

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

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

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

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

November 29, 2009 • First Sunday of Advent

Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak
michaelr@stmoside.org
760-758-4100 x100

Parish Advent Communal Penance Service:

"The Sacrament of Reconciliation – God's Unconditional Love for Us!"

In recent years, a name change has taken place with the "Sacrament of Confession." We no longer call the act "Confession," but rather "Reconciliation" and/or "Penance."

This name change better reflects what happens in this celebration. We do not go to the priest just to list our sins, have them forgiven, and receive a penance; but rather, and most importantly, we come to the priest to celebrate the forgiveness of God that we experience in our lives. We come to the Sacrament with a sense of joy for what God has already done in our lives and what God continues to do—showering us with unconditional love.

The verbalization of our sins, the verbalization of the words of absolution, and the acceptance of a penance are steps in the process of celebrating God's forgiveness and unconditional love for us.

If we are open to God's love, we begin to experience the many ways in which God forgives us our sins in the daily occurrences of our lives.

When we ask forgiveness from someone we have offended, our sins are forgiven. When we accept the forgiveness of another, our sins are forgiven. Each time we talk to God in the silence of our hearts and sincerely seek forgiveness from God, our sins are forgiven. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we hear the words of the priest shortly before the reception of Holy Communion—"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! Happy are we! We are called to His supper!"—our sins are forgiven.

(Continued on page 2)

Advent Communal Penance Service

Sunday at 4:00pm

Please join us!



Our Mission is to: worship God,

Mass Schedule:

Saturday at 5:00pm; Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am;
Tuesday-Friday at 8:15am;
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: 8:30am 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 our 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.*

Pastor's Column *(Continued from page 1)*

So why go to the priest? We do so in order to celebrate the forgiveness of God we experience in our daily lives, to ritualize it, sacramentalize it and, as in all things, to place our lives and God's involvement in our lives within the context of the Church, the Body of Christ.

The priest "stands in" for the community. As we verbalize our sins, we are mindful that there is no such thing as a personal sin. Our sins, no matter how personal we may think them to be, affect others—"No Man Is an Island." We live in community. Our lives always touch the lives of others.

Telling our sins, hearing ours sins from our own lips, helps us to be real and to acknowledge our weakness and our dependence upon God. It is so easy to rationalize our sinfulness when we talk to ourselves "in our heads." It is an entirely different experience when we hear ourselves verbalize our sinfulness. Those sins become much more real! We become much more aware and sensitive of our responsibilities to others.

The priest "stands in" for Christ. Hearing the words of absolution, the forgiveness of God, from the lips of the priest is indeed comforting. You know how wonderful it feels when a family member or friend says, "I love you!" In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we allow God to say those words to us in and through the person of the priest.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not something to be feared but to be celebrated with trust and confidence because of God's unconditional love for us.

This weekend, on Sunday, November 29, at 4:00pm, our Parish celebrates her Advent Communal Penance Service. In this Parish celebration, a number of our young people will be celebrating this Sacrament for the first time. Your presence will also be a sign of support to them.

Many priest/confessors will be available for you. They will be in Church waiting for you so that through the words of absolution God will once again say to you:

"I forgive you and I love you unconditionally!"

Will you be there to hear God's words?

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 Jim Treat at 760-598-3602.

Rosary

A communal Rosary is prayed after every morning Mass (Tuesday-Friday) in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Please join us!



Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, November 29 (3)

First Sunday of Advent
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:4-5,8-10,14
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Monday, November 30 (684)

Andrew, Apostle
Romans 10:9-18
Psalm 19:8-11
Matthew 4:18-22

Tuesday, December 1 (176)

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12,13,17
Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 2 (177)

Isaiah 25:6-10a
Psalm 23:1-6
Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 3 (178)

Francis Xavier, priest
Isaiah 26:1-6
Psalm 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a
Matthew 7:21,24-27

Friday, December 4 (179)

John of Damascus, priest, doctor
Isaiah 29:17-24
Psalm 27:1,4,13-14
Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday, December 5 (180)

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

Sunday, December 6 (6)

Second Sunday of Advent
Baruch 5:1-9
Psalm 126:1-6
Philippians 1:4-6,8-11
Luke 3:1-6

Prayer List

Call 760-758-4100 x102 to add a name for four weeks.

