

# 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

December 13, 2009 • Third Sunday of Advent

## Pastor's Column

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

### "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.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Did You Know?

The Offertory Collection for this fiscal year, as of November 30, is down 1.5% from what we budgeted.

This is a shortfall of \$3,504.98. It would be great to catch up!

Consider a special gift to St. Thomas More this Christmas with the use of a "Did You Know?" envelope.

Let's catch up with what we have budgeted and, most importantly, with what we need.

## 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)*

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.

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.

*F. Mike*

### Retirement Fund for Priests and Religious

Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious age 70 and over has more than doubled since 1989. Your generosity will be much appreciated by the retired priests and religious who benefit! Envelopes were attached to the bulletin last week and may be returned any time during the month of December.

### Celebration of the Eucharist During the Flu Season

Several people have approached me about the need to take special precautions regarding human contact during the Liturgy in the flu season.

Everyone is reminded that the "holding of hands" during the Lord's Prayer is not a requirement. It has always been an option for the members of the assembly. The sign of peace can be given in a variety of ways: the handshake, a hug, or a bow to the people around you. During Communion, drinking the Precious Blood from the common Chalice has always been an option for the members of the assembly.

We will continue to do what we do, but I would ask that everyone simply use common sense.

If you have any kind of cold or flu symptoms, you may avoid holding hands during the Our Father. Instead, raise and open your hands in the "prayer position." At the Sign of Peace, you may refrain from the handshake. Instead give a gentle, respectful bow to the people around you. During Communion, you may choose to refrain from sharing in the Cup.

Actually, these options are open to all members of the assembly at all times, not just during the flu season.

I ask that all members of the assembly be respectful in the various choices that individuals will make in regard to these liturgical options.

*Thank You!—Rev. Michael Ratajczak*

## Readings for the Week Ahead

Sunday Year C; Weekday Year II  
Readings online at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

### Sunday, December 13 (9)

*Third Sunday of Advent*

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Isaiah 12:2-6 (Psalm)

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

### Monday, December 14 (187)

*John of the Cross, priest, doctor*

Numbers 24:2-7,15-17a

Psalm 25:4-9

Matthew 21:23-27

### Tuesday, December 15 (188)

Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13

Psalm 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23

Matthew 21:28-32

### Wednesday, December 16 (189)

Isaiah 45:6c-8,18,21c-25

Psalm 85:9-14

Luke 7:18b-23

### Thursday, December 17 (193)

Genesis 49:2,8-10

Psalm 72:1-4,7-8,17

Matthew 1:1-17

### Friday, December 18 (194)

Jeremiah 23:5-8

Psalm 72:1-2,12-13,18-19

Matthew 1:18-25

### Saturday, December 19 (195)

Judges 13:2-7,24-25a

Psalm 71:3-6,16-17

Luke 1:5-25

### Sunday, December 20 (12)

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Micah 5:1-4a

Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

## Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 12, 5:00pm  
Nancy Bermudez ☩

