

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

November 30, 2008 • First Sunday of Advent

HELP CELEBRATE OUR SECOND ANNIVERSARY!

Join us
December 1 at 7:00pm for
Monday Night Mass
(Upper Level of the Parish Center)

We will be continuing to collect items to support
“Stand Up for Kids,” a homeless teen day shelter in Oceanside.

For more information please contact
Ron Briseno at 758-4100 x153
ronb@stmoside.org

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Inserts: Parish Calendar; Christmas Angel Ministry

Pastor's Column

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

Message from the Boss as We Begin the Advent/Christmas Seasons

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that people are taking my name out of the Advent/Christmas Seasons. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year and that it was some of your predecessors who decided to celebrate my birthday on what was actually the date of a pagan festival. Although I do appreciate being remembered anytime!

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate my birth, start to GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER. Now, having said that, let me go on.

If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting my birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all my followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

(Continued on page 2)

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 holydays

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

(Pastor's Column continued from page 1)

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can and should remember me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks is. If you have forgot that one, look up John 15:1-8.

If you want to give me a present in remembrance of my birth, choose something from my wish list:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way my birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell me all the time.
2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
3. Instead of writing the President complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out last year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.

Calendar Highlights

Also check the Parish website for complete calendar information for the current month: www.stmoside.org, then select "Schedules and Calendars"

The Week Ahead

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Nov 30 | Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses |
| Nov 30 | Advent Penance Service at 4:00pm |
| Dec 5 | Eucharistic Exposition |
| Dec 7 | Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am Mass |
| Dec 7 | RE.A.CH Classes |

The Month Ahead

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Dec 8 | Immaculate Conception—Masses at 8:15am, 7:00pm |
| Dec 12 | Our Lady of Guadalupe—Masses at 8:15am, 7:00pm |

4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of my birth, and why I came to live with you earth. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.
6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference. Also, you might consider supporting the local Hot-Line: they talk with people like that every day.
7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the Holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas," that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and they would let their employees spend the day at home with their families.
8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary, especially one who takes my love and Good News to those who have never heard my name. You may already know someone like that.
9. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them (and I suspect you don't) buy some food and a few gifts and bring them to St. Thomas More Parish. The Parish is providing many opportunities in the coming weeks to support those who are in need. Bring your gifts to Church and they will make the delivery for you.
10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in my presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

P.S. ~ Don't forget: I am God and can take care of myself. Just love me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Advent and Christmas with all those whom you love and remember...

—Jesus, your Master and your Friend

Readings for the Week Ahead

Sunday Year B; Weekday Year I
Readings online at www.usccb.org.

Sunday, November 30 (2)

First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 63:16-17,19;64:2-7
Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

Monday, December 1 (175)

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122:1-9
Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 2 (176)

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:7-8,12-13,17
Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 3 (177)

Francis Xavier, priest
Isaiah 25:6-10a
Psalm 23:1-6
Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 4 (178)

John of Damascus, priest, doctor
Isaiah 26:1-6
Psalm 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a
Matthew 7:21,24-27

Friday, December 5 (179)

Isaiah 29:17-24
Psalm 27:1,4,13-14
Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday, December 6 (180)

Nicholas, bishop
Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26
Psalm 147:1-6
Matthew 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8

Sunday, December 7 (5)

Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
Psalm 85:9-14
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 29, 5:00pm Lorraine Kauffman ☩
Sunday, November 30, 8:30am Alice Sullivan ☩
Sunday, November 30, 10:30am Tom & Pat Hannon
Monday, December 1, 7:00pm <i>For the Youth of the Parish</i>
Tuesday, December 2, 8:15am Bill Cracknell ☩
Wednesday, December 3, 8:15am Leo Grassilli ☩
Wednesday, December 3, 9:30am Ken Everson ☩ <i>Brighton Gardens</i>
Thursday, December 4, 8:15am Tony Lucey ☩
Friday, December 5, 8:15am Donn Wilmott ☩
Saturday, December 6, 5:00pm Carol Kleekamp ☩
Sunday, December 7, 8:30am Daphne Dunn ☩
Sunday, December 7, 10:30am Geraldine Malmros ☩