Mary Alexander
Mary Baker
Patricia Barbour
Cindra Bell
John Bennici
Regina Bentz
George "Whitey" Betus
Beatrice Brooks & Family
Monica Broussard
Janet Brown
Roseanne Burg
Herman Calandro
Shelby Campbell
Claudia Caplinger
Emily Champ
Paul Cipowski
Marilyn Clarke
James Coleman
Thomas Cornwell & Family
The Crowell Family
Karen Flaharty Daley
Margie Daniels & Family
Cecilia DeSimone
Linda Dossman
Kathryn Ernst
The Fiore Family
Peggy & Jack Fischer
Ryan Flum
Kathryn Franklin
Joe Freire
Carmen Garcia
Peter Gavin
The Gemar Family
Charles Gerarge, Jr.
Bob Godley
Rick Gonzalez
Rosemary Haeffelin
Anita Hage
Susan Hallahan
The Harker Family
Rita Harnacker
Barry Henwood
Lilian Hills
Cynthia Horner
The Howard Family
Dorothy Jensen
Sue Johnston
The Kaup & Fisk Families
Darleen Kelch
Paul Kennedy
Debbie Kinney
George Kleekamp
Sr. Anne Kremenik
Helen Kuhn
Cirese LaBerge
Lillian Lachance
The Lamelin Family
Bernie Lanzrath
The Layden Family
Brandon LeBlanc
Cassandra Loretto
Lauren Loretto
James MacArthur
Lois Maganini
Gloria Maupin
The Mauro & Northrup Families
Helen McCullough
Tom McGeary
Bob McWilliams
Carol Michael

The Beverley Miller Family
The Tom Miller Family
Howard Montgomery
Nancy Moore
Margie Myers
R. Northrup
Helen O'Connell
Lupe Casas Pelletier
Helen Pingtella
Anne Post
John Popping
Otila Quiroz
Janet Raiman
Dort Riley
Sr. Loyola Romey
Dorothy Rouse
Rose Rowland
The Russo Family
Nancy Scali
Freda Schweitzer
Richard Sikora
Nick Soltau
Ed Sox
Gilda Spiegl
Dorothy and Ray Staehr
Joan Stringer
Maria Surmenidis
Louise Toth
Stephen Toth, Jr.
Arnie Velasco
Dominic Vienna, Jr.
Vanessa Vitiello-Koble
Kevin Watson-Graff
Ed Wesel
Marilyn Wesel
Terry Westlake
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:

Gunnery Sgt. Fernando Andrade, Jr.
Capt. Sean Barnes, USAF
1st Lt. Jeffrey Bauer, USMC
Pfc John Brandone
Lance Corporal Brandon Doyle, USMC
St Sgt Joseph Duffy, USAF
MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC
Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army
PVT2 Tyler Timmerman, U.S. Army
Julian Torres, USMC
LT Billy Turley
Corporal Jeffery Lee Wilcox, USMC

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

Calendar Highlights

Also check the Parish website (www.stmoside.org) for complete calendar information.

The Week Ahead

Nov 29 Liturgy of the Word for children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
Nov 29 Advent Communal Penance Service at 4:00pm
Nov 30 High School RE.A.CH Class
Dec 4 Exposition of the Eucharist
Dec 6 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am Mass
Dec 6 RE.A.CH Classes at Church
Dec 6 Towers of Faith Reception

The Month Ahead

Dec 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Masses at 8:15am and 7:00pm
Dec 12 Spirited Seniors Holiday Traditions Trip
Dec 13 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am Mass
Dec 13 RE.A.CH Classes at Church
Dec 14 Women's Guild Meeting
Dec 24 Vigil of Christmas Masses at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 10:00pm
Dec 25 Christmas Mass at 9:30am
Dec 31 Mary the Mother of God Mass at 5:00pm

Next Year—2010

Jan 1 Mary the Mother of God Mass at 9:30am
Jan 1 Family Festival of Christmas
Jan 11 Women's Guild Meeting
Jan 23 Women's Guild Game Day

Pray for Women Religious

Please join us in praying for the women religious who serve in the Diocese of San Diego. They have been assigned to days of the year in alphabetical order.

Monday, November 30
Sr. Mary Denis Bruck, SL
Tuesday, December 1
Sr. Annalisa Burgos, SJS
Wednesday, December 2
Sr. Finbarr Burke, RSM
Thursday, December 3
Sr. Ada Burns, RSCJ
Friday, December 4
Sr. M. Joanna Calderon, DCJ
Saturday, December 5
Sr. Celestine Callaghan, RSM
Sunday, December 6
Sr. Annice Callahan, RSCJ

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 28, 5:00pm
J. C. Gonzalez ☩

Sunday, November 29, 8:30am
Tom & Pat Hannon

Sunday, November 29, 10:30am
Mr. Earl "Joe" Stein ☩

Tuesday, December 1, 8:15am
Lorraine Kauffman ☩

Wednesday, December 2, 8:15am
Ralph Dodgen ☩

Wednesday, December 2, 9:45am
William Stevenson ☩
Emeritus of Oceanside

Thursday, December 3, 8:15am
Alice Sullivan ☩

Friday, December 4, 8:15am
Bernie Weiler ☩

Saturday, December 5, 5:00pm
Donn Wilmott ☩

Sunday, December 6, 8:30am
Dominic Vienna, Sr. ☩

Sunday, December 6, 10:30am
Nicholas Angelucci, Sr. ☩

Announcing the Baptisms of

Colton Robert Osborne
Kael McMahon Osborne
Kylie Emma Osborne
 on November 28, 2009



Our Christian community welcomes you with great joy!