Sunday, December 13, 8:30am  
Mary Simonson ☩

Sunday, December 13, 10:30am  
Mary Sarkis ☩

Tuesday, December 15, 8:15am  
Raymond Brown ☩

Wednesday, December 16, 8:15am  
Rita Mazzarella ☩

Thursday, December 17, 8:15am  
Freeman Bud Hazlett ☩

Friday, December 18, 8:15am  
Joyce Durette ☩

Saturday, December 19, 5:00pm  
Dolores Murchison ☩

Sunday, December 20, 8:30am  
Mari-Jo Porter ☩

Sunday, December 20, 10:30am  
Paula Gurrera ☩

## Prayer List

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

Mary Alexander	The Miller Family
Mary Baker	Howard Montgomery
Patricia Barbour	Nancy Moore
Cindra Bell	Margie Myers
John Bennici	R. Northrup
Regina Bentz	Helen O'Connell
George "Whitey" Betus	Ann O'Malley
Beatrice Brooks & Family	Lupe Casas Pelletier
Monica Broussard	Helen Pingtella
Janet Brown	Anne Post
Roseanne Burg	John Popping
Herman Calandro	Otila Quiroz
Shelby Campbell	Janet Raiman
Claudia Caplinger	Dort Riley
Tony Cazaleri	Sr. Loyola Romey
Emily Champ	Dorothy Rouse
Paul Cipowski	Rose Rowland
Marilyn Clarke	The Russo Family
James Coleman	Nancy Scali
Thomas Cornwell & Family	Freda Schweitzer
Maria D'Acosta	Richard Sikora
Karen Flaharty Daley	Nick Soltau
Margie Daniels & Family	Ed Sox
Cecilia DeSimone	Gilda Spiegl
Linda Dossman	Dorothy and Ray Staehr
Kathryn Ernst	Joan Stringer
The Fiore Family	Maria Surmenidis
Peggy & Jack Fischer	Stephen Toth, Jr.
Ryan Flum	Arnie Velasco
The Fox Family	Dominic Vienna, Jr.
Kathryn Franklin	Vanessa Vitiello-Koble
Joe Freire	Kevin Watson-Graff
Carmen Garcia	Ed Wesel
Peter Gavin	Marilyn Wesel
The Gemar Family	Terry Westlake
Charles Gerarge, Jr.	John Whittton
Bob Godley	
Rick Gonzalez	
Rosemary Haeffelin	
Anita Hage	
Susan Hallahan	
The Harker Family	
Rita Harnacker	
Barry Henwood	
Lilian Hills	
Al & Jo Hoefner	
Cynthia Horner	
Dorothy Jensen	
Lois A.J. Johnson	
Sue Johnston	
The Kaup & Fisk Families	
Darleen Kelch	
Paul Kennedy	
Debbie Kinney	
George Kleekamp	
Michael Kozak	
Sr. Anne Kremenik	
Helen Kuhn	
Lillian Lachance	
The LaChance Family	
The Lamelin Family	
Bernie Lanzrath	
Rick Laver	
Brandon LeBlanc	
Dave & Stella Leue	
Cassandra Loretto	
Lauren Loretto	
James MacArthur	
Gloria Maupin	
The Mauro & Northrup Families	
Helen McCullough	
Tom McGeary	
Bob McWilliams	
Carol Michael	

*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](http://www.stmoside.org)) for complete calendar information.

### The Week Ahead

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 16	Restaurant Fundraiser at Chili's
Dec 20	Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses

### The Month Ahead

Dec 24	Vigil of Christmas Masses at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 10:00pm Caroling at 9:30pm
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 10	Knights of Columbus Breakfast
Jan 11	Women's Guild Meeting
Jan 15	ACTTS Bowling Night
Jan 17	RE.A.CH Classes at Church
Jan 23	Women's Guild Game Day
Jan 30	Liturgical Ministers Workshop
Apr 30	Eleventh Annual Golf Classic
Aug 22	Second Annual Pastor's Dinner

*Questions? Contact Henny at  
760-758-4100 x100*

## 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, December 14

Sr. Katia Chavez, SJS

Tuesday, December 15

Sr. Ancilla Chen, SSS

Wednesday, December 16

Sr. Justine C. Church, MMS

Thursday, December 17

Sr. Lucy Cisneros, SJS

Friday, December 18

Sr. CarolAnn Clark, CJM

Saturday, December 19

Sr. Kathleen Clausen, OP

Sunday, December 20

Sr. Marie Pascale Clisson, UCSC

## Welcome to Newly Registered Parishioners

David & Leticia Ortiz & Family  
Jeff & Desiree Willson & Family

## 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.

## 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.

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## STM \$crip News

Thanks to all those who are using the Scrip Program. From December 1-6 we sold \$9,500 in gift certificates. This earned us \$535 for the STM Building Fund! That is awesome!!! If you have not tried Scrip, talk to someone who has. It's easy and costs you nothing extra—the merchants donate a percentage of your purchases to the STM Building Fund.

**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!

## Advent Story Time

at High School Youth Group

Monday, December 14 - 7:00-8:30pm

Sign Up Now for Journey 2010

High School Retreat

No Youth Group Dec. 21 & 28

See You at Parish Retreat January 4

Call Gale at 760-726-7236 for more information

## ACTTS

**Adult Catholics in their Twenties and Thirties  
who Socialize**

**Next event: Bowling Night on January 15**

**Watch for more details**

**[actts@stmoside.org](mailto:actts@stmoside.org)**

## 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.

## January 5 Rediscovering Catholicism Session Cancelled

The January 5 *Rediscovering Catholicism* session has been cancelled. You are encouraged to attend the talk given by Fr. Rich Lewandowski in place of the *Rediscovering Catholicism* session. All other sessions will be held as scheduled.

## St. Thomas More Vehicle Donation Program

Do you have a vehicle you want to donate?

