of Paul's letters and "is to many the most important text in the New Testament itself."

The church of Rome was not founded by Paul as the churches of Galatia, Philippi, and Corinth to mention a few, but this lengthy letter to Romans is one of seven undisputed letters of Paul's.

Why did Paul write his letter to the Romans? There are varying scholarly points of view which will be examined during this course. We hope to come to know the author's purpose "to clarify, and abridge, defend his thesis, and recount history."

If interested, please plan to join us. Any questions, please contact Masako Streling 295-2594 or mstr0619@cox.net.

Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

Chris Smith
Director of Stewardship & Development
chriss@stmoside.org; 758-4100 x120

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Hidden Value?

Long ago a great sculptor unveiled his latest work to a large crowd. With a flourish he swept off the cover, revealing an angel, which would be one of many in the Church where it was to be placed. But what an angel!

There was no wind in the sculptor's shop, yet this angel's wings seemed to be spreading to take flight. Marble can neither speak nor move, yet this angel's mouth appeared to bless, its hands to fold in prayer.

The audience burst into applause. One person dared to ask, "How did you do it?" The sculptor said, "I simply carved away everything except the angel."



"Everything except the angel" . . . It seems like a joke, but it's not. Great sculptors have the gift to see the figure that already exists within the material and then use tools to remove what is extra, thus freeing the masterpiece.

As the Creator, God is the great Artist. Also, God sees all the art that has ever been and ever will be. By commanding us to be stewards, God tells us to become artists too, of our own souls.

Instead of a hammer and chisel, our tool is giving. Every time we give money to the church, it's like carving away a bit of "marble" to reveal more of our Christian nature.

Every hour spent helping in a food pantry, singing in a choir, teaching Religious Education, and so on, does the same.

Our hands may lack the sculptor's skill, but through Christian stewardship, we can make our lives move beautiful than any statue.
— Stewardship, March 2008

Jesus called his friend from death by calling, "Lazarus, come out!" Just so, we receive the same call from Jesus every day to "come out" of our feelings of fear, anxiety, doubt and unbelief.

When we hand our lives to Christ, we strip away all the outer layers that build up in the world and hide our true inner beauty.

Lent is a perfect time to reflect on the fact that every aspect of our lives ~ our gifts as well as our sufferings ~ can lead to blessings for ourselves and others. All we need to do is surrender our lives to the Lord and the rest falls into place.

Stripping away the layers of the world as we know it isn't easy. By prioritizing life with God at the center, we can see our lives and purpose much more clearly.

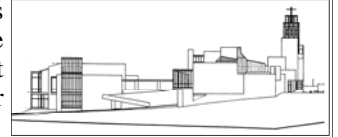
Each one of us is uniquely and beautifully made. When in doubt, start removing the layers to find your true value.

God doesn't make junk.

TOWERS OF FAITH

Future Support and Estate Planning Options

Towers of Faith is a grass-roots movement that has arisen due to the visionary leadership and overt generosity of several of our parishioners.



These individuals (several anonymous) have included the St. Thomas More in their estate planning. This helps to ensure their ongoing support and a legacy for our Parish.

Towers of Faith is our future support. Future support refers to gifts which are the result of a parishioner's various means of estate planning vehicles such as:

Designated Beneficiary Accounts,
Last Will and Testament, Living Trust,
Life Insurance, Stocks and Bonds, Real Estate

Any parishioners who have already included STM in their estate plans are *Towers of Faith* participants. The return envelope included with the brochure has a check box to mark if you have already included STM in your estate planning. This way we know who you are. We would like to acknowledge your generosity!

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact us. Your participation is most welcome and appreciated!

Chris Smith at 758-4100 x120, or chriss@stmoside.org.

Do two people in your family know the location of your will and/or living trust?

It is very helpful to us if you let us know if you have already included STM in your estate planning.

Thank you to all those who have come forward!

Collection for Week of: March 1/2, 2008

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Number of Registered Households: | 962 |
| Envelopes | \$ 15,838.25 |
| Children's Envelopes | 0.00 |
| Plate | 1,127.00 |
| Total | \$ 16,965.25 |

Thank you for keeping your Building Fund pledge current and for supporting your parish, even when you are away.

