

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 25, 2008 • Christmas—The Feast of the Incarnation
December 28, 2008 • The Most Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Parish Office will be closed
from Wednesday, December 24, at noon
through Friday, January 2.

We will be open as usual
on Monday, January 5.

If you need to reach a priest
when the office is closed,
please call the Parish Office
at 758-4100 and press 3.

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Pastor's Column

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

Come Home for Christmas

We hear much about “coming home” for the holidays. My Christmas greetings and prayers for you and yours are contained in these words from Fr. Henri Nouwen:

Coming Home

There are two realities to which you must cling. First, God has promised that you will receive the love you have been searching for. And second, God is faithful to that promise. So stop wandering around. Instead, come home and trust that God will bring you what you need. Your whole life you have been running about, seeking the love you desire. Now it is time to end that search. Trust that God will give you that all-fulfilling love and will give it in a human way.

Before you die, God will offer you the deepest satisfaction you can desire. Just stop running and start trusting and receiving. Home is where you are truly safe. It is where you can receive what you desire. You need human hands to hold

(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

Music Ministry: Contact Douglas Lynn at 758-4100 x140

Communion for the Homebound/Hospitalized:

Contact Parish Office at 758-4100 x100

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Parish Office

Matrimony:

Contact Parish Office a minimum of nine months in advance

*For further information, call Rev. Michael Ratajczak
at 758-4100 x100 or michaelr@stmoside.org.*

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 or kathleenb@stmoside.org.*

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, see page 10, or call Chris Smith
at 758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org.*

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 25 Christmas—Mass at 9:30am
Dec 28 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and
10:30am Masses

The Month Ahead

Dec 31 Mary, Mother of God—Mass at 5:00pm

The Year Ahead

Jan 1 Mary, Mother of God—Mass at 9:30am
Jan 2 *Family Festival of Christmas* Concert
Jan 4 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and
10:30am Masses
Jan 11 RE.A.CH Classes (at Church)
Jan 12 Golf Classic Meeting (6:30pm)
Jan 18 Knights of Columbus Breakfast
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.*

Pastor's Column—continued from page 1

*you there so that you don't run away again. But when you
come home and stay home, you will find the love that will
bring rest to your heart.*

Many of us have found our way home. Many of us continue to search. The Faith Community of St. Thomas More is here for all of us.

As Pastor, I pledge that I will do all that I can to ensure that our Parish will be a place and a people where you are truly safe; where you can share your story in trust; where, with other seekers, you will find human hands to hold you so that you don't run away again.

For those of us who are here every week, we have found rest for our hearts. This Christmas, we give thanks to God!

For those of us who are guests this weekend and do not have a faith community, and you are looking for a home, please come back again and again!

If you feel the call to belong to a Faith Community, but are not sure how to go about it, feel free to give me a call or set up an appointment. I would welcome an opportunity to chat with you.

Come home for Christmas!

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

F. n. Mike

Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Wednesday, December 24 (14)

Vigil of Christmas

Isaiah 9:1-6
Psalm 96:1-3,11-13
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

Thursday, December 25 (16)

Christmas

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98:1-6
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

Friday, December 26 (696)

Stephen, first martyr

Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59
Psalm 31:3-4,6-8,16-17
Matthew 10:17-22

Saturday, December 27 (697)

John, apostle, evangelist

1 John 1:1-4
Psalm 97:1-2,5-6,11-12
John 20:2-8

Sunday, December 28 (17)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Genesis 15:1-6;21:1-3
Psalm 105:1-6,8-9
Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19
Luke 2:22-40

Monday, December 29 (202)

Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr

1 John 2:3-11
Psalm 96:1-3,5b-6
Luke 2:22-35

Tuesday, December 30 (203)

1 John 2:12-17

Psalm 96:7-10
Luke 2:36-40

Wednesday, December 31 (204)

Sylvester I, pope

1 John 2:18-21
Psalm 96:1-2,11-13
John 1:1-18

Thursday, January 1 (18)

Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 67:2-3,5,6,8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Friday, January 2 (205)

Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors

1 John 2:22-28
Psalm 98:1-4
John 1:19-28

Saturday, January 3 (206)