Congratulations to:

Bob & Anne Fallone

who celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on November 28.

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:

Tom & Pat Hannon
Bob & Anne Fallone

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

Catholic Charities Needs You!

Operating on volunteer power, the Vista Food Resource Center serves emergency food and distributes government commodities for over 2,700 people a month! We make shelter, medical, and rental referrals to other community agencies and assist an average of 50 families monthly to apply for food stamps. We have immediate openings for intake workers, food distribution assistants, and delivery drivers (bring your own truck). Training provided. The hours are Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:00-4:00pm. Join our team and help your neighbors in need. For more information, please call Lisa at 760-631-4792.

STM \$crip News

Let's take the merchants up on their offer to help build our Sanctuary! Stop by the Scrip table on the Plaza to find out how.

In order for St. Thomas More to benefit from your shopping at Ralphs, Food4Less, and Albertsons you must update your cards. Please stop by the scrip table to find out how, or call Theresa Goeltz at 760-453-2876.

Scrip is sold after weekend Masses and on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:00am in the Parish Office.

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

Albertson's Card #(11 digits)

Ralph's Card—Please visit Scrip table for flyer.

☐ **Please send me a Food 4 Less Card**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

**God in the Digital Age or
 R U There JC?**

Part III

Monday, November 30

7:00-9:00pm

Call Gale at 760-726-7236 for more information

Fill a Grocery Bag for a Hungry Family!

Every weekend, we will be collecting non-perishable food items to benefit the North County Community Services Food Bank. Look for the blue barrels on the Plaza at weekend Masses to deposit your contributions. The most needed items include canned meats and protein, pasta and pasta sauce, boxed macaroni and cheese, and canned fruit. Thank you for your support! For more information, contact Ron Briseno at 760-758-4100 x153 or ronb@stmoside.org.

Are You Available from 8:45-9:15am on Saturdays?

Once or twice a month, we can use more help setting up chairs for Mass on the weekends. You have probably noticed that we need to take all the chairs down on occasion for maintenance and special events. Wonderful people like you help us get them back in place. For information, call Lorraine at 760-758-4100 x102.

STM Annual Financial Report

The Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 is now available for viewing on the Parish website. Go to www.stmoside.org, then click on Finance Council and select Parish Financial Report July 2008 to June 2009.

The report is only being published online this year to save on printing and mailing costs. All Parishioners with email addresses on record were sent a message with the link to the report. Printed copies will be available at the Parish Office by request for those without internet access.

If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office at 760-758-4100 x100 or parishoffice@stmoside.org.

Collection for National Needs

Envelopes were attached to the bulletin the first weekend in November for the 2009 Collection for National Needs, which 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. The envelopes may be returned any time during the month of November. Thank you for your generosity!

St. Francis and St. Thomas More Offertory Envelopes

Any St. Francis Offertory Envelopes given to the offertory collection at St. Thomas More will be returned to St. Francis.

Any St. Thomas More Offertory Envelopes given to the offertory collection at St. Francis will be returned to St. Thomas More.

Women's Guild News

CORRECTION!! Gremlins attacked the computer, and wrong dates were included in last week's bulletin. The correct date and time for our December meeting is Monday, December 14, our usual second Monday, at 11:00am. We will have a special holiday menu of many delicious foods and will be treated to organ music and a presentation about the organ by Sally Fay, our church organist. This meeting will begin on the upper level and continue for the luncheon on the lower level via the stairs or elevator. Sally is preparing a wonderful program you won't want to miss. Call Valerie Thompson at 760-630-1703 or Mary Coxon at 760-599-8760. I will be reminding those who signed up to prepare food.

I have had several requests for soup recipes from our November luncheon. I will put together as many as I can and bring them to the December meeting.

Board meeting is Monday, December 7, at 10:00am at Valerie Thompson's home.

It's Christmas Again—A Children's Book

Copies of the children's book by Rev. Rich Lewandowski, *It's Christmas Again*, will be available at the information table on the Plaza after Mass today.

It's Christmas Again tells the story of a time when everyone forgot the reason people celebrated Christmas. A child asks "Why do we celebrate December 25?" and no one knows the answer. The whole world was so busy buying gifts and decorating trees, but it had forgotten why December 25 was a holiday.

At \$15, this book makes a wonderful Christmas gift for all who realize and want to promote the true meaning of Christmas in an easily understandable and enjoyable manner.

Father Rich will direct *A Retreat for a New Year and New Resolutions* here at St. Thomas More at the beginning of January, 2010. He can easily be coaxed to sign his books for you when he visits our Parish at the start of the new year.

