

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

December 7, 2008 • First Sunday of Advent

Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Monday, December 8
Masses at 8:15am and 7:00pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe
Patroness of the Americas
Friday, December 12
Mass at 8:15am at St. Thomas More
Las Mañanitas and Mass at 5:00am at St. Francis
Mass at 6:30pm at St. Francis

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Pastor's Column

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

Time for Silence

As we continue our journey through Advent, may these thoughts of Rev. Federico Lombardi, SJ, be helpful to us:

There is an interior and spiritual dimension of life that must be guarded and nourished. If it is not, it can become barren to the point of drying up and, indeed, dying.

Reflection, meditation, contemplation are as necessary as breathing. Time for silence—external but above all internal—are a premise and an indispensable condition for it.

In the age of the cell phone and the internet it is probably more difficult than before to protect silence and to nourish the interior dimension of life. It is difficult but necessary.

For believers, in this prayer dimension, dialogue with God is developed, life in the spirit, which is more important than physical life itself. Jesus told us not to fear those who can kill the body as much as the one who can destroy our soul.

(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 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

STM \$crip 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 \$CRIP table after weekend Masses or the Parish
Office during the week. Thank you!*

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

Dec 7 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am Mass
Dec 7 RE.A.CH Classes (at Church)

The Month Ahead

Dec 8 Immaculate Conception—Masses at 8:15am, 7:00pm
Dec 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe—Masses at 8:15am ONLY
Dec 14 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am Mass
Dec 14 RE.A.CH Classes (at Church)
Dec 17 Exposition of the Eucharist
Dec 24 Vigil of Christmas—Masses at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, &
10:00pm
Dec 25 Christmas—Mass at 9:30am

The Year Ahead

Jan 2 Family Festival of Christmas Concert
Jan. 11 RE.A.CH Classes (at Church)
Jan. 25 RE.A.CH Classes (at Church)
Mar 1 New Member Reception
Mar 21-28 Volunteer Team Working in New Orleans
Mar 29-31 Parish Mission with Sound Mission Ministries
Apr 26 Spring Sing Invitational Choral Festival Concert
May 1 STM Tenth Annual Golf Classic
May 31 Confirmation

*Questions? Contact Henny at 758-4100 x100
or hennyj@stmoside.org.*

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.*

Pastor's Column—continued from page 1

*What is true for the individual person is true for the
community of the Church, true for humanity. If for each one
of us it is essential to know how to preserve dialogue with
God in daily life, for the Church it is essential to have the
sign and reality of life dedicated to contemplation and
prayer, and for humanity it is essential to know there are
beacons of light, sages and masters of the spirit.*

*Without attentiveness to and cultivation of the spiritual life,
you will lose your soul. And today this is a very grave
threat, and it is the most irreparable misfortune.*

In the days ahead, let us be more attentive to the inner self. By
finding time for silence, we will deepen our relationship with our
God.

F.n. Mike

Readings for the Week Ahead

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

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

Monday, December 8 (689)

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Genesis 3:9-15,20
Psalm 98:1-4
Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12
Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 9 (182)

Juan Diego, hermit
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 96:1-3,10-13
Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 10 (183)

Isaiah 40:25-31
Psalm 103:1-4,8,10
Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday, December 11 (184)

Damasus I, pope
Isaiah 41:13-20
Psalm 145:1,9-13b
Matthew 11:1-15

Friday, December 12 (690A)

Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zechariah 2:14-17
Judith 13:18bc,19 (Psalm)
Luke 1:37-47

Saturday, December 13 (186)

Lucy, virgin, martyr
Sirach 48:1-4,9-11
Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
Matthew 17:9a,10-13

Sunday, December 14 (8)

Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11
Luke 1:46-50,53-54 (Psalm)
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8,19-28

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 6, 5:00pm Carol Kleekamp ☩
Sunday, December 7, 8:30am Daphne Dunn ☩
Sunday, December 7, 10:30am Geraldine Malmros ☩
Monday, December 8, 8:15am Marlene Elsworth ☩
Monday, December 8, 7:00pm Vern DiCola ☩
Tuesday, December 9, 8:15am Bill Greeley ☩
Wednesday, December 10, 8:15am Joseph Suozzo ☩
Wednesday, December 10, 9:30am Helen Harson ☩ <i>Pacific Place</i>
Thursday, December 11, 8:15am Florence Bennett ☩
Friday, December 12, 8:15am A. J. Peterson ☩
Saturday, December 13, 5:00pm Annie McNamara ☩
Sunday, December 14, 8:30am Tim & Beverly Kowallek
Sunday, December 14, 10:30am Pauleta Carrillo ☩