Prayer List

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

Michael Ainis
Mary Alexander
Mary Baker
Patricia Barbour
Carl Bechtold
Cindra Bell
Nancy Bermudez
Beatrice Brooks & family
Janet Brown
Raymond Brown
James Coleman
Berwyn Collettine
Thomas Cornwell & Family
Margie Daniels
Linda Dossman
Kathryn Ernst
The Fiore Family
Peggy Fischer
Larry Fisk
Rick Gonzalez
Claudette Gunderson
Anita Hage
Susan Hallahan
The Harker Family
Rita Harnacker
Greg Hayes
Bud Hazlett
Barry Henwood
Cynthia Horner
Vesna Ivicevic
Bernie & Ginny Jaeger
Sue Johnston
Joan Jones
Colleen Kaup
Paul Kennedy
John Kilcher
Debbie Kinny
George Kleekamp
Willis Koffroth
Carol Kope
Elizabeth Kowellek-Hayes
Sr. Anne Kremenik
Lillian Lachance
The Lamelin Family
Brandon LeBlanc
Cassandra Loretto
Lauren Loretto
Loree Luther
Jackie Lynn
James MacArthur
The Carole Markell Family
Ken Mauro
The Patrick McCarthy Family
Bob McWilliams
Carroll Tom & Nona Miller
Nancy Moore
Andy Murchison
Sarah Murphy-Parson
Margie Myers
R. Northrup
Henry "Bud" Parson
Joan Picco
Helen Pingtella

Nikol Pitesa
Mari Jo Porter
Anne Post
Otila Quiroz
Janet Raiman
Margo Redford
Dort Riley
Joanne Robinson
Sr. Loyola Romey
Dorothy Rouse
The Russo Family
Nick Saltau
Julie Shea
The Soler Family
Ed Sox
Dorothy and Ray Staehr
Robert Sullivan
Lisa & Kyle Valpoon
Arnie Velasco
Lisa Vickonoff
Dominic Vienna, Jr.
Dominic Vienna, Sr.
Jeanie Vitale
Vanessa Vitiello-Koble
Kevin Watson-Graff
Marilyn Wesel
John Whitton

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:

1st Lt. Jeffrey Bauer, USMC
Pfc John Brandone
Christian Caplinger, US Army
Pfc. Nicholas B. Dawson,
US Army
Lance Corporal Brandon Doyle,
USMC
MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC
Col. Kathleen Henderson
Med. Staff Sgt. Jana Alexander
Madrid, USAF
Ronald Meyers, US Navy
Search & Rescue
Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army
Spec. Jared Ratzlaff, US Army
Maj. Scott Wadle

*Thank you for your prayers for
Sgt. Stephen Gerke,
101st Airborne
who has
returned home safely.*

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

Church New Year's Resolutions Christian Stewardship

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Stewardship Awareness Month

Stones were distributed throughout November. On each stone, the name of a parish household is inscribed. We ask that each household prays daily for the family they receive.



With each of us praying for one another, we are fulfilling God's command to love one another. If your household has not yet received a stone, please check the information table on the Plaza.

The next step will be to pray for our entire faith community and the many goals that lie ahead of us. Specifically, we ask that you keep these stones in a special place, because we will want them back when we break ground for our Sanctuary! They will become part of the foundation of that milestone accomplishment. One day we will look back on this day and smile at the progress we have made in our time!

Collection for National Needs

This collection supports the Black and Indian Missions, the Catholic Home Missions, the Catholic Communication Campaign, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and the Catholic University of America. Thank you for your support!

Eucharistic Adoration

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

Exposition of the Eucharist on First Fridays and one other day of each month. Next date: Friday, December 5.

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

Leftover Halloween Candy?

Got candy left over? If so, please bring it to the Parish Office and place it in a box for Deacon Tom before December 1. He will see that it gets to a Mexican orphanage and other organizations as special treats for those who have very little else. Thank you!

Can't Get to Mass?

Our Parish has ministers who can bring Holy Communion to anyone who is unable to attend Mass—the homebound, those in the hospital, those in convalescent homes.

Please call the Parish Office at 758-4100 for more information.

Christmas Angel Time Is Coming Up!

You will notice that the Christmas Tree is up this weekend. You can take an ornament and buy a gift to make some child's eyes light up on Christmas morning. You can also sign up for Christmas Connections to connect with a family from our sister parish, St. Peter Claver in New Orleans. These are great opportunities to experience the real meaning of Christmas. If the economy is affecting us, you can imagine how hard it must be hitting poor people.



We had our first meeting and things are moving right along. We are short, however, of volunteers to cover the 8:30am Masses. We also need some big boxes (moving type). If there is anyone in the parish who can obtain some for us, that would be wonderful.