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



## Women's Guild News

Ring Christmas Bells! It's not too late to call Valerie Thompson or Mary Coxon to save a place at our annual Christmas luncheon. Remember to sign in on the upper level, where we will hear Sally Fay perform several songs and inform us about our church organ and her role as organist. Luncheon will then be served in the lower level with delicious food and plenty of specially chosen door prize gifts! It promises to be a very wonderful event!

Looking ahead—Save all those Christmas gifts you don't really want, or hunt up those items you have been saving for "some other time" and bring them to our annual Chinese Auction on Monday, January 11. As usual, our "auctioneer" is the very talented Nancy Wozniak, who is guaranteed to keep us laughing!

Also, mark your calendars for our very popular Game Day on Saturday, January 23. More information to follow.

If you have not received your membership directory yet, and cannot attend the Christmas luncheon, give Valerie a call and we will mail it to you.

## 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.*

## 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.

## Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Championship

All boys and girls ages 10-14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2010 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held on Sunday, January 24, after the 10:30am Mass at St. Thomas More. The free throw contest is sponsored annually with winners progressing through local, district, and state competitions. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms or additional information, contact Jim Bailey at 760-754-1635 or Chuck Fay at 760-727-1766. See the Knights on the Plaza after most Masses in December and January to sign up.

**Next Restaurant Fundraiser  
Chili's - Wednesday, December 16**

## WOW, WOW, WOW, WOW, WOW!!!!!!!

The parishioners of St. Thomas More are simply fantastic! **180 pies** for Brother Benno's. Your generosity gave a big taste of home to many homeless and disadvantaged over Thanksgiving. A big thanks you to each of you. Also a special thanks to Jeff Gibbons and the Felicita Parkway Von's in Escondido for providing the trays to transport the goodies. —*Deacon Tom*

## Christmas Angel Tree Transformation



No, you haven't missed Christmas, but our beautiful tree has now been adorned with gold crowns listing baby gifts for Birth Choice of San Marcos. So take an ornament, enjoy Christmas, and start the New Year on a Pro-Life note. We will offer our gifts on the Feast of the Epiphany, the weekend of January 2-3.

Thank you to all who have participated in our Christmas Angel program. **What an overwhelming response!** So many children and St. Peter Claver families will benefit from **your** generosity.

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

## Catholic Widows and Widowers of North County

We are a group of Catholic widowed men and women encompassing all of North County. We usually meet the second and fourth Sundays of each month. January 10 is our general meeting and potluck in Oceanside; January 24 we celebrate Mass here at 10:30am, followed by brunch at Shadowridge Country Club. Our active calendar of events in January includes dining, dancing, concerts, golf, and several happy hours. For further information, please see the bulletin board on the lower level or contact Carol Kope at 760-758-4100.

**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](mailto:ronb@stmoside.org).

# Liturgy & Music

Worship God

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

## LOCUSTS AND HONEY

John the Baptist bridges the era of the prophets and the coming age of the Messiah. He is both the last of the great prophets before Christ and the first herald of the gospel.

The Eastern churches have deep reverence for John, and they call him the Great Forerunner of Christ. The early church, too, had high respect for him, and his story is intertwined with the story of Jesus in the beginning of the Gospel of Luke.

John's message is fire and his manner chills like the winter wind. He is a man of vast contrasts, eating locusts and wild honey, living in the desert and baptizing in water. He speaks truth to power, defying King Herod to his face. He stands up for what is right and he pays with his life.

We recalled the beheading of John the Baptist on August 29. And we celebrated his birth on June 24—an important holiday in Quebec! Soon, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25. There's a connection between John and Jesus even in our calendar.

In the fourth gospel, John the Baptist says of Jesus, "I must decrease and he must increase." In times past, June 24 was thought to be the first day of summer, the longest day of the year. (We now know that to be June 21.) After this date, the days start to become shorter, second by second, until December 21, the first day of winter and the shortest day of the year. In times past, people thought that December 24 was the shortest day of the year, and that on December 25, the days began to grow longer, second by second. So what John says happens every year: On his birthday, the sun is at its most glorious. But then it diminishes until the birth of the Son of God, when it gathers strength and glory again. Jesus himself said it: "There is no man born of woman greater than John the Baptist."