Prayer List

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Michael Ainis | Henry "Bud" Parson |
| Mary Alexander | Joan Picco |
| Mary Baker | Helen Pingtella |
| Patricia Barbour | Nikol Pitesa |
| Carl Bechtold | Mari Jo Porter |
| Cindra Bell | Anne Post |
| Tom Belprez | Otila Quiroz |
| Nancy Bermudez | Janet Raiman |
| Beatrice Brooks & family | Margo Redford |
| Janet Brown | Joanne Robinson |
| Raymond Brown | Max Roccoles |
| James Coleman | Sr. Loyola Romey |
| Berwyn Collentine | Dorothy Rouse |
| Thomas Cornwell & Family | The Russo Family |
| Margie Daniels | Nick Saltau |
| Linda Dossman | Julie Shea |
| Kathryn Ernst | Norm Shultz |
| The Fiore Family | The Soler Family |
| Peggy Fischer | Ed Sox |
| Larry Fisk | Dorothy and Ray Staehr |
| Rick Gonzalez | Robert Sullivan |
| Claudette Gunderson | Ginger Thompson |
| Anita Hage | Lisa & Kyle Valpoon |
| Susan Hallahan | Arnie Velasco |
| The Harker Family | Lisa Vickonoff |
| Rita Harnacker | Dominic Vienna, Jr. |
| Greg Hayes | Dominic Vienna, Sr. |
| Bud Hazlett | Jeanie Vitale |
| Barry Henwood | Vanessa Vitiello-Koble |
| Cynthia Horner | Kevin Watson-Graff |
| Vesna Ivcevic | Marilyn Wesel |
| Bernie & Ginny Jaeger | 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

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

CELEBRATING MARY Liturgy & Music

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Avoiding Mass Confusion Faith Formation

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Attitude of Gratitude Christian Stewardship

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Retirement Fund for Priests and Religious

Envelopes are attached to the bulletin today, and a flyer is also included. Your generosity will be much appreciated by the retired priests and religious who benefit!

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: Wednesday, December 17.

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

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**

Penance Services at Local Parishes

Date	Time	Parish
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

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.

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

Welcome to Newly Registered Parishioner

Michele & Brian Proctor & family
Eva & Jeff Redding

Oplatki—Christmas Wafers

The word Bethlehem means “House of Bread.” The breaking of bread is a sign of charity, unity, and friendship.

Religious family traditions and customs bring the truths of Faith into the home.

One of these beautiful Christmas customs is the Christmas Wafer. A Wafer bearing a simple design commemorative of Christ’s birth is given to everyone present gathered together for the Christmas meal.



With a simple prayer for God’s grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family, the designated family member then invites everyone to go to another person, and with a gesture of a hug, kiss, or handshake, ask forgiveness for anything they may have done to hurt that family member in the past year, and to seek God’s blessings upon them in the coming year.

Each person, as the words are said, then breaks a piece off of each other’s Wafer and consumes the piece that has been broken off.

The spiritual lesson in this age old custom is unity of the family—the main pillar of society. The bond of unity is the Christ-like charity that should exist among the members of the family.

The members of the family are the links in the unbroken chain of One Body, One Bread, One Christ, and the One Church. The family is part of the eternal procession no matter where they are. For there is a universal longing to be always with one another, with God.

All this brings to mind clearly our charity for one another, to seek salvation together. Family customs remind us that we seek and obtain salvation with the help of others at all times.

These Christmas Wafers, and the home ritual surrounding their use, originated in Poland. This custom and ritual is also popular in Slovakia, Lithuania, Ukraine, and other parts of Catholic Eastern Europe.

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) are available after Mass at the information Table on the plaza this weekend and in the coming weeks before Christmas. The Wafers are free, but donations will be accepted.

I encourage you to make this home ritual a part of your Christmas traditions.