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

1 John 2:29-3:6
Psalm 98:1-3,6
John 1:29-34

Sunday, January 4 (20)

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Prayer List

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

The Ainis Family
Mary Alexander
Mary Baker
Patricia Barbour
Carl Bechtold
Cindra Bell
Tom Belprez
Nancy Bermudez
Beatrice Brooks & family
Janet Brown
The Raymond Brown Family
James Coleman
Berwyn Collentine
Thomas Cornwell & Family
Cecilia DeSimone
Linda Dossman
The Durette Family
Kathryn Ernst
The Fiore Family
Larry Fisk
The Fleeman Hazlett Family
Rick Gonzalez
Claudette Gunderson
Paula Gurrera
Anita Hage
Susan Hallahan
The Harker Family
Rita Harnacker
Barry Henwood
Cynthia Horner
Bernie & Ginny Jaeger
Sue Johnston
Joan Jones
Colleen Kaup
Paul Kennedy
Debbie Kinny
George Kleekamp
Willis Koffroth
Sr. Anne Kremenik
Lillian Lachance
The Lamelin Family
Bernie Lanzrath
Brandon LeBlanc
Patty Lewis
Cassandra Loretto
Lauren Loretto
Loree Luther
Jackie Lynn
James MacArthur
Ken Mauro
Bob McWilliams
Carroll Tom & Nona Miller
Nancy Moore
Margie Myers
Patric Nackla
Leticia Navarro
Nolberto Navarro
R. Northrup
Leticia & Patrick Ornelas

Lupe Casas Pelletier
Helen Pingtella
Anne Post
Otila Quiroz
Janet Raiman
Cecil Ramirez
Isabel Ramirez (daughter)
Isabel Ramirez (mother)
Max Rococeles
Sr. Loyola Romey
Dorothy Rouse
Rose Rowland
The Russo Family
Nick Saltau
Julie Shea
Norm Shultz
Ed Sox
Dorothy and Ray Staehr
Ginger Thompson
Lisa & Kyle Valpoon
Robert Vasquez
Arnie Velasco
Lisa Vickonoff
The Vienna Family
Dominic Vienna, Jr.
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
Julian Torres, USMC
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.

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS Liturgy & Music

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Family Values Faith Formation

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God's Unconditional Gift Christian Stewardship

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Remember to Bring Your "Crown" Baby Gifts Next Weekend January 3-4!

These gifts will be delivered to Birth Choice of San Marcos, our local pregnancy resource center. The moms and babies who benefit will be grateful for your generosity!

Mass Intentions

Wednesday, December 24, 4:00pm John Tonge ☩
Wednesday, December 24, 6:00pm Paul Vocks ☩
Wednesday, December 24, 10:00pm Marge Malcovitch
Thursday, December 25, 9:30am Luigi & Anna Luce ☩
Friday, December 26, 8:15am Thanksgiving for health, family & prayers
Saturday, December 27, 5:00pm Cairo Salvatiere ☩
Sunday, December 28, 8:30am Nick Angelucci, Sr. ☩
Sunday, December 28, 10:30am Robert Vasquez
Tuesday, December 30, 8:15am Petra Ortiz ☩
Wednesday, December 31, 5:00pm Rev. Vincent Lorenz ☩
Thursday, January 1, 9:30am Daniel Quintana ☩
Friday, January 2, 8:15am John Pokojni ☩
Saturday, January 3, 5:00pm Lew Crowell ☩
Sunday, January 4, 8:30am Shirley Via ☩
Sunday, January 4, 10:30am Albert Sykes ☩

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*

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.

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.

Welcome to Newly Registered Parishioner

Rebecca Eyer

In Memoriam

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:



Joyce Durette, who died on December 17. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, December 29, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Freeman “Bud” Hazlett, who died on December 17. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 3, at 10:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Raymond Brown, who died on December 15. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 10, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep the family in your prayers.

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

Little Rock Scripture Studies

Touching the Mysteries: Scripture and Rosary

We would like to invite you to join us in the study of Scripture and the Rosary, beginning 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. 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.

Christmas Angel Update

You have once again amazed us with your generosity! All of the Christmas gifts have been delivered to local charities and shipped to New Orleans.