—LTP



## A FAMILY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS

A PROGRAM OF  
JOYFUL TIDINGS

Christmas Carols

A Very Beary Nutcracker

performed by Kathy Felker  
puppeteer and ventriloquist

WITH MUSICAL  
OFFERINGS BY THE

Children's  
Christmas Choir  
Youth Praise Team  
Adult Praise Team  
Handbell Choir  
Adult Choir

FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

Friday, January 1  
7:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Music

DECEMBER  
19/20  
Fourth Sunday  
of Advent  
5:00pm Mass  
Adult Choir  
8:30am Mass  
Youth Praise  
10:30am Mass  
Handbell Choir



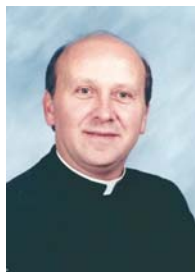
# Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

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



## New Year Retreat



We are pleased to offer a Parish Retreat  
January 2-9, 2010  
with Fr. Rich Lewandowski  
entitled *A Retreat for A New Year.*

January 4 • 7:00pm • All welcome, especially our youth

*"It's none of my business what other people think of me,  
but affirmation sure feels good!"*

January 5 • 9:00am or 7:00pm

*From Resentments to Forgiveness*

January 6 • 9:00am or 7:00pm

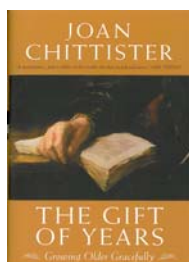
*Sharing Secrets and Finding Freedom*

January 7 • 7:00pm

*Letting Go... A Time for Healing*

## Fr. Mike's Bookies

*The Gift of Years (Growing Old Gracefully)*  
by Joan Chittister is our next book for  
discussion on February 3. It is available for  
\$15 outside the Faith Formation Office.  
Sr. Maureen will be facilitating the  
discussion.



*"It's the best book I have read on the subject of aging, a  
dazzling work radiant with gems of insight on every page. It  
will be my spiritual reading in the days ahead. It is a book only  
for those of us who grow older every day."*

—Andrew Greeley

## PBJ Update

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

2010 GOAL: 365 jars  
Collected to date: 34 jars



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

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.*

Dear Families,

In this third week of Advent, try to find an evening for a special meal, then have each family member make a *Christmas card with a special message* to one of our homebound parishioners or those in the hospital. Cheer them with your words and prayers~ let them know they are connected to the parish because YOU care!



There is a box on top of the file cabinet in the hall outside the Faith Formation Office, and any parishioner is welcome to add to it. The Ministers to the Homebound will see that they get delivered.

Kathleen

## Information for Growth

### # 5—Answer

When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment of all, he said that it is to

- D) love God with all your heart, soul, and mind  
and love your neighbor as yourself.

(CCC 2052)



### # 6—Question

When we pray the "Our Father," we ask God to forgive us as we forgive

- A) our own sins.  
B) the sins of our friends.  
C) those who have hurt us.  
D) those who know they are wrong.



# Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

## CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

### The Seed, Not the Harvest

Jesus was bathed in the Old Testament tradition of caring for the poor and those suffering in body and spirit. He urged his disciples to have compassion for the lame, the hungry, and the blind. He also encouraged them to visit the sick and to be worthy and generous stewards.

Today the church should not be suffering from material poverty, yet we know that many are doing just that. They struggle to pay current expenses and have little left to assist the poor that come to their door for alms.

They cynic will say in his heart, our Lord said, "The poor you will have with you always." Then, can the church pay its way in today's world and still be expected to be charitable to those in need that seek its help?

The answer is yes, our Lord expects His Christian stewards to pay the utility bills, keep the church and parsonage in good repair, and to build up the church in numerous ways.

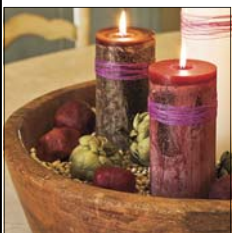
But we must not forget those in our midst who are in need both physically and spiritually. It happened in Jerusalem Pentecost when, "No one in the group needed anything." (Acts 4:34)

Some may reason, "I want to be a generous steward, but I have a family and bills to pay," and certainly this may be true. However, there are other contributions that a good steward can make. Do you have a skill in plumbing, painting, or minor carpentry?

The church is always in need of skilled people who can donate a little time. This saves money that can be used to serve the truly needy.

Whatever resources you have in your hand is not the harvest, it's the seed. Sow it.

—Stewardship, December 2009



Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

—Luke 3:11

Nothing like preaching to the choir! But if this column reaches one person who has not felt compelled to come forward to return

God's gifts, with gratitude, it is worth it. Please give me a call!

We know that in our increasingly secular society it is not always fashionable to trust God. Living as Christian Stewards means that we understand that it is God who has gifted us, we are grateful for our many blessings, and we are generous with our lives and our possessions. We hear God's call and gratefully answer it.