If you have any questions, please contact RJ and Suzee Irwin at 760-597-2706 or rj.suzee@sbcglobal.net

STM Scrip News

Are you making a list and checking in twice? Get started by checking out the updated Scrip List. Stop by the Scrip table after Mass for a copy and for more information on how Scrip can make your holiday gift buying faster and easier!

For information, call Theresa Goeltz at 453-2876

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 SCRIP table after weekend Masses or the Parish Office during the week. Thank you!

Welcome to Newly Registered Parishioner

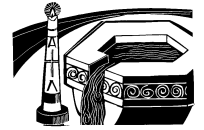
Nina Woodard

Announcing the Baptisms of

Mary Martha Bush
Guillermo Alexander Smith Molano

on November 29, 2008

Our Christian community
welcomes you with great joy!



Congratulations to:

Betty & Larry Fisk

who celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on November 27.

Pat & Tom Hannon

who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on November 30.

May God continue to bless your marriage, and may you be an inspiration to other married couples.

Flower Donations

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the contribution of:

Pat & Tom Hannon

John & Patricia Jones

Shirley Kudzia

whose generosity helped to defray the cost of flowers this weekend in our liturgical environment.

New Orleans Anyone?

A date has been secured to return to New Orleans in 2009—March 21-March 28 or 29.

Our group will stay, once again, at the Center of Jesus the Lord but work under the auspices of the Catholic Charities sub group: The Helping Hands of Christ. They have full-time staff that assess the houses of those who are requesting assistance, direct the actual repair work, purchase all materials at a reduced price because of bulk buying, and have a huge store house of small and large tools!

The directors of Helping Hands have assured us that if any folks from our sister parish, St. Peter Claver, apply, they would do their best to send our group to those houses to work on. We could also find other ways to get together with our friends at St. Peter Claver, including attending Mass there and having a social one evening.

If you would like to be a part of this "awesome group", please let Sr. Maureen know by Monday, December 21. Feel free to invite friends or family. We can have up to 25 in the group, so it will be a "first come, first served" basis. (Please let me know either way so that I'm sure no one has been left out.) To request further information, please contact Sr. Maureen at 758-4100 x131 or maureenb@stmoside.org.

High School Youth Group

MONDAY NIGHT MASS

December 1

and

Closest Moment (After Mass)

Call Gale at 726-7236 for more info

Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP Church New Year's Resolutions

Today, Advent ushers in the Church New Year! We are reminded in the Gospel to be watchful and alert, as we do not know the time or the hour when Jesus will return.

By now, most of us have heard the term, "My Space," used on computers. I am impressed with the efforts of our youth and the term they are using, "God Space," to connect their lives to their faith. They are learning from an early age that, in fact, *nothing* is really "My Space," and that all we have is on loan from God.

Further, a group of young people from our High School Youth Ministry meet monthly to pray in silence for one-half hour in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, and this has been going on for the last couple of years. God smiles on the efforts of these teens and on Gale and Jeff Gibbons for guiding them on the right path!

Last Sunday I extended an invitation to each of you to make a Church New Year's Resolution. For some this will be a first, and very exciting! For others, who already have very full plates, a new item will *really* be a stretch.

Such is our situation at St. Thomas More. We are fortunate to actually be advanced in the Christian Stewardship arena. We "get it" and have wonderful participation from so many of you already. This means that God has girded us for bigger things! We are going from good to great, because God has gifted us with this challenge. It is gratifying to see so many already stepping up.



Following is a piece that might be of help to you as you select a New Years Resolution, entitled "New Shoes" . . .

Little girls love to totter about in their mother's shoes, pretending to be grown-up. One day they will be ready to wear adult shoes for real.

Shoes come in many different sizes. Hand-made shoes are crafted for a particular individual, and that's how God prepares work for us in the church—work that fits us perfectly as we grow.

Take a moment this Advent season to consider how well your spiritual shoes fit you. You may be satisfied with your current role. But could it be time to slip on a larger pair of shoes? When shoes start to pinch at the toes, we buy our child a new pair. Perhaps you have grown in your experience and now it is time to shoulder more responsibility. God is maturing you so that your skills may bless more people.

Like new shoe leather, you may need "breaking in" to your new position. It might feel a stretch as you learn to adapt to become more fruitful, but you know that, "I can do everything through God who gives me strength." —Phil. 4:13

Growing up in Christ means bravely stepping out to share more of what God has given us with others.