Our efforts continue into the next phase of the Christmas Angel Ministry. You will notice that the tree is now covered with crowns representing the gifts to Baby Jesus from the Magi. Our Parish has traditionally supported Birth Choice in San Marcos. Please stop by the tree and pick up a “crown.” The Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated the weekend of January 3-4. You are asked to bring your unwrapped, new baby items and place them in front of the manger scene before Masses on this weekend. Our wonderful team of volunteers will deliver them to Birth Choice to help support many new young mothers in need.

God bless you abundantly during this amazing season of His Love and Light.

Questions? Please call RJ and Suzee Irwin at 597-2706.

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. To obtain more information about senior services, please contact Ann Eriksson at 599-7151.

Social Justice Update

Get on the Bus Program



Our Parish will be joining this very important endeavor. Get on the Bus brings children and their caregivers from throughout the state of California to visit their mothers and fathers in prison. This is so important! One of the worse things that can happen to a child is to come to believe that their parent has forgotten them or does not love them anymore. Many of these children come from families who cannot afford to travel to the prison on their own.

There are many ways to become involved in this program. In addition to providing the monies for the bus, the program offers travel bags for the children comfort bags for the caregivers, a photo of each child with his or her parent, and meals for the day (breakfast, snacks on the bus, a special lunch at the prison with their parent and dinner on the way home, and a teddy bear with a letter from their parent and post-event counseling.

You are invited to attend an information meeting at our Parish on Saturday, January 10, 9:00-10:30am. Hope to see you there!

—Sr. Maureen


New Orleans Still Needs Our Help

We need to begin serious planning for those who would like to join the group from our Parish traveling to New Orleans March 21-28, 2009, to continue rebuilding their homes and their lives.

This weekend, Danny Treat, our young adult parishioner who has been in New Orleans for this entire year, will be extending a special invitation to you to consider joining him this March. He will also be outside after Mass to answer any questions.

If you have already committed to going with the Parish group or are in any way interested, please mark your calendar now for an information meeting on Thursday, January 8, at 6:30pm for a potluck dessert and information sharing.

For more information, please contact Sr. Maureen at 758-4100 x131 or maureenb@stmoside.org.



Middle School Youth Group
Next Meeting
Monday, January 5, 7:00pm
Monday Night Mass

For more information, contact Ron or Louise at 758-4100 x153 or ronb@stmoside.org. Visit the website: www.stmoside.org/ym.

Eucharistic Adoration


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

Exposition of the Eucharist on First Fridays Next date: Friday, January 2.

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?
Call the Parish Office at
758-4100 x100



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

resumes January 5 for Monday Night Mass
 January 12 for Monday Night Youth Group at GODSPACE

Questions? Gale at 726-7236

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 (includes Friday dinner to Sunday breakfast)
 \$40 Deposit due by January 5

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

STM Scrip News

Thank you to all who purchased Scrip for your shopping needs!

Scrip sales will resume on January 6, 2009. We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

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!

Liturgy & Music

Worship God

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



CHRISTMAS
TIME



A Family Festival of Christmas

Friday, January 2, 2009

7:00 p.m. on the Upper Level

An Evening of Christmas Joy
with the
STM MUSIC MINISTRY

Christmas Carols

AND MUSICAL OFFERINGS BY OUR

**MNM Music Team
Handbell Choir
Children's Choir
Adult Choir**

FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!



**Music Ministry
Next Week**

**JANUARY 2
Family Festival of
Christmas**

7:00pm

Christmas Caroling
with the

MNM Music Team
Handbell Choir
Children's Choir
Adult Choir

**JANUARY 3/4
Epiphany**

5:00pm Mass

Handbell Choir

8:30am Mass

Cantor

10:30am Mass

Adult Choir

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

**FEAST OF SS. BASIL THE GREAT &
GREGORY NAZIANZEN**

8:45am - 6:30pm

INTENTION FOR THE DAY

**That we may spend more time
with Sacred Scripture.**

Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

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

Family Values

Today's liturgy celebrates that amazing relationship in which we are allowed to be underfoot and understood at the same time . . . **family!**

Although no definition of "family" can ever be definitive, it seems that **family is that relationship in which we live out our most intimate and powerful human experiences.**

The family is the relationship
(or network of relationships)
in which we belong,
from which we can expect protection,
in which we can create infinity through our children,
and in which we find a haven.