In living this way we learn to trust more in God and less in ourselves. Trust is the cornerstone of any relationship and our relationship with God is no different. God trusts us to do our part and we must trust explicitly in God.

*Grace does not depend on  
what we have done for God but rather  
on what God has done for us.*

## HELPFUL YEAR-END PLANNING TIPS GOT DEDUCTIONS?

### YEAR-END CHECKLIST

- ◆ **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 through January 1, 2010. Gifts received in the offertory collection at Masses the weekend of December 26/27 will be credited for year ending 2009.**
- ◆ **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.*)
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 2009 is drawing to a close. As you review your financial situation for your IRS returns, you may have an opportunity for greater charitable giving before the end of this year. If so, now is the time to check out those options!

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

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

### Collection for Week of: December 5/6, 2009

Number of Registered Households:		1,013
Offertory*	\$	14,820.25
Offertory (Loose Collection)		788.00
Children's envelopes		1.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,609.75</b>

\* Offertory Envelopes, Credit Card Withdrawals,  
Automatic Checking or Savings Account Deductions  
(Credit Card and Automatic Bank Account Withdrawals)

*Special thanks to our young donors using the Children's offertory envelopes for their Christian Stewardship efforts.*

### 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) and automatic checking/savings account deduction. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 760-758-4100 x100 or [parish.office@stmoside.org](mailto:parish.office@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](http://www.thetreasurebox.org).

**EWTN Global Catholic Network Available**—Join EWTN in celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. EWTN is proud to bring you live Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses from Rome and Washington, DC, plus musical performances, animated features, specials for children, teens, and the entire family. Contact your cable or satellite provider for details, or call Joe Stevens at 760-726-8143.

**Volunteers Needed**—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 more information, call Voices for Children at 858-569-2019 or visit [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.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

**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](http://www.sanluisrey.org).

**Bookstore in San Diego Closed for Renovations**—Pauline Books & Media, 5945 Balboa Ave., San Diego, will be closed temporarily for renovations from December 28, 2009 to March 15, 2010. Prior to closing, from December 12-24, all Christmas merchandise will be discounted at 50%. Pauline Books & Media is also located at 3908 Sepulveda Blvd. in Culver City.

Telephone: 310-397-8676; e-mail: [losangeles@pauline.org](mailto:losangeles@pauline.org). They can ship items from there or from their on-line store at [www.pauline.org](http://www.pauline.org). For more information, call 858-565-9181.

**Ongoing Diocesan Workshops**—Various topics related to religious education. For details, contact [www.diocese-sdiego.org/evangelization.htm](http://www.diocese-sdiego.org/evangelization.htm) or 858-490-8230.

**Marriage Encounter Weekends**—For more information, contact [daveandcheryl@cost.net](mailto:daveandcheryl@cost.net) or 619-303-5053.

**Natural Family Planning Classes**—For more information, contact [daveandcheryl@cox.net](mailto: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.

### MOVIES AND SOCKS FOR OUR TROOPS

**Send DVDs to Our Troops in Afghanistan**—One of the most popular requests made by our soldiers is for DVDs that can be played on their computers. Action, Mystery, Thrillers, and Comedy (please no NC-17 rated) DVDs, used or new. For an added treat, you could include a phone card, powdered drinks (apple cider or cocoa), licorice, beef jerky (in small packages), and hard candy. Some other supplies they love are duct tape and one-inch bristle brushes. Address your packages to the addresses below in Afghanistan.

**Socks for our Warriors**—Why socks? While all our warriors are issued socks, the personal experience of Commander Newman, a Chaplain in the U.S. Navy who has served our troops in the Gulf, revealed that our service members were very excited and grateful to receive a pair of military-approved green socks. The socks are blister resistant and anti-microbial. For \$15 per dozen you can join with friends to meet the minimum order of five dozen (the price is a humanitarian gesture on the part of Pickett Hosiery) and you can order socks to be mailed to you or mailed directly to the Chaplains in the war zone for distribution to the troops. Please send checks to: Pickett Hosiery, P.O. Box 877, Burlington, NC 27216 or purchase on line at [www.picketthosiery.com](http://www.picketthosiery.com) or order by phone at (336) 227-2716.

Please send the socks or have them shipped to the addresses below in Afghanistan.