—E. Peterson, Stewardship December 2008

Make a resolution to actually keep your Church New Year's Resolution. The easiest way to do that is to begin right away! A Blessed Advent to all!



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



Children's Envelopes

In response to a number of requests, we are once again offering "little people" envelopes, so that any child who would like to share some of their treasure as a thank you to God, can get a box of their own envelopes. These are available at the Information Table after all Masses.

Each child can have one!



Collection for Week of: November 22/23, 2008

Number of Registered Households:	977
Offertory*	\$ 8,559.30
Offertory (Loose Collection)	1,197.00
Total	\$ 9,756.30

(* Offertory Envelopes, Credit Card withdrawals, Automatic Checking or Savings Account Deductions)

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, MC, or Discover)
- ◆ 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

Liturgy & Music

Worship God

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



VOICES OF THE SEASON

On any given day, numerous and varied voices speak their words into our lives and invite our attention. Some voices are familiar and cherished and, therefore, readily welcomed. Some voices engage our attention and invite our joy. Other voices are less welcome, as in the automated telemarketer who calls at dinnertime.

Still other voices test our trust. Some voices are wise and informative. Others are entertaining. Some voices lie, others tell the truth. Some chide, others challenge. Some voices try to alarm us, while others offer us a levelheaded message.

There are also inner voices that make themselves heard in mind and heart. Who has not heard the voice of reason vying with the voice of inordinate passion or desire? Who has not been called to task by the nagging voice of guilt or burdened by the voices of self-doubt or fear? Don't all of us recognize and welcome the voice of conscience when we hear it? Even when its counsel seems difficult, this God-given inner voice of truth requires our close attention.

Other similarly truthful and righteous voices will call out for a hearing this month as we prepare for and celebrate the coming of God's own voice in flesh and blood. Foremost among these voices is that of John the Baptizer. John will identify himself as one through whose voice God is revealing truth (Dec. 7, 14). Prepare God's way, make straight the pathways on which the Lord will come to you, cries John. His message challenges those of us whose cluttered and busy lives have taken a wrong turn or a detour. Get back on track. Make things right between you and others so as to recognize and hear and heed the One who comes to speak truth to your heart. Tell this truth to all others at all times, regardless of the personal cost or consequences.

Like his prophetic colleague, Isaiah (Dec. 7, 14), John understood that God's voice speaking in Jesus is good news, gospel. This good news has a specific audience of people and these are identified as the repentant, the brokenhearted, the prisoners, and the poor. To all who will listen, this good news will speak of healing, justice, wholeness and peace.

However, only those whose hearts are both pure and poor will be able to hear its truth. Only these will be empowered to become powerful voices through which the truth of God will be revealed. But when the message is garbled and inconsistent, when our voices say one thing but our actions say another, then the voice of John should reverberate in our minds: Be direct! Let your integrity prepare a path for the God who comes.

As one who was essentially honest, pure and poor in spirit, Mary will also lend her voice to this season to teach us of the quiet calm of faith that comes with prayer and trust in God. Mary's faith enabled her to withstand the suffering and struggles that are inherent to belonging to God. Her voice calls out to each of us this Advent to be similarly strong.

Mary's voice, interpreted by Luke, reassures us that the word "impossible" is not in the dictionary of the divine. Therefore, Mary's voice invites us to surrender whatever in our lives may seem overwhelming, unbearable, hopeless or impossible. Joining our voices to Mary's, we pray, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Dec. 21).

Through the second readings of this month, the voices of the epistolary writers will speak spiritually about what should characterize our waiting for God through every season of our lives. Take advantage of the time at hand, says the author of 2 Peter. Use it to repent so as not to be caught off-guard or ill-prepared to meet God (Dec. 7). Paul calls us to constant prayer and a grateful heart. Don't be fooled, he says. Use your head; discern good from evil and choose wisely (Dec. 14).

On the feast of the Holy Family (Dec. 28), the voice of the author of Colossians offers a "recipe" for Christian living as we wait for the final coming of God. Forgiven much by God, we are also to forgive one another. Utterly loved by God, so we are to love. With the word of God to guide us and with gratitude, let whatever we do in word or deed be an authentic reflection of the one in whom we believe, Jesus Christ. His is the voice to which we are to remain attuned; his is the voice that should be echoed in our own.