We give thanks to Parishioners, Ed and Clarice Bednarz, who have provided us with these Christmas Wafers.

Please take advantage of this gift, and if you have already, start a new family Christmas tradition. —*Fr. Mike*

Women’s Guild

December Luncheon Meeting—Monday, December 8, at 11:00am. The location is Grandview Terrace Park, 718 Sycamore Ave., Vista. For more information, call Mary Vernaci at 727-2318 or Germaine Wilmott at 758-9949.

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.

Thank You! Thank You!

Joe and Charlene Buhkert donated the materials and the labor to create the window "sun screens" that are now in place on the Upper Level.

We all owe them a debt of gratitude!

Joe, Charlene, thank you for making our Worship Space more inviting and comfortable All that you do as faithful stewards in this Parish is much appreciated!

—Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor

No High School Youth Group Meeting December 8
It's the Immaculate Conception – Come to Mass!
Next Meeting: Monday, December 15, 2008
at

GODSPACE

BE THE CHANGE

"Be the change you wish to see in the world"

High School Retreat 2009

at Kamp Kuper, Escondido
Friday, January 23, at 6:00pm
to

Sunday, January 25, after 10:30am Mass
\$95.00 (includes Friday dinner to Sunday breakfast)
\$40.00 Deposit Due by January 5

Contact Person: Gale Gibbons 726-7236 or galeg@stmoside.org

**Little Rock Scripture Studies
Touching the Mysteries: Scripture and Rosary**

On behalf of Little Rock Scripture Study, we would like to invite you to join us in the study of Scripture and the Rosary. The study begins on Wednesday, January 14, at 9:00am or Thursday, January 15, at 7:00pm, for five weeks. The study focuses on the biblical stories that provide background for the mysteries of the rosary. The stories of Jesus are the best way to focus our prayer, and the rosary has provided a traditional format for doing this over the centuries. Each session is devoted to a set of mysteries—joyful, luminous, sorrowful, and glorious. The representatives will be on the Plaza after Masses to answer any questions you might have or to assist you in registering. Thank you very much.

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.



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:



Liturgy & Music

Worship God

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



CELEBRATING MARY

In an unusual occurrence, two of the major feasts celebrating Mary occur in the same week this year.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Patroness of the United States of America *December 8*

In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God's behalf, addresses Mary as "full of grace" (or "highly favored"). In that context this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. The Holy Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary's whole life. The logic of piety helped God's people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Americas *December 12*

A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning, December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady.

He was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared and within it a young Native American maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually the bishop told Juan Diego to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan Diego's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Diego to try to avoid the lady. The lady found Diego, nevertheless, assured him that his uncle would recover and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.

When Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground and the bishop sank to his knees. On Juan Diego's tilma appeared an image of Mary as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac. It was December 12, 1531.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE AT THE CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Unable to be in two places at once, Fr. Mike invites you to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Francis of Assisi Parish Friday evening, December 12.

Mass will be celebrated at 6:30pm at St. Francis with a procession and reception to follow.

For the early riser, people will gather at St. Francis to sing *Las Mañanitas* to Our Lady of Guadalupe beginning at 5:00am followed by Mass.

Mañanitas are traditional Mexican songs that people sing early in the morning on birthdays and other special days. Often people are awakened with this song on their birthdays. Traditionally this song is sung to Our Lady of Guadalupe on her feast day either at midnight or the break of dawn to greet her on this day.

Daily Mass at St. Thomas More also will be celebrated at 8:15am on the lower level.



Music Ministry Next Week

DECEMBER 8

7:00pm Mass

Cantor

DECEMBER 13/14

5:00pm Mass

Adult Choir

8:30am Mass

Cantor

10:30am Mass

Children's Choir

A BIG THANK YOU!!!

Interfaith Community Services received a large pickup truck load of canned goods and more than \$700 in cash donations as a result of your generosity at the Thanksgiving concert presented by the Adult and Handbell Choirs. Bravo!

There were reports of astonishment and joy at the arrival of the many, many bags of canned goods delivered by Joe Garcia and Mike Provinse on behalf of St. Thomas More Parish.

The music ministry greatly appreciates your support of their musical and stewardship efforts to the local community.

