

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 20, 2009 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pastor's Column

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

She Was Just a Girl

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, I share this meditation on Mary written by Rev. Donna Schaper. It is entitled, "She Was Just a Girl."

Such a season. Such a time. So much joy. So much persistent sorrow. Almighty Creator God, origin of the species, this time You have gone too far. She is just a girl. This Mary of Yours. And You have trusted her with way too much—the burden of history, the hope of salvation, a girl is to carry joy to the world. Our best chance for world peace.

Have You lost Your mind?

Yes, You sent a rainbow to give us another chance the last time. We saw the dove with the branch in its mouth. And yes, we read Torah, learned the Psalms, laughed with Anna and Zechariah at John's uncanny birth. We heard John's wilderness cry. We know

You were up to something. You always are. But a girl? Just a girl?

To this elegant universe, with its quarks and its jaguars, its lynxes and its olive trees, its 10 or 11 dimensions, its wriggling strings, its deep black holes, and membranes, where waves act as particles and particles as waves, where only the seers and sages write books with titles like "The Universal in a Nutshell," You have sent Your Son by means of a girl? What are you thinking about?

Are we too meant to carry salvation, feed the children, cure cancer, bear history, open minds, redeem Your world? Have You really looked at us lately?

(Continued on page 2)

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Thursday, December 24 • 4:00pm, 6:00pm, (Caroling at 9:30pm), and 10:00pm
Friday, December 25 • 9:30am

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)*

You're not kidding, are You? We, the ones with no rest for the weary, we who confuse riches with wealth, knowledge with wisdom, defense for security, we are to carry Your creation forward with You! You originated our species for partnership with You! You really weren't kidding, were You?

Amen.

In these last days of Advent, let us take time in our prayer to reflect on Mary, the model of the Church. For redemption to take place, Mary had to freely choose to say "Yes" and to partner with God.

In the same way, God needs our "Yes," freely given, for God's saving action to continue for this time and this place.

May our celebration of Advent bear fruit. May we once again give our "Yes" to God and become God's handmaid, as Mary did.

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 a couple of weeks ago 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.

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

Monday, December 21 (197)

Peter Canisius, priest, doctor

Sg 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Psalm 33:2-3,11-12,20-21

Luke 1:39-45

Tuesday, December 22 (198)

1 Samuel 1:24-28

1 Samuel 2:1,4-8 (Psalm)

Luke 1:46-56

Wednesday, December 23 (199)

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24

Psalm 25:4-5,8-10,14

Luke 1:57-66

Thursday, December 24 (200)

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

Psalm 89:2-5,27,29

Luke 1:67-79

Vigil of Christmas (14)

Isaiah 9:1-6

Psalm 96:1-3,11-13

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

Friday, December 25 (16)

The Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98:1-6

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

Saturday, December 26 (696)

Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59

Psalm 31:3cd-4,6,8ab,16bc-17

Matthew 10:17-22

Sunday, December 27 (17)

The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary, and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-7,12-14

Psalm 128:1-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Luke 2:41-52

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 19, 5:00pm

Dolores Murchison ☩

Sunday, December 20, 8:30am

Mari-Jo Porter ☩

Sunday, December 20, 10:30am

Paula Gurrera ☩

Tuesday, December 22, 8:15am

Eunice Masseth ☩

Wednesday, December 23, 8:15am

Zoe Dorsa ☩

Thursday, December 24, 4:00pm

Dominic Vienna, Sr. ☩

Thursday, December 24, 6:00pm

Jack Lincoln ☩

Thursday, December 24, 10:00pm

Barbara Baker ☩

Friday, December 25, 9:30am

Anna & Luigi Luce ☩

Saturday, December 26, 5:00pm

Carl Bechtold ☩

Sunday, December 27, 8:30am

Carl Bechtold ☩

Sunday, December 27, 10:30am

Cairo Salvatierra ☩

Prayer List

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

Mary Alexander

Sandra Andrews

Mary Baker

Maria V. Balli

Patricia Barbour

Cdr. Thomas Bartholomew, USN

(Ret.)

John Bennici

Regina Bentz

George "Whitey" Betus

Beatrice Brooks & Family

Monica Broussard

Janet Brown

Roseanne Burg

Herman Calandro

Shelby Campbell

Claudia Caplinger

Tony Cazaleri

Paul Cipowski

Marilyn Clarke

James Coleman

Thomas Cornwell & Family

Chelena Craine

The D'Acosta & Moon Families

Karen Flaharty Daley

Margie Daniels & Family

Cecilia DeSimone

Linda Dossman

Kathryn Ernst

The Fiore Family

Peggy & Jack Fischer

Ryan Flum

The Fox Family

Kathryn Franklin

Joe Freire

Carmen Garcia

Peter Gavin

Charles Gerarge, Jr.