Eucharistic Adoration



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

Exposition of the Eucharist on First Fridays.
Next date: Friday, December 4.

For more information, contact
the Parish Office at 760-758-4100 x100.

Facing Surgery or a Serious Illness?

If you, a family member or close friend is facing surgery or has been diagnosed with a serious illness, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick can be powerful and comforting.

For more information, call the Parish Office at 760-758-4100.

St. Thomas More Vehicle Donation Program

Do you have a vehicle you want to donate?

Call the Parish Office at
758-4100 x100



Knights of Columbus Entertainment Book Fundraiser

The Knights are offering *Entertainment Books* again this year. The books are \$40 each. All proceeds go toward supporting St. Thomas More and various charities. See the Knights on the Plaza after most Masses throughout the remainder of 2009 to purchase your book.



Religious Christmas Cards

The Saint Thomas More Knights of Columbus Council 11439 will be selling Religious Christmas Cards on the Plaza after all Masses through December 20. For more information, contact Al Rouse at 760-806-8030.

Thank You!

St. Thomas More Knights of Columbus on behalf of St. Bonaventure Indian Mission would like to thank our Parish Family for the outstanding support of this year's drive. Because of you, we were able to send **two(!)** trucks of donated goods to the Mission. Also, a special thanks to Bill and Karen Carrothers for their outstanding support. We look forward to your continued support in 2010. Thank you and God bless you all! —*Jim Baker, Grand Knight*

Calling All Angels!



It's time again to bring Christmas joy to those children who otherwise might go without. The Christmas Angel tree is up this weekend with ornaments for gifts of all kinds—baby items, toys, and gift cards for girls and boys of all ages. To make shopping easier for some, gift cards can be purchased through the STM Scrip Program, which benefits both Scrip and Christmas Angels. This year we are supporting North County Solutions for Change, Catholic Charities, Birth Choice, and other local charities.

Again this year, we will support families at our sister parish, St. Peter Claver in New Orleans. So sponsor a family (alone or join with others), and provide them with a personalized package. See the volunteers at our table for a family name and details.

The generosity of STM parishioners has always been overwhelming despite the troubled economy. Join us at the tree, choose your ornaments and pray for the continued success of the Christmas Angel Ministry. What better way to earn your halo this season?

To achieve immediate Angel status, kindly volunteer to help at the weekend Masses and on Saturday, December 12, to stuff stockings and gift bags!

For more information please contact John or Marti Harper
at 760-724-1181 or 4johnnyangel@cox.net

Little Books

The Little Blue Book for the Advent and Christmas Seasons is now available. Many parishioners look forward to these six-minute meditations as a way to make these very hectic seasons HOLY.



They are available early because many enjoy mailing them to friends and relatives.

Your \$2 donation is appreciated to help cover the cost of the book. They are available today at the Faith Formation Table, or on the lower level of the Parish Center during the week.

Liturgy & Music

Worship God

Douglas Lynn
Director of Music/Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries
douglasl@stmoside.org; 760-758-4100 x140

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

If asked to name their favorite story from the Bible, most Christians would probably choose something from the Gospel of Luke. These stories are indeed unforgettable, and the Christian tradition is graced by this gospel from Luke's hand.

It is the only one of the four gospels to describe the angel's annunciation of the coming birth of Jesus to Mary, and the visit of the shepherds at his birth; it is the only one to tell the parables of the Good Samaritan, of the prodigal son, and of the rich man and Lazarus; it is the only gospel to relate the story of Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection.

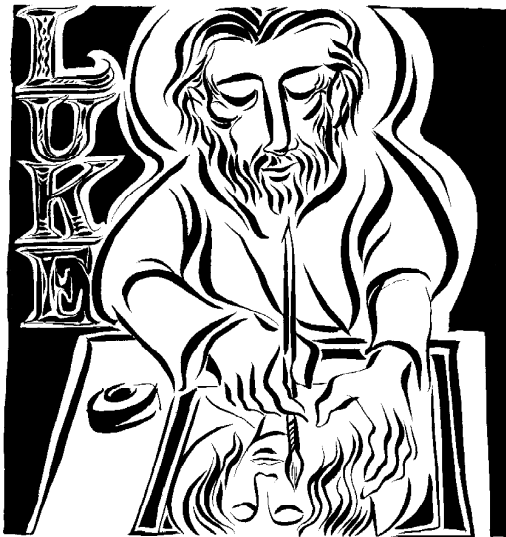
Gospel of Luke to around 80CE. One piece of evidence that helps with the dating is that the gospel contains nearly all of Mark, and from this we know that it was composed after 70CE (about when Mark was written).

In addition to having Mark as a source, the Gospel of Luke shares a large chunk of material with Matthew, material that appears neither in Mark nor in John. From this we assume that there was another source for Luke, one that he and the writer of Matthew used together. Luke also had a source of information that only he used.