There are many ways to help support your Parish.

We offer a variety of options for easier giving. In addition to the extra "mail-back" envelopes included in your packet, we offer automatic:

- ◆ Credit Card Withdrawal (Visa or MC)
- ◆ Automatic Checking Account Deduction
- ◆ Automatic Savings Account Deduction

*To participate in these time-saving alternatives, please contact the Parish Office at:
758-4100 x100 or parishoffice@stmoside.org*

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday-Friday • 6:30am-7:30pm
 Blessed Sacrament Chapel



Spend a few minutes (or more) with Jesus!

Exposition of the Eucharist on First Fridays and one other day of each month. Next date: Wednesday, March 12.

For more information, contact John O'Donnell at 598-6003.

Looking for Information on the Catholic Faith?

Are you interested in learning more about Catholicism, becoming a Catholic or returning to the Catholic Church after being away? You're invited to Inquiry Sessions, which meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:00pm at the Parish Center.

For information, call Bob Taylor at 630-4589.

Annual Lenten Collection


This month has been designated for the 2008 Annual Lenten Collection. Special envelopes were stapled to the front of the bulletin last week for this collection, which supports the works of Catholic Relief Services, the Church in Latin America, and the Church in Africa. You may designate your contribution to the causes listed on the collection envelope. Envelopes may be returned any time during the month of March. Thank you for your generosity!

Publicize Your Parish Event!

Would you like to publicize a parish event to the general public? Submit a Press Release Form at least three weeks in advance of your event to have it advertised in local news publications. Press Release Forms are available:



- on the parish website (www.stmoside.org, Contact Us, Parish Forms),
- the parish office, or
- from Anne Marshall at 727-2668 or annemarshall@sbcglobal.net.




**St. Thomas More
Vehicle Donation Program**

Do you have a vehicle you want to donate?
 The St. Thomas More program is easy!

Call us, and we'll have it picked up.
You get the tax deduction!

**Call the Parish Office at
 760-758-4100 x100**



Fr. Mike Honored

The Church of St. Thomas More is pleased to announce that our Pastor, Rev. Michael Ratajczak KHS, has been awarded the Pilgrim Shell, the choicest decoration of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, in recognition of his untiring work during the past several years in support of maintaining a viable and vibrant Catholic and Christian presence in the Holy Land.



The award was made by Lieutenant Patrick D. Powers, KGCHS of the Order's Western USA Lieutenancy on March 1 at the annual mid-year meeting of the Diocese of San Diego's Knights and Ladies in the presence of Bishop Robert Brom, KC*HS. Also present at the meeting were the three retired Lieutenants of the Western Lieutenancy, including our own Jim McGlone and his wife Nell, and over 100 other Knights and Ladies of the Order from throughout the Diocese of San Diego.

STM \$crip News

Thank you to all who participate in this painless way to earn money for our new sanctuary, and thank you to the merchants that are willing to participate by providing gift certificates at a discount.

Scrip is sold on the Plaza after weekend Masses and in the parish office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-10:00am.

*For information, call Henny Jocelyn at 726-1177
 or visit <http://www.stmoside.org/scrip.htm>*

Want to Make a Difference in Our Community?

St. Thomas More provides monthly dinner meals for the North County Solutions for Change homeless shelter in Vista. Your help with this valuable service is most welcome! Individuals, families, and/or parish groups are welcome to 'adopt' one of the fourth Sundays of each month. The following items comprise this ministerial event:

- ◆ Dinner foods (i.e., casseroles, ham, chicken, lasagna)
- ◆ Fruit or green salad
- ◆ Dessert (i.e, brownies, cookies, cake, cupcakes)
- ◆ Paper goods and plastic utensils
- ◆ Monetary donations to help with any of the above items
- ◆ Your time to deliver and/or help to serve the meal

*For more information, please contact
 Paul & Kalei Mendiola at 945-9042.*

I Want to Earn STM Building Fund \$\$\$ with My...

Albertson's Card #(11 digits) _____

Ralph's Card #(13 digits) _____

Please send me a Food 4 Less Card

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please place completed form in the collection basket or return it to the \$CRIP table after weekend Masses or the Parish Office during the week. Thank you!