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

Joan Jones

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

Irene Martinelli

The Mauro & Northrup Families

Helen McCullough

Tom McGeary

Bob McWilliams

Carol Michael

The Miller Family

Howard Montgomery

Nancy Moore

Margie Myers

Helen O'Connell

Ann O'Malley

The Pato Family

Lupe Casas Pelletier

Helen Pingtella

Anne Post

John Puppington

Otila Quiroz

Janet Raiman

Dort Riley

Sr. Loyola Romey

Dorothy Rouse

Rose Rowland

The Russo Family

Nancy Scali

Freda Schweitzer

Richard Sikora

Jeanne Sisson

Nick Soltau

Ed Sox

Gilda Spiegel

Dorothy and Ray Staehr

Maria Surmenidis

Tammy

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

Calendar Highlights

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

The Week Ahead

- Dec 20 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
- 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 27 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses

The Month Ahead

- 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 3 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
- 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
- Oct 17 STM 25th Anniversary Celebration

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.

December 21
Sr. Maura Coakley, OCD
December 22
Sr. Roberta Collins, CSJP
December 23
Sr. Sheila Collins, CSJP
December 24
Sr. Sheila Collins, DMJ
December 25
Sr. Gail Colquhoun, SMSM
December 26
Sr. Roseann Cordova, OP
December 27
Sr. Claudia Cortez, SJS

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

In Memoriam

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Maria D'Acosta, who died on December 13. Her Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, December 22, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep her husband, Charlie Moon, and the family in your prayers.

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

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.

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.

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!

Christmas Break High School News

No Monday Night Youth Group
December 21 & 28

Youth Group Resumes

Monday, January 4 at our Parish Retreat
"It's none of my business what other people think of me, but affirmation sure feels good!"

JOURNEY 2010

January 22-24

with musician Mark Reymundo

& High School Team

*For more information, call Gale
at 760-726-7236 or jettg@stmoside.org*



**Middle School
Youth Group**

Next Meeting
Monday
December 21
6:30-8:30pm

**Stand Up for Kids
Back Pack Stuffing
PUSH Party &
Gift Exchange
Bring a \$10 gift
to exchange**

Questions? Contact Ron or Louise Briseno
at 760-758-4100 x153 or ronb@stmoside.org
Visit www.stmoside.org/ym

ACTTS

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

Next event: Bowling Night on January 15

**Watch for more details
actts@stmoside.org**

Women's Guild News

What a wonderful afternoon it was!! Sixty-three women feasted on delicious food prepared by our own talented chefs. The organ presentation by Sally Fay, with the assistance of Jen Frost, was delightful, humorous, and quite eye-opening, as we heard sounds we never knew could emanate from our church organ! Mary Coxon provided adorable Santa centerpieces, door prizes, and we had about two dozen other prizes donated. Those not receiving a door prize were gifted with a Santa refrigerator magnet. It was a lovely Christmas luncheon, and many thanks to all who cooked, donated, and helped out.

Now, mark your calendars for our annual Chinese auction luncheon on January 11. Go through your closets, find those items no longer needed, or maybe a Christmas gift that just didn't fit, or even, as Nancy Wozniak says, your unwanted Lladros!!

Sally Fay and Jen Frost are chairing our Game Day, to be held Saturday, January 23. If you are able to donate a door prize, opportunity basket, or food, be sure to let them know. We will have the sign-up sheet again at our January meeting. Also, at our January meeting, I will have copies of the chicken casserole several have asked me for.

Drawings for the winners of our Christmas raffle will be held after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, January 20.

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.

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



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.

Opportunity to Help Homeless Families

Our ministry answers the call by Jesus to feed the hungry in our time and neighborhood. The North County Solutions for Change women and children's shelter needs volunteers for meal preparation, servers, and donations (food and paper goods). Any help you can provide is most welcome!



Many thanks to those who have stepped up to supply seven of the monthly dinners!

These dates in 2010 are available for dinner adoption:

**January 24, February 28, March 28, April 25,
May 23, June 27, August 22, September 26,
October 24, November 28, and December 26**

*Contact: Paul & Kalei Mendiola at
760-945-9042 or kaleiann@sbcglobal.net.*

St. Thomas More Vehicle Donation Program

Do you have a vehicle you want to donate?
**Call the Parish Office at
758-4100 x100**



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.



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.

Liturgy & Music

Worship God

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

LEAPING FOR JOY...A BLESSED GREETING!

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb...

John leaps for joy at Mary's visit.

At Christ's visit!

This passage from today's Gospel proclamation provides much joy as we approach the end of the Advent season. Jesus is soon among us. Our wait is almost over. *Our* chance to greet the infant Christ is near.

With the celebration of Christmas this coming week, we too have a chance to leap for joy, greeting Christ among us.