The evangelist Luke is also the author of the Acts of the Apostles, which is, in a sense, the second part to the gospel. This is evident from the very polished Greek of these two books, but more specifically, from the fact that both books are addressed to Theophilus, a fellow believer. (See Luke 1:3 and Acts 1:1.) Luke's contribution, therefore, makes up more than one-quarter of the second testament.

The portrait of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke is of an itinerant prophet who is attracted to the poor and the outcast. He explains that his ministry is to them, and he envisions the heavenly banquet as filled with the poor and disenfranchised. The evangelist draws powerful portraits of despised members of the society, and much of the wonder of this compelling gospel is in its address to sinners.

We read the Gospel of Luke in Year C, which begins this week, on the First Sunday of Advent.



In addition to that, Luke's Christmas story is proclaimed by Linus on the Charlie Brown Christmas special!

Archeologists and textual experts usually date the writing of the



Upcoming Music

DECEMBER 5/6
Second Sunday
of Advent

5:00pm Mass
Handbell Choir

8:30am Mass
Adult Choir

10:30am Mass
Adult Praise

DECEMBER 8
Immaculate
Conception of
Mary

8:15am Mass
Cantor

7:00pm Mass
Adult Choir

Friday, December 4 ♦ 8:45am - 7:30pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
FEAST OF ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS

We pray...
that our lives will be built on the rock of the Gospel.



Children's
Christmas Choir

The Children's Choir returns
for the Christmas season!

All children, grades 2-8 are
invited to sing in the
Children's Christmas Choir.

REHEARSALS

Wednesdays
December 2, 9, and 16
5:00-6:15pm

Thursday, December 23
7:00-7:45pm
(with the combined choirs)

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24
4:00pm Mass

FAMILY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS

Friday, January 1
7:00pm Festival

JOIN US!!!

Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

Kathleen Bell
Director of Faith Formation
kathleenb@stmoside.org; 760-758-4100 x110



Today is A Good Day to Think About FORGIVENESS

Today is our parish's communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 4:00pm. All Parishioners are strongly encouraged to attend, not only for our own experience of the forgiveness of our loving God, but also to bear witness and celebrate with our children who approach this Sacrament for the first time.



Philip Yancey concludes:

The gospel of grace begins and ends with forgiveness. And people write songs with titles like "Amazing Grace" for one reason: grace is the only force in the universe powerful enough to break the chains that enslave generations.

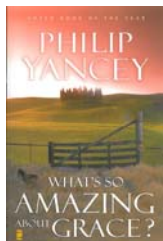
Helmut Thielicke, a German who lived through the horrors of Nazism (states):

This business of forgiving is by no means a simple thing. . . We say, "Very well, if the other fellow is sorry and begs my pardon, I will forgive him, then I'll give in." We make of forgiveness a law of reciprocity. And this never works. For then both of us say to ourselves, 'The other fellow has to make the first move. And then I watch like a hawk to see whether the other person will flash a signal to me with his eyes or whether I can detect some small hint between the lines of his letter which shows that he is sorry. I am always on the point of forgiving. . .but I never forgive. I am far too just.

The only remedy, Thielicke concluded, was his realization that God had forgiven his sins and given him another chance. Breaking the cycle of ungrace means taking the initiative. Instead of waiting for his neighbor to make the first move, he must do so, defying the natural law of retribution and fairness. He did this only when he realized that God's initiative lay at the heart of the gospel he had been preaching but not practicing.

I hope to celebrate with you this afternoon at 4:00pm~

Kathleen



What's So Amazing About Grace? is our next book for discussion on December 2, either at 9:00am or 7:00pm. It is available for \$11 outside the Faith Formation Office.

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

Church Session: December 6
Church Session: December 13

Home Session: December 20*
Home Session: December 27*
Home Session: January 3*
Home Session: January 10*

Church Session: January 17

**Check your Annual Plan
for each week's lesson.*

PBJ Update

(Food for children at the Emergency Crisis Center)

2010 GOAL: 365 jars
Collected to date: 4 jars !



Our count begins again with the new church year: Nov. 29.

Information for Growth

3—answer

Which best describes the Church's call to evangelize?

C) to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the world
(CCC 905)



4—question

Which statement about Jesus Christ represents Catholic belief?

- A) Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man.
- B) Jesus Christ was man and became God.
- C) Jesus Christ is man but not God.
- D) Jesus Christ is God but not man.



Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Advent Faith in Action

As we enter the season of Advent and a new liturgical calendar year, it is helpful to ask ourselves how our Christian Stewardship unites relationships with actions. Three questions can serve as directive guides to link intentions with expressions as we journey through life.

- ✠ Who is Jesus of Nazareth for you?
- ✠ Is your faith translated into actions?
- ✠ What do you want to be remembered for?