We hope you will join us next year for a special concert on Sunday, November 8, 2009. Two church choirs from Napa, California, will be joining us for the San Diego premiere of John Quitman Mulholland's *Missa Romantica*. We look forward to your continuing support!

Thank you.

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 Church!

Check your calendar

...and your Annual Plan (also on the parish website)

* Dec. 7	CHURCH
* Dec. 14	CHURCH
* Dec. 21	HOME
* Dec. 28	HOME
* Jan. 4	HOME
* Jan. 11	CHURCH

High School, Phase I courses:

* Feb. 9, 16, 23	Monday Mini Course
* Mar. 1,2,15,22; Apr. 5	Core Course
* Apr. 19, 26; May 3	Sunday Mini Course

Help Wanted: Sewing . . .

...cutting and hemming for banners. . .
please contact Kathleen Bell, if you like to sew on white!

Looking at Life Through the Eyes of Faith

January 7, 2009
9:00am and 7:00pm



“Fr. Mike (and friends) Bookies” continues with *Food and Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily Bread* by Michael Schut.

Gale Gibbons will be our facilitator and guarantees the book will be excellent reading over the holidays when family meals take on particular significance.

Books are available for \$11 in the hall outside the Faith Formation Office. Anyone is welcome to join in!

March 29, 30, and 31, 2009 *Faithful Families—Our Parish Mission*

An exciting event for the whole family ~
calendar the dates NOW!

If you would like to help out on the planning committees, please contact Wayne Zych 717-1145 soon. Many hands make light work!

PBJ Update

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

2009 GOAL:	365 jars
Collected to date:	51 jars



Avoiding Mass Confusion

- ✚ Set out everyone's clothes the night before.
- ✚ Plan a simple snack an hour before leaving for a vigil Mass or a simple breakfast an hour before Sunday Mass.
- ✚ Get young children a picture book about the Mass.
- ✚ Teach your children the Mass songs, prayers, and responses.
- ✚ Make sure each child has something to put into the collection basket. *
- ✚ Show great reverence once inside the church; children will learn proper behavior from your reverence.
- ✚ Sit in the front of the church so young children can see.
- ✚ Praise children for good behavior during Mass.
- ✚ Celebrate good behavior by doing something special after Mass.

*

Each child may get his/her own box of envelopes at the Information Table.

These are a great way to teach children that their gifts are important to St. Thomas More, and a meaningful way to express their thanks and praise to God.



Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Attitude of Gratitude

Advent greets us with the reminder that while we await "new heavens and a new earth," we are to make ready a way for the Lord. John the Baptist makes clear that God's plans for us are not just for the future. We are working on God's clock, and not ours.

A timer, if you will, has been set on each one of our lives and it has been activated. God has gifted each of us in unique ways and expects us to stay busy fulfilling our various purposes.

As the clock silently ticks away, with God at the helm, many are busy doing good works. They never look for recognition. There is definitely a warmth about these folks. . . an attitude of gratitude!

Meanwhile, others spend a lot of time complaining. God's clock is ticking, but instead of getting busy to make things better (in any number of ways) their time is spent in a blame-game. The "all about me" attitude emanates from this corner.

Following is a great example of a "Gratitude Attitude" . . .

I awoke this morning and was greeted by an early winter snow storm that had fallen on our region overnight. As I surveyed my yard from the comfort of the house, I was amazed to see nearly three feet of snow drifted at the side door. My reaction to this unusual mid-November snowfall was quite opposite of how I remembered embracing winter as a child. What I was feeling could only be described as "short of gratitude."

After a deep breath, I donned my extensive winter gear, grabbed my new yellow shovel and headed for the driveway. "Thank goodness, the snow is only about a foot deep in most of the driveway," I thought as I began to clear the side entrance.

It took me 15 minutes to clear the tiny area leading to the side of the house and I calculated how long it was going to take to shovel the entire driveway. The snow was wet and heavy making this more difficult. "I'll be out here all day," I thought in self-pity.

As I started clearing the snow in front of the garage door, I heard the sound of a neighbor's snow-blower grow louder. I looked up to see Matt heading up the street to our place. Needless to say, my heart skipped a beat and my back sighed in relief.