—Patricia Datchuck Sánchez and Rafael Sánchez Alonso
from Celebration magazine, December 2008

Music Ministry Next Week

DECEMBER 1

7:00pm Mass

MNM Music Team

DECEMBER 6/7

5:00pm Mass

Handbell Choir

8:30am Mass

Adult Choir

10:30am Mass

Children's Choir

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Friday of the First Week of Advent

8:45am - 7:30pm, Families: 6:30 - 7:30pm

INTENTION FOR THE DAY

That we may have the vision of Faith,
to see beyond what we see.

Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

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

Today is a **RE.A.CH** day
Religious Education for Adolescents & Children
at Home!

Beware of Schedule!

Now that we are comfortably settled in our "every-other-week pattern," Advent invites us to "wake up" to change:

RE.A.CH class:

* Nov. 30	HOME/CHURCH
4:00: Celebrate Reconciliation as a family!	
* Dec. 7	CHURCH
* Dec. 14	CHURCH
* Dec. 21	HOME
* Dec. 28	HOME
* Jan. 4	HOME
* Jan. 11	CHURCH

Congratulations!

2 of our 17 classes had perfect attendance at our last session:

- * DANIEL * Level 3 A
* EXODUS * Level 5 A



Re-Discover Catholicism

12 sessions begin this Tuesday, December 2, at 7:00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to take a fresh look at what you believe as a Catholic and what the Church teaches . . . are they the same?

This class also serves as preparation for Confirmation for adults and serves as renewal hours for catechist certification.

PBJ Update

(Food for children at the Emergency Crisis Center at Catholic Charities in Vista)

2009 GOAL: 365 jars
Collected to date: 37 jars



What a great beginning to the new church . . . thank you!

A Reconciling Community

We welcome our young parishioners who join us today as they celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time:

Alexander Clarence Cadieux

Sean Kevin Caster

Laurel Ann Hermsmeyer

Jacqueline Christina Hooks

Trevor William Kizer

Elizabeth Halina Korytko

Nicholas Korytko

Julia Patricia Lazo

Molly Christine Martinez

Scott Joseph Meyer

Jacob Christopher Nootens

Kylie Rae Pato

Logan Mason Pinaroc

Ryan Joseph Rhoades

Emily Frances Rodriguez

Mikayla Lauren Tijerina

Andres Alfonso Torres

Jose Enrique Torres, Jr.

Martha Altagracia Torres

Sarah Ashley Torres

Stephen Mitchell Weber

Kelsey Theodore Williams

Scott Glenn Youmans

Little Books



The Little Blue Book will guide you through the Advent-Christmas Season . . . do you have 6 minutes each day to spend in peace with your God?

Penance Services at Local Parishes

Date	Time	Parish
Sun., Nov. 30	4:00pm	St. Thomas More, Oceanside
Mon., Dec. 1	7:00pm	St. Margaret, Oceanside
Wed., Dec. 3	7:00pm	St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Oceanside
Tue., Dec. 9	7:00pm	Nativity, Fairbanks Ranch
Wed., Dec. 10	7:00pm	St. Patrick, Carlsbad
Thu., Dec. 11	7:00pm	St. James, Solana Beach
Sat., Dec. 13	10:00am	St. James, Solana Beach
Mon., Dec. 15	6:30pm	St. Mark, San Marcos
Tue., Dec. 16	6:30pm	Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside
Wed., Dec. 17	7:00pm	St. Peter, Fallbrook
Thu., Dec. 18	6:30pm	St. John, Encinitas
Fri., Dec. 19	7:00pm	St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad
Mon., Dec. 22	6:30pm	St. Francis, Vista

Thank You for Your Prayers for...

**Isabelle Wallin
Lucy Poole**

Their prayers were answered!



The Spirited Seniors have reserved a block of 25 tickets for the Christmas production of *Forever Plaid* for a Sunday, December 14, at 2:00pm matinee at the

Avo Theater in Vista. A special low price of \$14.50 per ticket is being offered. Carpooling will be available if necessary. Reserve your ticket early. Complete the form below and deliver it with your check to the Parish Office, box 12, by December 7.

For further information and carpool arrangements, contact Joyce Frink at 724-8091.

Forever Plaid Ticket Reservation Form	
Number of tickets: _____ x \$14.50 = \$ _____ (Checks payable to St. Thomas More Spirited Seniors)	
Name(s)	
Phone:	

Women’s Guild

Board Meeting—Monday, December 1, at 12:30pm at Germaine Wilmott’s home to discuss plans for the December 8 party and other events. Please try to attend! RSVP to Germaine Wilmott at 758-9949.