These questions can inspire us to dedicate and renew our efforts to become true disciples of Christ and good stewards in our daily lives. The month of November has given us a number of days to particularly reflect on our Christian stewardship as a way of life.

Since becoming a part of the Pastoral Staff at St. Thomas More, I have had the opportunity to witness a number of things that I never witnessed during 18 years in the banking industry, 24 years as a Jazzercise Instructor, as a wife, mother, and Christian steward. My little corner of life was certainly full, but God had other plans for me ~ a huge learning curve was in store.

One thing that particularly stands out to me is the number of funerals that take place over the course of a year. Another thing that stands out is the broad age range of our beloved members who have gone before us in death ~ from the very young to those who lived very long lives, and all ages in between.

I attend as many funerals as possible, as a sign of respect to our deceased members and to their families. While each funeral is unique, one aspect that resounds at each of them, is the lifetime of accomplishments and contributions that are recognized. Over and again, accounts are given from family members about how much our Faith Community meant to their deceased loved one. It is comforting to know how much fulfillment our friends found through their service to Jesus by way of their involvement in various ministries at St. Thomas More.



Advent provides an opportunity for us to begin again and to prepare ourselves anew for the coming of Jesus Christ. It is a time of waiting and expectation, of anticipation and preparation. We can use the coming weeks for personal prayer, growth and change in the way we live.

As we anticipate the Nativity of Jesus, we can dedicate special time toward considering our relationship with Him.

As we remember previous Advents, it is good to remember all those who have inspired us (both living and deceased) through their faith and actions.

We, too, can be memorable mentors and models to others through our demonstrations of discipleship and Christian stewardship.

Seize the day!

HELPFUL YEAR-END PLANNING TIPS GOT DEDUCTIONS?

As 2009 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, 2009. 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 1, 2010.*** Gifts received in the offertory at Masses the weekend of December 26-27 will be credited for year ending 2009.

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!**

Collection for Week of: November 21/22, 2009

Number of Registered Households:		1,007
Offertory*	\$	7,937.06
Offertory (Loose Collection)		971.00
Children's envelopes		3.50
Total	\$	8,911.56

* Offertory Envelopes, Credit Card Withdrawals,
Automatic Checking or Savings Account Deductions
(Credit Card and Automatic Bank Account Withdrawals
are posted at STM on the 5th and/or 20th of each month.)

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/Savings Account Deduction

*To participate in these time-saving alternatives,
please contact the Parish Office at:
760-758-4100 x100 or parishoffice@stmoside.org.*

News from the Larger Church

The Treasure Box Grocery Plan in North County—is an economic meal program that provides a 21-25 lb. pre-assembled box of frozen food for \$30 (a savings of up to 65% off grocery store prices).

- One Treasure Box can feed a family of four for almost a week or an individual for nearly a month.
- The menu changes monthly but always includes 10-12 lbs. of protein (beef, chicken, pork, turkey, etc.), fruit, vegetables, side dishes, and a dessert.
- The Treasure Box is also great for seniors, new parents, and college students.
- There are no income qualifiers, no restrictions; it is available to everyone.

For more information, including locations in your area, please visit www.thetreasurebox.org.

Help Military Families Enjoy a Nice Meal with Family During the Holidays—Purchase a gift card for a local restaurant and send it to the address below. Chaplain Newman will distribute these to selected families.

Joel D. Newman, Commander, Chaplain Corps, USN
Group Chaplain, Marine Aircraft Group 39
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055
(760) 725-8180

Lunch Served for Seniors in Oceanside—The Salvation Army Senior Dining and Social Center, 3935 Lake Blvd, Oceanside (near Emeritus at Oceanside and Pacific Place) serves lunch for \$3 at noon, Monday-Friday, for any seniors 60 and over. For more information and reservations, call 760-631-8279

Sex Addicts Anonymous in San Diego—A twelve-step program of recovery based on the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our primary purpose is to stop our addictive sexual behavior and to help others recover from their sexual addiction. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop addictive sexual behavior. Our fellowship is open to women and men regardless of religion, race, ethnic background, marital status, sexual orientation, or profession. Our members define their own sexual boundaries with the guidance of their sponsors and other group members. Meetings are NOT a place to meet sexual partners, and most people who are in recovery are serious about their recovery. For more information, contact San Diego SAA at 800-869-2112 or sdsaa@hotmail.com or www.sexaa.org.

Christ in Evolution Discussion at the University of San Diego—Tuesday, December 1, 5:00-6:15pm, Salomon Hall, Bishop Maher Hall, USD. A discussion of the book by Ilia Delio, OSF, in preparation for a keynote address on February 11, 2010. For more information, contact 619-260-4784 or ccs@sandiego.edu.

Sung Contemplative Rosary in San Diego—Friday, December 4, 4:00-7:00pm at San Rafael Catholic Church, 17252 Bernardo Center Dr., Rancho Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego.