That's why the stuff that family is made of
is bloodier and more passionate
than the stuff of any other relationship,
and why the costs are greater, too.

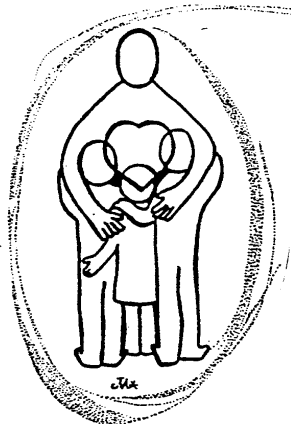
The family demands attention and care. It demands work and festivity, business and play. The business of people being family takes place in the exchange of mutual service: by changing diapers, doing housework, cleaning the toilet, helping with homework—doing for one another.

Celebration or play is essential. Only in play and festivity do family members celebrate the loving bonds that grow between and among them whenever we set about the business of being family.

Faith Formation is the particular responsibility of the home-church until January 11. What lesson are you teaching today on the Feast of the Holy Family within your dear and holy family?

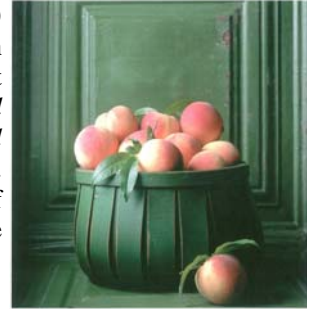
Paul offers quite a lesson plan:

***“Put on, as God’s chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
heartfelt compassion,
kindness,
humility,
gentleness,
and patience,
bearing with one another
and
forgiving one another.”***



Looking at Life Through the Eyes of Faith

“**Fr. Mike (and friends) Bookies**” continues on Wednesday, January 7, at 9:00am or 7:00pm with **Food and Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily Bread** by Michael Schut. Gale Gibbons, a member of our parish staff, will facilitate our discussion.



From the cover:

“*Food—it’s enough to drive you bananas: you are what you eat...food pyramids...organics...mad cow disease...animal rights...Genetically Modified Organisms. Finally a resource that examines food choices through the lens of faith. In bite-sized pieces, you’ll learn to recognize and celebrate food as sacramental, consider the implications of food choices and find help to embody love and compassion in the wider world.*”

A few books may be available for \$11 in the hall outside the Faith Formation Office. You can also find it at your local bookstore. Anyone is welcome to join in!

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

Check your Annual Plan

* December 28	HOME
* January 4	HOME
* January 11	CHURCH

High School, Phase I Courses

* February 9, 16, 23	Monday Mini Course
* March 1,2,15,22, April 5	Core Course
* April 19, 26, May 3	Sunday Mini Course

Peanut Butter and Jelly Update

2009 GOAL:	365 jars
TOTAL to date:	81 jars



Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

God's Unconditional Gift to Us

Thanks be to our God of all joy and generosity! Imagine God loving us so much, unconditionally, that He gifted us with Jesus Christ, our Savior. We did nothing to earn this love, and yet it was freely given to us.

Our Savior was born into this world in circumstances completely unanticipated by nearly everyone in that time. What an attitude adjustment was in store for many.

Still today, many people think more of God as a Santa Claus type of deity. He's the one with the white beard who watches over us from heaven, monitoring our behavior, to see if we deserve pricey gifts for Christmas.

These folks only interact with God when they are in trouble or when they feel they need something. This is what I call the "gimme" principle. Any thread of a relationship here is based on what people feel God can do for them. As soon as they "get" what they want, they quickly resume life with no thought of God...until the next need crops up.

Oh that everyone could get past self-centered lifestyles and see our God for the God who loves us so much that He sent His Son to be born and live among us, as a humble, obedient servant who would lead by example. You begin to seek God for Who He is when you stop seeking God for what He can do for you.

Christmas is a perfect time to ask not what else God can do for us, but what we can do for God!



Our Blessed Virgin Mary obediently and lovingly carried out her mission bear our baby Jesus and to raise Him. Her example to us is monumental.