December Luncheon Meeting—Monday, December 8, at 11:00am. Lunch will follow. After lunch, we will have “Sing-along Songs” and games. Cost is \$10 per person. Reservations and payment are due by December 1. The location is Grandview Terrace Park, 718 Sycamore Ave., Vista. RSVP to Mary Vernaci at 727-2318 or Germaine Wilmott at 758-9949.

Knights of Columbus



Entertainment Books—The Knights of Columbus will be selling Entertainment Books this year. The books are great gifts and will be available on the Plaza after Masses. Please call Jim Bailey at 754-1635 to reserve your book.

Christmas Cards and Magnets—We will be selling Christmas cards and “Keep Christ in Christmas” magnets on the Plaza after Masses while supplies last.

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.*

Seniors Special Needs and Services

Are you aware that there are many services for seniors with special needs in North County? One of the services is Interfaith Community Services, which helps elderly seniors in many ways. The Case Management Services component focuses on enabling seniors to remain in their homes and feel safe. This service provides intensive hands-on assistance in working through the maze of health and social services, providing assistance with emergent needs such as food, transportation, finances, housing, emergency assistance, and medical/dental resources, and responding to individual crisis situations. This service is free to seniors 55 and older. Through Project CARE (Community Action to Reach the Elderly), Interfaith Community Services provides help to the elderly and disabled seniors. This non-profit organization has served the North County community for over 23 years. There is also a “Minor Home Modification” program funded by Aging and Independent Services. This group of volunteers assist in making minor home repairs for qualified seniors. To obtain more information about senior services, please contact Ann Eriksson at 599-7151.

Reporting Sexual Abuse

In accordance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Diocese of San Diego has published a brochure that includes information regarding sexual misconduct by Church ministers and how to report any complaints. This brochure, entitled *Sexual Misconduct: Preventing, Responding, Reporting*, is available in our pamphlet rack on the lower level of the Parish Center.

News from the Larger Church

Advent Mondays Retreats at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—December 1, 8, 15, and 22, explore the themes from Thomas Merton's book, *New Seeds of Contemplation* with Mark Schroeder, OFM. Merton, a Trappist and writer, uncovers the reality of contemplation. For more information, contact 757-3659 or www.sanluisrey.org.

Advent Wreaths for Sale at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—These one-of-a-kind wreaths handcrafted from succulent plants grown at the Mission are on sale at the Mission Gift Shop, 4050 Mission Avenue, Oceanside. Many other gift items are also available. Don't forget to ask for your discount. For more information, contact Cornelia at 757-3651 x117.

Advent Retreat at University of San Diego—Saturday, December 6, 9:00am-12:00noon, at Salomon Hall, Bishop Maher Hall, USD. Presented by Annice Callahan, RSCJ, Ph.D., the theme will be *Solitude in Daily Life as an Advent Practice: The Wisdom of Thomas Merton*. The presentation will combine input, prayer, time for reflection, and faith sharing. For more information, contact 619-260-4784 or ccs@sandiego.edu or www.sandiego.edu/ccs.

Young Adult Holiday Party in San Diego—The Diocesan Office for Young Adult Ministry announces the Young Adult Christmas Party to be held on Saturday, December 6, at St. Brigid Parish Hall, 4735 Cass St., San Diego. It will be an evening of great food, music, dancing and fun! Cash bar and dinner is catered by Lotsa Pasta. Cocktail attire. Young adults ages 21-39 are welcome! Cost is \$20 before December 4 and \$30 at the door. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact www.yamsd.org or 858-490-8260.

Advent Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—*The Gift of Peace* with Br. Mark Schroeder December 12-14, will use the symbols of Advent to deepen our awareness of the Incarnation, looking into places in our lives and world that need Christ's Peace. For more information, call 757-3659.

Hospice Volunteers Needed in San Diego County—Sharp Hospice Care needs caring, compassionate adults and teens to work with the terminally ill and their families throughout San Diego County. Training for hospice volunteers will be January 15-February 7, 2009, for a total of one Thursday evening session and four Saturday sessions. The training's focus is on: communication skills, ethics, needs of the terminally ill, family dynamics, pain and symptom management, grief and bereavement, and spiritual care of the dying and their loved ones. For further information, contact Camelia McRae Gower, Program Coordinator, at 619-667-1900.