Choral Concert in San Diego—The University of San Diego Community Choir and Choral Scholars presentation of Lessons and Carols will be held in the University of San Diego's Founders Chapel on Friday, December 4, at 8:00pm and Sunday, December 6, at 2:00pm. The singing will include Vivaldi's Gloria in Excelsis Deo, a magnificent full orchestra and 65 voice chorus.

Staying Awake: Some Advent Attitudes Session at the University of San Diego—Saturday, December 5, 9:00am-12:00noon, Salomon Hall, Bishop Maher Hall, USD. Presented by Annice Callahan, RSCJ. For more information, contact 619-260-4784 or ccs@sandiego.edu.

Diocesan Young Adult Christmas Party in San Diego—Come join other single and married Catholic young adults (21-39 yrs) for food, music, and dancing on Saturday, December 5 from 7:00-11:30pm at St. Brigid Parish Hall, 4735 Cass St., San Diego. For more information, visit www.yamsd.org.

Advent Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—Spend the last weekend of Advent in the midst of the gentleness and quiet which is the true gift of Christmas. Father Philip Garcia, OFM will use selected writings by Ronald Rolheiser, Basil Hume, Oscar Romero and Joyce Rupp as the basis for this time of quiet prayer and reflection on the presence of the *Quiet One of Advent*. Retreat begins on Friday with dinner and ends with lunch on Sunday. Please pre-register. For additional information contact 760-757-3659 or www.sanluisrey.org.

Ongoing Diocesan Workshops—Various topics related to religious education. For details, contact www.diocese-sdiego.org/evangelization.htm or 858-490-8230.

Marriage Encounter Weekends—For more information, contact daveandcheryl@cost.net or 619-303-5053.

Natural Family Planning Classes—For more information, contact daveandcheryl@cox.net or 619-303-5053.

Church of the Resurrection Catholic Gift Shop in Escondido—Open Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm and before and after Masses on the weekends. 1445 Conway Drive, Escondido. For more information, contact 760-747-2322.



"And for those of you not on Twitter, traditional confessions will be available on Saturdays from 4:00-4:30."



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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 11/08/09

Council Chairs: Pastoral-Doug D'Agrosa 760-941-6800 • **Finance**-Paul Ibbetson 760-734-1051 • **Development**-Ron Briseno 760-726-4496

Pastoral Council Committees

Faith Formation & Evangelization **Rory Griffin 760-414-3939**
 Religious Education (Adults) Wayne Zych 760-598-9244
 Small Church Communities Sondra Parks 760-598-1269
 Little Rock Bible Studies Masako Streling 760-295-2594
 Religious Education (Children) Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
 Liturgy of the Word for Children Cathy Meyer 760-598-7853
 Sacramental Preparation Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
 Mid. Sch. Youth Ministry .Ron & Louise Briseno 760-758-4100 x153
 High School Youth Ministry Jeff & Gale Gibbons 760-726-7236
 Young Adult Ministry Joanna Mueller 760-726-5644
 Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Regina Aulisio 760-295-5530
 Evangelization Available
 Vocations Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 760-758-4100 x130
 RCIA/Adults Mario Diaz 760-758-7870
 RCIA/Children Jeanette Marriott 760-434-1818
Liturgy **Kathy Arciero 760-231-1022**
 Altar Linen Care Marge Gillen 760-639-1929
 Bereavement Facilitator Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
 Environment & Art Kathy Quinn 760-722-7525
 Eucharistic Adoration Available
 Interior Design Team Pat & Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414
 Liturgical Ministries Douglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140
 Liturgical Music Douglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140
Marriage & Family Life **Jen Frost 760-758-4100 x100**
 ACTTS Young Adults Jen Frost actts@stmoside.org
 Theresa Goeltz 760-453-2876
 Family Services Deacon Tom Goeltz 760-758-4100 x130
 Marriage Preparation Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
 Deacon Tom Goeltz 760-758-4100 x130
 Parents & Tots Paul Mendiola 760-945-9042
 Widows & Widowers of North County Carol Kope 760-758-4100
 Jackie Cohen 760-726-4343
Parish Organizations & Events **Available**
 Golf Classic John Murphy 760-497-6117
 Historian Anne Marshall 760-727-2668
 Knights of Columbus James Baker 760-630-2471
 Library Chris James 760-598-5881
 Spirited Seniors Judy & Jerry Buoniconti 760-758-5113
 Vera Bayliss 760-739-9061
 Women's Guild Valerie Thompson 760-630-1703