News from the Larger Church

St. Patrick's Day Celebration in San Diego—The annual St. Patrick's Celtic Mass celebrating the Feast of St. Patrick will be held on Friday, March 14, at Our Mother of Confidence Church, 3131 Governor Dr., San Diego, at 6:00pm. All are welcome; "*Cead Mile Failte.*" For more information, contact 858-453-0222.

Get Rejuvenated! at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—Rest, read, or just relax at the next "Quiet Day," Monday, March 17, sponsored by Mission San Luis Rey, 4050 Mission Avenue in Oceanside. Check-in at 9:00am, or later, and spend the next seven hours (until 4:00pm) escaping the hectic pace of everyday life or catching up on your sleep in your own private room. Take some time to wander the Mission grounds, sit in the chapel or the gardens, and enjoy the beauty and serenity of your surroundings. An optional stretch class and a 15-minute massage are also available. \$20-\$25 per person includes lunch. Please pre-register by calling 757-3659.

St. Francis Preschool Open House Invitation—St Francis Preschool is hosting an Open House for parents on Tuesday, March 18, at 8:30am for those interested in enrolling their children in the fall. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1, 2007. For additional information, contact Mrs. Nancy Thomas, Director, at 630-7964.

Celebrate Mass at CSUSM in San Marcos—Calling all Catholic students at Cal State San Marcos! Come celebrate mass with other catholic SSUSM students on Wednesday, March 19, at 9:00pm in clark 110. Then stick around for some snacks and fellowship. We hop to see you soon! If you have any questions about the NEW Catholic Club on Campus, please contact Nathan at 981-9094 or saltywash@hotmail.com.

Retreat Opportunities at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—"Reflections on Our Risen Life and How to Make Every Week Holy" will be presented by Bro. Kelly Cullen, OFM, on Wednesday, March 19, from 6:00-9:00 pm at Mission San Luis Rey's Retreat Center.

"Holy Week—Silent Retreat" from March 20-23, will have daily liturgy, presentations and extended periods of quiet contemplation.

For more information and reservations, contact 757-3659 or www.sanluisrey.org.

Educational Conference on Peace in the Holy Land—*Telling the Truth, Prospects for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel*—Save the dates, June 27-28. Friends of Sabeel North America, voice of the Palestinian Christians, is co-sponsoring an educational conference with the Joan Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, June 27-28. The purpose is to educate North American Christians, Jews, and Muslims on how to support a just peace in the Holy Land. Information about Friends of Sabeel of North America is available of the website www.FOSNA.org.

Women's Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—*The Gift and Mystery of Love—A Women's Retreat* with Fr. Stan Fortuna, CPR, whose inspiring words and music will help us to encounter, be transformed by and become a reflection of the gift and mystery of God's love in our own lives. Daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross as well as periods of quiet time to pray, reflect and grow in faith. The retreat is scheduled for April 4-6, 2008. The cost is \$210. For more information, contact Judy at 619-884-3829 or salmonja@cox.net.

Young Adult Leadership Conference in San Diego—Thursday, April 3, 9:00am-3:00pm, for Pastors and Parish Leaders. The conference will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center located at 3888 Paducah Drive, San Diego. The fee is \$30 for the day (includes handouts and lunch). To register, call Sue Doris at 858-490-8232.

Catholic Cruise to the Mexican Riviera—Come and sail away on a 7-Night Catholic Mexican Riviera Cruise with Father Herbert Burke, May 25 to June 1, 2008 on the *Carnival Pride* out of Long Beach, CA. Ports of Call: Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas. Prices begin at \$1,626.92 for two passengers, which includes all port fees and taxes. Daily Mass and rosary offered. Deposits of only \$50 per person will reserve your cabin. Space is limited. For further information or to register, contact Doug or Eileen at 860-399-7776/dpayttc@aol.com.

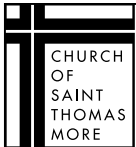
National Alliance on Mental Illness—NAMI North Coastal San Diego County is a grassroots, family and consumer self-help support and advocacy organization of families and individuals whose lives have been affected by serious mental illness. For more information, contact www.nami-northcoastal.org or 722-3754.