St. Francis Church Online Auction—You're invited to check out our online auction! St. Francis Church has joined www.CatholicAuctionsOnline.com as a new high-tech fund raiser. Items are added as they arrive and have a time limit for bidding. Register as a buyer and get started today!

Foster and Affirm Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life in Carlsbad—Join the Serra Club of San Diego North Coast at 8:00am Mass at St. Patrick Church in Carlsbad followed by a breakfast meeting on the second Saturday and fourth Tuesday of each month. For more information, call 729-9528.

Volunteers Needed as Advocates for Foster Children—Become a child advocate and make a lasting difference in the life of a foster child. More than just a mentor, you can give hope to a child who has none. For upcoming information session dates, contact www.speakupnow.org or 858-569-2019.



Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center in Oceanside—has an ongoing schedule of retreat activities. For more information, contact 757-3659 or www.sanluisrey.org.

Diocesan Young Adult Ministry—Contact Carrie Giebel at cgiebel@diocese-sdieog.org or 858-490-8260 for scheduled young adult activities around the Diocese.

University of San Diego Center for Christian Spirituality in San Diego—has released their fall schedule of lectures and workshops. For more information, contact 619-260-4784 or www.sandiego.edu/ccs.

Diocese of San Diego Diocesan Institute—has an ongoing schedule of classes and workshops. For more information, contact 858-490-8212 or bcarr@diocese-sdiego.org.

Natural Family Planning Classes—Great marriage insurance! A moral, healthy, and inexpensive way to plan your family. For current schedules and to register, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org and click on "Ministries" then "Marriage & Family Life."

Retrouvaille Retreat Program for Troubled Marriages—If your marriage is not what you want it to be, if communication has broken down, if you are divorced or separated, but want to repair your relationship, then Retrouvaille is for you. For more information, contact 951-259-9474 or 619-423-0182 (Spanish).

Take a Stand for Life in Carlsbad—A group of North County parishioners meets from 10 to 10:30 a.m. on the third Monday of each month to peacefully pray the rosary in front of the Carlsbad Planned Parenthood Clinic. The clinic is located at 1820 Marron Road, in the shopping center just west of Plaza Camino Real Mall. Please join us in our prayers for an end to abortion. For more information, call Jahna White at 586-6356.

Ignatian Volunteer Corps Opportunities in North County—Semi-retired? Retired? Eager to give something back? If you are 50 or better, the Jesuit-sponsored Ignatian Volunteer Corps may be for you! Ignatian Volunteers serve the needs of people who are poor, work for a more just society, and grow deeper in Christian faith through reflection and prayer. Contact Pat Doyle, Regional Coordinator, at 858-715-0900 or pdoyle@ivcusa.org, or Margie Carroll, Regional Director, at 619-881-9509 or mcarroll@ivcusa.org. For national website visit www.ivcusa.org.

Mercy Volunteer Corps—A lay volunteer program sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy provides opportunities for men and women over the age of 21 to give a year of service to those in need. The emphasis of the program is service, community, and prayer. Volunteer possibilities include teaching or nursing, working in homeless shelters, clinics, and social service agencies in urban and rural settings throughout the United States and Guyana. Room, board, medical insurance, and a small stipend are provided. Loan deferments are available. For more information, contact Janet Gray at 215-641-5535 or www.mercyvolunteers.org.



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www.stmoside.org · parishoffice@stmoside.org

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

Parish Contacts

Updated 11/26/08

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)..... Wayne Zych 598-9244
 - 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
 - Young Adult Ministry..... Joanna Mueller 726-5644
 - Evangelization Available
 - Vocations Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 758-4100 x130
 - 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 Aulizio 295-5530
 - 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
- 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 Classic John Murphy 945-9935
 - Historian Anne Marshall 727-2668
 - Knights of Columbus John O’Donnell 598-6003
 - Library Chris James 598-5881
 - Spirited Seniors..... Stella Leué 726-3869
 - Judy & Jerry Buoniconti 758-5113
 - 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
 - Congregations for Civic Action... Sr. Maureen Brown 758-4100 x131
 - 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
 - Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice
 - Sr. Maureen Brown 758-4100 x131
 - Interfaith Shelter Network Frank Coxon 599-8760
 - 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 598-6003
- Office Support**..... **Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100**
- 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 Flora Fallone 758-4100 x100
- 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 Theresa Goeltz 453-2876
- 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 thomast@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
- Stacey Griffin, Faith Formation Office Assistant..... 758-4100 x110 staceyg@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 chriss@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