Social Ministries **Dick & Charlene Belprez 760-295-1431**
 Blood Drive Linda Dicus 760-726-5081
 Bereavement Follow-up Support Linda Dicus 760-726-5081
 Brother Benno's Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 760-727-8442
 Christmas Angel Ministry John & Marti Harper 760-724-1181
 Culture of Life Jane Kelleher 760-822-7041
 Faith Works Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
 CPR/AED Classes Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414
 Disability Facilitation Ann Eriksson 760-599-7151
 Fraternity & Michaelle House Diantha Zschoche 760-685-0081
 Huggy Buddies Program Gale Gibbons 760-726-7236
 Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice
 Joyce Meehan 760-724-4974
 Interfaith Shelter Network Frank Coxon 760-599-8760
 Jail Ministry Rita McCarthy 760-758-4100 x100
 More's Workers Dick Belprez 760-295-1431
 Prayer Request Line Pat Wong 760-806-1310
 Norma Flanagan 760-630-0180
 Project Linus Mary Coxon 760-599-8760
 Sick & Homebound (Eucharist) Jean McCloskey 760-643-2363
 Sister Parish Program Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
 Social Justice Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
 St. Bonaventure Mission Knights of Columbus 760-630-2471
Office Support **Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100**
 Chair Set-Up Lorraine Doering 760-758-4100 x102
 General Support Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100
 Kitchen Overseer Vlad Bolsakov 760-473-8461
 STM Host Program Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100

Development Council Committees

Annual Catholic Appeal Flora Fallone 760-758-4100 x100
 Capital Campaign Bill Ipsen 760-723-0402
 New Construction Brian Leahey 760-598-5697
 Parish Membership Louise Briseno 760-726-4496
 Planned Giving Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
 Publicity/Public Relations Anne Marshall 760-727-2668
 Sacrificial Giving/Tithing Paul Ibbetson 760-734-1051
 Scrip Sales Theresa Goeltz 760-453-2876
 Stewardship Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
 Vehicle Donations Vlad Bolsakov 760-758-4100 x100


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 Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician 760-758-4100 x102 lorrained@stmoside.org

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December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 7:00 PM-Rediscover Catholicism 7:00 PM-Praise Teams Rehearsals 7:00 PM-Knights of Columbus	2 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Fr. Mike's Bookies 1:30 PM-Spirited Senior Board 5:00 PM-Children's Choir 6:30 PM-Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-Fr. Mike's Bookies 7:00 PM-RCIA-Adults	3 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 7:00 PM-Inquiry 7:00 PM-Confirmation Orientation 7:00 PM-Adult Choir	4 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Exposition of the Eucharist 10:00 AM-Parish Social Justice 7:30 PM-Reposition of the Eucharist	5 4:00 PM-Reconciliation 2nd Sunday of Advent 5:00 PM-Mass
	6 2nd 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 3:00 PM-Towers of Faith Reception 5:00 PM-RE.A.CH	7 9:30 AM-Chair Set Up 7:00 PM-P.U.S.H. 7:00 PM-High School Youth Ministry	8 Immaculate Conception Of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 7:00 PM-Mass	9 8:15 AM-Mass 4:00 PM-Staff Meeting 5:00 PM-Children's Choir 6:30 PM-Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-RCIA-Adults 7:00 PM-High School Youth Ministry - Eucharistic Adoration	10 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 10:00 AM-Women's Guild Quilters 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 7:00 PM-Adult Choir	11 8:15 AM-Mass
13 3rd 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	14 11:00 AM-Women's Guild Luncheon 7:00 PM-High School Youth Ministry	15 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 7:00 PM-Knights of Columbus Officer's Meeting 7:00 PM-Rediscover Catholicism 7:00 PM-Praise Teams Rehearsals	16 8:15 AM-Mass 5:00 PM-Children's Choir 6:30 PM-Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-Finance Council 7:00 PM-RCIA-Adults	17 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 7:00 PM-Inquiry 7:00 PM-Adult Choir	18 8:15 AM-Mass	19 8:45 AM-Chair Set Up 4:00 PM-Reconciliation 4th Sunday of Advent 5:00 PM-Mass
20 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM-Mass/LOWC 10:30 AM-Mass/RCIA/LOWC	21 7:00 PM-P.U.S.H.	22 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 7:00 PM-Praise Teams Rehearsals	23 8:15 AM-Mass 6:30 PM-Combined Choir Rehearsal/Handbell/Adult	24 Vigil of Christmas PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION 4:00 PM-Mass 6:00 PM-Mass 9:30 PM-Christmas Caroling 10:00 PM-Mass	25 Christmas Day Holy Day PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION 9:30 AM-Mass	26 4:00 PM-Reconciliation Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 5:00 PM-Mass
27 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 8:30 AM-Mass/LOWC 10:30 AM-Mass/LOWC	28 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION	29 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION 8:15 AM-Communion Service 7:00 PM-Praise Teams Rehearsals	30 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION 8:15 AM-Communion Service	31 Vigil of Mary, the Mother of God PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO ADORATION 5:00 PM-Mass	Church of St. Thomas More 1450 South Melrose Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056 (760) 758-4100 www.stmoside.org	