RPSN McCracken, T.K. (Chaplain's Assistant) MWSS 372 Unit 42020 FPO AO 96427-2020	LT.COL BORGSCHULTE HMLA-367(S1, CO) Unit 42065 FPO/AP 96427-2065
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### Advent Reconciliation Services at Local Parishes

Date	Time	Parish
Mon., Dec. 14	7:00pm	Nativity, Fairbanks Ranch
Wed., Dec. 16	7:00pm	St. John, Encinitas
Fri., Dec. 18	7:00pm	St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad
Mon. Dec 21	6:30pm	St. Mark, San Marcos



1450 SOUTH MELROSE DRIVE · OCEANSIDE, CA 92056 · PHONE: 760-758-4100 · FAX: 760-758-4165  
 www.stmoside.org · parishoffice@stmoside.org  
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-12:00noon and 12:30-4:00pm

## Parish Contacts

Updated 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](mailto: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

## Pastoral Staff

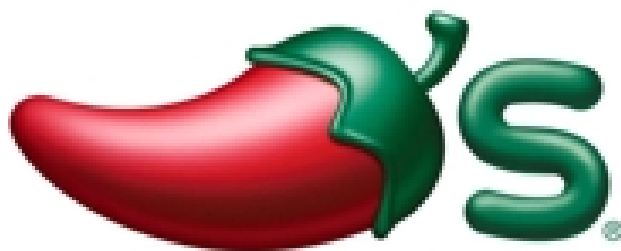
Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor ..... 760-758-4100 x100 ..... [michaelr@stmoside.org](mailto:michaelr@stmoside.org)  
 Deacon Tom Goeltz ..... 760-758-4100 x130 or 760-727-8442 ..... [thomasg@stmoside.org](mailto:thomasg@stmoside.org)  
 Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate ..... 760-758-4100 x131 ..... [maureenb@stmoside.org](mailto:maureenb@stmoside.org)  
 Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation ..... 760-758-4100 x110 ..... [kathleenb@stmoside.org](mailto:kathleenb@stmoside.org)  
 Gale & Jeff Gibbons, High School Youth Ministers ..... 760-758-4100 x150 ..... [jeffg@stmoside.org](mailto:jeffg@stmoside.org), [galeg@stmoside.org](mailto:galeg@stmoside.org)  
 Ron & Louise Briseno, Middle School Youth Ministers ..... 760-758-4100 x153 ..... [ronb@stmoside.org](mailto:ronb@stmoside.org), [louiseb@stmoside.org](mailto:louiseb@stmoside.org)  
 Stacey Griffin, Faith Formation Office Assistant ..... 760-758-4100 x110 ..... [staceyg@stmoside.org](mailto:staceyg@stmoside.org)  
 Douglas Lynn, Director of Music/Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries ..... 760-758-4100 x140 ..... [douglasl@stmoside.org](mailto:douglasl@stmoside.org)  
 Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director ..... 760-758-4100 x100 ..... [kathys@stmoside.org](mailto:kathys@stmoside.org)  
 Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship & Development ..... 760-758-4100 x120 ..... [chriss@stmoside.org](mailto:chriss@stmoside.org)  
 Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance ..... 760-758-4100 x151 ..... [joeg@stmoside.org](mailto:joeg@stmoside.org)  
 Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary ..... 760-758-4100 x100 ..... [hennyj@stmoside.org](mailto:hennyj@stmoside.org)  
 Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper ..... 760-758-4100 x104 ..... [nataliep@stmoside.org](mailto:nataliep@stmoside.org)  
 Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician ..... 760-758-4100 x102 ..... [lorrained@stmoside.org](mailto:lorrained@stmoside.org)

## Patronize Our Advertisers

Thank you to our advertisers! Please patronize these merchants and let them know you saw their ad in the St. Thomas More bulletin. Any business owners are welcome to advertise their services. Please call Chris McAdams of C & M Publications at 951-683-0608. Thank you.

# SUPPORT

**Church of St. Thomas More**



## Restaurant Fundraiser

**Wednesday December 16, 2009**

**for lunch or dinner and 20%**

**of your food and beverage**

**purchases will be donated to the**

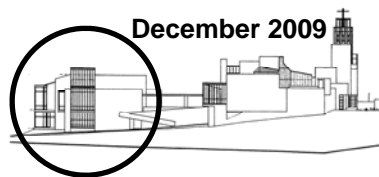
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**\* for STM to receive credit for your purchase.**



December 2009

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## ***“Did You Know?”***

**Your monthly opportunity to help with  
the Operating Budget.**

We must be able to maintain  
what we have in order to  
***“Journey Into The Future . . . Together”***  
and build our church.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parish ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: **\$** \_\_\_\_\_