St. Joseph obediently and lovingly fulfilled his mission to protect Jesus and Mary and provide a model family life to carry out the will of God the Father.

We are blessed with so many examples of obedience to God. If we are paying attention, we will be about following the many examples that Jesus gave us during his 33-year lifetime on earth.

- ◆ May our prayer this Christmas be one of gratitude for the gift of salvation.
- ◆ May we stretch out our hands not only to receive, but to give back. Today and everyday.

Open our hearts, Lord Jesus, so that we too may be a sign of Your gracious and loving presence in our world.

Christmas Blessings to all!

HELPFUL YEAR-END PLANNING TIPS GOT DEDUCTIONS?

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. The office will be closed from December 24 at noon through January 2, 2009. Gifts received in the offertory at Masses the weekend of December 27-28 will be credited for the 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!**

Retirement Fund for Priests and Religious

Envelopes were attached to the bulletin the first week of December. Your generosity will be much appreciated by the retired priests and religious who benefit! Envelopes may be returned any time during the month of December.

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

New Year's Eve Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—Ring in a sober new year at our annual 12-step retreat, December 30—January 1, 2009. This retreat is open to all who are on the road to recovery or who live by the 12-Step Program for recovery. Spouses, family, and friends are welcome to attend. Focus will be on the 11th Step and exploring the wonderment of spirituality. With Peggy M. and Mark Schroeder, OFM. For more information or to register, please contact 757-3659 or www.sanluisrey.org.

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.

Young Adults New Year's Eve Celebration with Jesus in Oceanside—Wednesday, December 31, 9:00pm-1:00am, at the Church of St. Thomas More, 1450 South Melrose Drive, Oceanside. Looking for a great way to start the New Year? Join other Young Adults, 18-39 from the North County as we enjoy a night guided by the Spirit! The evening will start at 9:00pm with a social, food, and DJ, followed by Praise and Worship music at 10:30pm, Mass at 11:00pm, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 11:45pm-12:15am. Then hang around for more great fellowship and fun to ring in the New Year! The event is co-sponsored by the new North County Young Adult Group and the Diocesan Office for Young Adult Ministry. For more information, visit www.yamsd.org or contact Carrie at cgiebel@diocese-sdiego.org or Ron at ronbriseno@cox.net.

Young Adults New Year's Eve Celebration in San Diego—Wednesday, December 31, 10:30pm-1:30am, at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 1629 Columbia St., San Diego. *The End and the Beginning* will include praise and worship music, Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and a social. For more information, contact Alex at adepaulis011@gmail.com or Pia at ppuertollano@powayusd.com.

Matt Maher in Concert in Escondido—Saturday, January 3, 7:00pm, at the Church of the Resurrection, 1445 Conway Dr., Escondido. BBQ at 5:30. For more information and tickets, contact 747-2322.

La Jolla Renaissance Singers in Concert in San Diego—Sunday, January 4, 3:00pm at St. Mary Magdalene Church, 1945 Illion St., San Diego, overlooking Mission Bay. The choir will present *Traditional Christmas Music from Romania*. There is no charge, and all are welcome! For more information, please contact 619-276-1041.

Healing Masses in Solana Beach—Monday, January 5, 7:00pm, with Fr. Leonardo Arboleda and Fr. Ernesto Torres; Wednesday, January 28, 7:00pm, with Fr. Ernesto Torres. Both Masses will be at St. James Church, 625 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach. For more information, contact Cory Graves at 858-755-8990.

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.

Annual Parent Retreat in San Marcos—January 30-February 1 at St. Mark's Parish in San Marcos. Michael Barber, Professor of Theology, Scripture, and Catholic thought at John Paul the Great Catholic University in San Diego, will be the guest speaker. The retreat will also include praise and worship, a healing prayer service, and opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and confession. For more information, contact Jennifer McClintock at 744-1130 or Jennifer@stmarksccc.org.

Pilgrimage to Holy Land—Starting May 25, 2009 with Sr. Margaret Kelly, OP, the Director of Religious Education at Mission San Diego de Alcalá. Package includes airfare from San Diego, 4-star hotels (double occupancy), daily Mass, breakfast and dinner daily, all entrance fees and admission charges. For more information, contact Sr. Margaret at 619-624-0900.



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.



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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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