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December 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 PM-Monday Night Mass 7:00 PM-High School Youth Ministry	2 8:15 AM-Mass 7:00 PM-Rediscover Catholicism 7:00 PM-MNM Music Rehearsal 7:00 PM-Knights of Columbus	3 8:15 AM-Mass 1:00 PM-Spirited Senior Board Meeting 5:30 PM-Adult Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-RCIA-Adults 7:00 PM-Liturgy Committee	4 8:15 AM-Mass 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 6:00 PM-Children's Choir 7:00 PM-Inquiry Session 7:00 PM-Adult Choir	5 8:15 AM-Mass 8:45 AM-Exposition of the Eucharist 7:30 PM-Reposition of the Eucharist	6 9:00 AM-CPR Tune up 4:00 PM-Reconciliation Second Sunday of Advent 5:00 PM-Mass
7 Second Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM-Mass/LOWC 10:20 AM-RE.A.CH 10:30 AM-Mass/RCIA 12:30 PM-RE.A.CH 5:00 PM-RE.A.CH 7:30 PM-Chair Setup	8 Immaculate Conception Holy day 8:15 AM-Mass 11:00 AM-Women's Guild Luncheon 7:00 PM-Mass	9 8:15 AM-Mass 7:00 PM-Baptismal Preparation - Part I 7:00 PM-MNM Music Rehearsal	10 8:15 AM-Mass 4:00 PM-Staff Meeting 6:30 PM-Adult Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-RCIA-Adults 7:00 PM-High School Youth Ministry - Eucharistic Adoration	11 8:15 AM-Mass 10:00 AM-Women's Guild Quilters 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 6:00 PM-Children's Choir 7:00 PM-Adult Choir	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe 8:15 AM-Mass	13 9:00 AM-Christmas Angel Stocking Stuffing 4:00 PM-Reconciliation Third Sunday of Advent 5:00 PM-Mass
14 Third Sunday of Advent Spirited Seniors Avo Theater ("Forever Plaid") 8:30 AM-Mass/LOWC 10:20 AM-RE.A.CH 10:30 AM-Mass/RCIA 12:30 PM-RE.A.CH 5:00 PM-RE.A.CH	15 6:30 PM-P.U.S.H. Youth Group 7:00 PM-High School Youth Ministry	16 8:15 AM-Mass 7:00 PM-Rediscover Catholicism 7:00 PM-MNM Music Rehearsal 7:00 PM-Baptismal Preparation - Part II	17 8:15 AM-Mass 8:45 AM-Exposition of the Eucharist 6:30 PM-Adult Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-RCIA-Adults 7:30 PM-Reposition of the Eucharist	18 8:15 AM-Mass 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 6:00 PM-Children's Choir 7:00 PM-Inquiry Session 7:00 PM-Adult Choir	19 8:15 AM-Mass 11:00 AM-Parish Social Justice Meeting	20 9:00 AM-Chair Setup /Compressed 4:00 PM-Reconciliation Fourth Sunday of Advent 5:00 PM-Mass
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM-Mass 10:30 AM-Mass/LOWC	22 7:00 PM-P.U.S.H. Youth Group	23 8:15 AM-Mass 7:00 PM-MNM Music Rehearsal	24 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON NO ADORATION Christmas Eve 4:00 PM-Mass 6:00 PM-Mass 10:00 PM-Mass	25 Christmas Day Holy Day PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION 9:30 AM-Mass	26 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION 8:15 AM-Mass	27 4:00 PM-Reconciliation Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 5:00 PM-Mass
28 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 8:30 AM-Mass/LOWC 10:30 AM-Mass/LOWC	29 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION	30 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION 8:15 AM-Mass 7:00 PM-MNM Music Rehearsal	31 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION 5:00 PM-Mass	January 1 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION	January 2 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION	

Church of St. Thomas More
1450 South Melrose Drive, Oceanside
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www.stmoside.org



You
can
make
this
happen!

Visit
the
Christmas
Angel
Tree
on the
Plaza
after Masses.

Ornaments on the tree specify gifts you can buy to make some child's eyes light up on Christmas morning. The gifts will go to various local charities for distribution to families in need. You can also sign up for Christmas Connections to connect with a family from our sister parish, St. Peter Claver in New Orleans.

These are great opportunities to experience the real meaning of Christmas.

For more information, contact RJ and Suzee Irwin at 760-597-2706 or rj.suzee@sbcglobal.net.



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