University of San Diego's Center for Christian Spirituality in San Diego Announces Spring Schedule—Visit www.sandiego.edu/ccs for details on classes, presentations, and field trips for personal enrichment, social justice awareness, and academic and professional continuing education.

Marriage in trouble?—Try Retrouvaille. For information and dates, call 951-259-9474.

Catholic Radio in San Diego—El Sembrador Ministries has begun airing Catholic radio programming on KSON AM 1240. The mostly Spanish language programming is broadcast 24 hours/day, Monday through Saturday.

Minor Home Repair Opportunities—This program of Interfaith's Senior Services Department pairs volunteers with seniors to repair leaky faucets, change light bulbs, install grab bars, and many other items to make homes safer for the senior(s) living there. Right now, the program could use volunteers to assist with these repairs, as well as seniors needing these repairs to their homes! If you know of a senior needing assistance in their home, or of volunteers that would like to donate time to this program, please contact Rebecca Steiner at 489-6380 x247, or rsteiner@interfaithservices.org.



1450 SOUTH MELROSE DRIVE · OCEANSIDE, CA 92056 · PHONE: 760-758-4100 · FAX: 760-758-4165

www.stmoside.org · parishoffice@stmoside.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-12:00noon and 12:30-4:00pm

Parish Contacts

Updated 02/15/08

Council Chairs: Pastoral—Doug D'Agrosa 941-6800 • **Finance**—Paul Ibbetson 734-1051 • **Development**—Ron Briseno 726-4496

Pastoral Council Committees

Faith Formation & Evangelization Rory Griffin 414-3939

Religious Education (Adults)..... Bret Schanzenbach 806-6722
 Small Church Communities Sondra Parks 598-1269
 Little Rock Bible Studies Masako Streling 295-2594
 Religious Education (Children) Kathleen Bell 758-4100 x110
 Liturgy of the Word for Children..... Cathy Meyer 598-7853
 Sacramental Preparation Kathleen Bell 758-4100 x110
 Mid. School Youth Ministry Ron & Louise Briseno 758-4100 x153
 High School Youth Ministry..... Jeff & Gale Gibbons 726-7236
 Evangelization Available
 Vocations Available
 RCIA/Adults Mario Diaz 758-7870
 RCIA/Children..... Jeanette Marriott 434-1818

Liturgy Available

Altar Linen Care Marge Gillen 639-1929
 Bereavement Facilitator Sr. Maureen Brown 758-4100 x131
 Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs..... Regina Aulisio 753-7234
 Environment & Art Kathy Quinn 722-7525
 Eucharistic Adoration John O'Donnell 598-6003
 Interior Design Team Pat & Phil Goscienski 732-1414
 Liturgical Ministries Douglas Lynn 758-4100 x140
 Liturgical Music Douglas Lynn 758-4100 x140
 Wedding Coordinator..... Geralyn Sandin 940-1553

Marriage & Family Life Kalei & Paul Mendiola 945-9042

FAMILIA Kalei & Paul Mendiola 945-9042
 Family Services Deacon Tom Goeltz 758-4100 x130
 Marriage Preparation Rev. Michael Ratajczak 758-4100 x100
 Deacon Tom Goeltz 758-4100 x130
 Parents & Tots Paul Mendiola 945-9042
 Widows & Widowers..... Helen Kuhn 727-8612

Parish Organizations & Events Available

Golf Tournament..... John Murphy 945-9935
 Historian Anne Marshall 727-2668
 Knights of Columbus Tom Dean 476-0431
 Library Chris James 598-5881
 Spirited Seniors..... Stella Leué 726-3869
 Vera Bayliss
 Women's Guild..... Germaine Wilmott 758-9949