In 20 minutes he cleared 80% of our driveway while I continued my shoveling to reach the more difficult-to-reach places. Matt's generosity added two hours to my day. I earnestly thanked him as he went home to make some minor repairs that were needed as a result of helping me.

As I was relating this story to friends over the phone, I looked out the window to see Matt wheeling his repaired snow-blower across the street helping still another neighbor.

Matt didn't wait for people to come to him for help. Rather, he sought out those in need, and offered his gifts in humble service, which is a wonderful witness to Christian stewardship.

As we prepare ourselves in anticipation of Christ's birth this Advent season, let us imitate Matt's love for his neighbors this cold, snowy day. Let us open our hearts and find neighbors (that we know and also those we don't know) to serve. —Steve Foran

**Positive attitude ~ That story motivates me to help others!
Other attitude ~ Doesn't Chris know it doesn't snow here?!
Which will you choose?**

GOT DEDUCTIONS? HELPFUL YEAR-END PLANNING TIPS

As 2008 draws to a close, and you review your financial situation for your IRS returns, there may be an opportunity for greater charitable giving before the end of this year.

Year-End Checklist

- ◆ Keep all gift receipts and acknowledgment letters, especially for gifts of \$250 or more.
- ◆ If you sold securities this year and will owe capital gains tax, remember that gifts of cash or other securities may partially or fully offset any tax on your gains.
- ◆ **Annual Catholic Appeal payments?** Any parishioners with a balance due on their pledges made to this year's ACA are requested to conclude their payments before December 31, 2008. Thank you to all who have already fulfilled their pledges! (*Tithing families, remember that your tithe covers your ACA contribution.*)
- ◆ **BE SURE TO COMPLETE** all gifts by December 31 to qualify for tax savings on this year's tax return. **Advance planning with the parish office is essential, since the office will be closed from December 24 at noon-January 2, 2009. Gifts received in the offertory at Masses the weekend of December 27-28 will be credited for year ending 2008.**

For further information, please contact:
Chris Smith, 760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org

**All gifts to St. Thomas More are deeply appreciated.
Thank you!**

**"Did You Know" Collection for November 2008
\$7,166.68**

Collection for Week of: November 29/30, 2008

Number of Registered Households:	978
Offertory*	\$ 6,354.88
Offertory (Loose Collection)	1,053.50
Children's Envelopes	6.63
Total	\$ 7,415.01

(* 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

News from the Larger Church

Choral Concert in Rancho Bernardo—Sunday, December 7, 4:00pm, at Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church, 17010 Pomerado Road, San Diego. Two ensembles will sing a variety of sparkling carol arrangements and the Chancel Choir, accompanied by the Sanctuary Orchestra, will present Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria*. The concert is free and childcare will be available. For more information, contact 858-487-0811 x220.

Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols in San Diego—Sunday, December 7, 5:00pm, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Polk Ave. at Washington, San Diego. Come, celebrate the season! For more information, call 716-9700.

Advent Mondays Retreats at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—December 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 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.

Twilight Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—Wednesday, December 17, 6:00pm. *The Mysterious Magi*: who were these mysterious men who traveled from the East, dressed in strange garb and bearing gifts of royalty who are said to have visited the Holy Family soon after the birth of Jesus? Join Br. James Lockman, OFM, at this retreat and discover how the journey of the Magi might enlighten our celebration of Christmas. For more information and to pre-register, call 757-3659.

Puppet Show at First Night in Escondido—Wednesday, December 31, 7:45-8:15pm or 9:30-10:00pm, at the California Center for the Arts Rehearsal Room. *A Very Beary Nutcracker* will be presented by Kathy Felker, a professional puppeteer (and St. Thomas More parishioner). For more information, visit www.firstnightscondido.com.

The Ones Who Knew St. Francis Musical Program at Mission San Luis Rey Parish in Oceanside—Friday, January 9, 7:00pm, 4070 Mission Ave., Oceanside. A compelling, engaging, and entertaining musical program of stories and songs about St. Francis of Assisi, told from the perspective of the ones who really knew him: his family and friends. For more information and tickets, contact 757-3250 or www.sanluisreyparish.org.

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. Upcoming weekend: January 9-11, 2009. For more information, contact 951-259-9474 or 619-423-0182 (Español).

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."

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.



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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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