Social Ministries Suzee Irwin 597-2706

Blood Drive Linda Dicus 726-5081
 Bereavement Follow-up Support Linda Dicus 726-5081
 Brother Benno's..... Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 727-8442
 Christmas Angel Ministry..... R.J. Irwin 597-2706
 CPR/AED Classes Phil Goscienski 732-1414
 Disability Facilitation Ann Eriksson 599-7151
 Fraternity & Michaelle House Carmen Tamayo 727-3028
 Huggy Buddies Program..... Gale Gibbons 726-7236
 Jail Ministry Rita McCarthy 758-4100 x100
 More's Workers..... Dick Belprez 295-1431
 Prayer Request Line..... Pat Wong 806-1310
 Norma Flanagan 630-0180
 Project Linus..... Mary Coxon 599-8760
 Pro-Life Activities Jane Kelleher 724-9658
 Sick & Homebound (*Eucharist*) Jean McCloskey 643-2363
 Sister Parish Program Sr. Maureen Brown, 758-4100 x131
 St. Bonaventure Mission..... Knights of Columbus 727-6165

Office Support..... Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100

Adopt-a-Project Joe Garcia 758-4100 x151
 Chair Set-Up..... Lorraine Doering 758-4100 x102
 General Support..... Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100
 Kitchen Overseer DeAnne Gonzales 598-8748
 STM Host Program..... Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100

Development Council Committees

Annual Catholic Appeal Katrina Waggoner 643-0604
 Capital Campaign Bill Ipsen 723-0402
 New Construction Brian Leahey 598-5697
 Parish Membership..... Louise Briseno 726-4496
 Planned Giving Chris Smith 758-4100 x120
 Publicity/Public Relations..... Anne Marshall 727-2668
 Sacrificial Giving/Tithing Paul Ibbetson 734-1051
 Scrip Sales Henny Jocelyn 726-1177
 Stewardship Chris Smith 758-4100 x120
 Vehicle Donations Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100

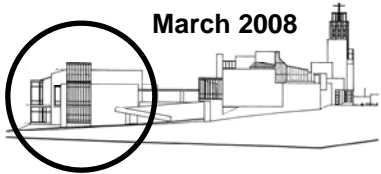
Pastoral Staff

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor 758-4100 x100 michaelr@stmoside.org
 Deacon Tom Goeltz 758-4100 x130 or 727-8442 thomasg@stmoside.org
 Rev. Thomas W. Thompson, Pastoral Associate; Hospital Chaplain at
 Scripps La Jolla, Scripps Green & UCSD Thornton 858-945-2251 parishoffice@stmoside.org
 Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate 758-4100 x131 maureenb@stmoside.org
 Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation 758-4100 x110 kathleenb@stmoside.org
 Gale & Jeff Gibbons, High School Youth Ministers..... 758-4100 x150 jeffg@stmoside.org, galeg@stmoside.org
 Ron & Louise Briseno, Middle School Youth Ministers..... 758-4100 x153 ronb@stmoside.org, louiseb@stmoside.org
 Douglas Lynn, Director of Music/Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries 758-4100 x140 douglasl@stmoside.org
 Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director 758-4100 x100 kathys@stmoside.org
 Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship & Development..... 758-4100 x120 chris@stmoside.org
 Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance..... 758-4100 x151 joeg@stmoside.org
 Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary..... 758-4100 x100 hennyj@stmoside.org
 Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper..... 758-4100 x104 nataliep@stmoside.org
 Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician 758-4100 x102 lorrained@stmoside.org

Patronize Our Advertisers

We wish to thank the many neighborhood merchants who generously support our bulletin with their advertising. Please patronize these merchants and let them know you saw their ad in the St. Thomas More bulletin. We are currently taking new ads. Any business owners are welcome to advertise their services. Please call Chris McAdams of C & M Publications at 951-683-0608. Thank you.

Did You Know?
**Your monthly opportunity to help with
the Operating Budget.**
We must be able to maintain
what we have in order to
“Journey Into The Future . . . Together”
and build our church.



Church of St. Thomas More
1450 South Melrose Drive • Oceanside, CA 92056
760-758-4100 • 760 758-4165 fax
parishoffice@stmoside.org • www.stmoside.org

Please make checks payable to: **Church of St. Thomas More** Name: _____
with memo “Operating Budget.” Phone: _____

Envelopes may be returned any time during the month via
the weekend collection, the Parish Office, or the mail.

Parish ID#: _____
Amount Enclosed: \$ _____