Certainly our joy quotient will rise when the church is decorated, the carols are sung, the gifts are shared, and our family and friends gather at table and in church for a joy-filled communal celebration.

Author Kathleen Norris, whose book *The Cloister Walk* we will enjoy as part of the Parish's book series next summer, tells the story of nuns processing in for Mass at their convent. They walk in pairs to the head of the center aisle and upon arrival at the head of the aisle, they bow, twice—once to Jesus on the crucifix and, turning, once to each other. When asked why the nuns bow to each other, one replies, "We honor Jesus who lives within each of us."

Greeting the Christ in each of us includes, of course, greeting the Christ in the stranger we do not know, the visitor in the chair or pew beside us, the familiar person whose name we are ashamed to admit we have forgotten in the row behind us.

For the past couple of weeks, we have been focused on John's proclamation of Christ's coming as Messiah. Through John's earlier proclamation in the womb, we are given a model for Christian hospitality and an understanding that Christ is always among us, he visits us in each person we meet, and through us, he goes out into the world to proclaim the Good News of Salvation, one person, one leaping, joy-filled greeting at a time.

— Douglas



Upcoming Music

DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve

4:00pm Mass

Children's
Christmas Choir

6:00pm Mass

Youth and
Adult Praise

9:30pm
CAROLING

Adult and
Handbell Choirs

10:00pm Mass

Adult and
Handbell Choirs

DECEMBER
26/27

Holy Family

5:00pm Mass

Cantor

8:30am Mass

Cantor

10:30am Mass

Cantor



A FAMILY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS

CAROLS AND SONGS FOR YOUNG AND OLD

featuring

"A Very Beary Nutcracker"

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

A FREE EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

Friday, January 1 ♦ 7:00 p.m.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS WORKSHOP

Required for new Eucharistic Ministers and Readers

Saturday, January 30 ♦ 9:00am - 3:30pm

Look for Information and registration form in January's bulletins

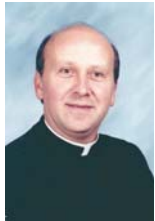
Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

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



A Retreat for A New Year



with Fr. Rich Lewandowski

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

Men's Prayer Breakfast

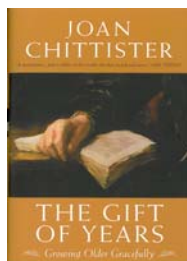
January 9 • 8:00-10:30am

A Spirituality of Imperfection

Sign up after Mass or
call 758-4100 X159 to
RSVP so we have a
breakfast count.

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. Sister Maureen will be facilitating the discussion.



Perhaps you have to be in the second half of life to know how truthfully and helpfully Joan Chittister speaks. We live in a first-half-of-life culture, which makes this wisdom all the more necessary—and all the more wonderful.

—Richard Rohr

PBJ Update

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

2010 GOAL: 365 jars
Collected to date: 40 jars



Today is a **RE.A.CH** day
at Home

Check your Annual Plan for this week's lesson.

Teen Mini-Course—Sign up NOW!

(Open to all Parish teens, even those who have been Confirmed)

January 10, 24, and 31
6:30-8:30pm

M-2 Sexuality: Challenges and Choices

Facilitator: Sharon Hamill

An opportunity to grow in understanding your sexuality in a healthy, holistic, and holy way.

(OR)

M-4 Parent-Teen Relationships

Facilitator: Linda Brault

Take time to explore the changing relationship with parents and improve your ability to communicate.

Learn ways to work on conflict resolution skills as well.

To sign up, email your choice and contact information to
kathleenb@stmoside.org by December 21.

Information for Growth

6—Answer

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



C) those who have hurt us. (CCC 2838)

7—Question

Which describes the Catholic understanding of the relationship between the Church and the world?



- A) The Church has the responsibility to raise moral questions about politics and economics.
- B) The world is evil, and the Church should guard against it.
- C) The Church has the final word on matters of science.
- D) The Church should not try to influence people who have no use for religion.

Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP Gratitude, Generosity, and Trust

Today's Gospel tells the story of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, going to help her cousin Elizabeth. Clearly, Mary is the perfect model of good stewardship. She not only gave herself to bear our Savior, but gave her time and love to others as well.

The Pastoral Letter on Stewardship calls us to be "mature disciples who make a conscious decision to follow Jesus no matter what the cost." This calls for prayer and discernment.

One hallmark of mature discipleship is coming to the realization that we can never have it all or do it all—and then creating a plan for what we do want to have and accomplish. Before we can create that plan, however, we need to do some discernment about what God would like us to have and accomplish.

During the hustle and bustle of this time of year, it is sometimes easy to feel spiritually drained and dry. The psalmist sings that the one who meditates on God's word day and night is like a tree that never knows winter; planted as it is by streams of water.

We are fortunate to have our little blue books for the six-minute readings throughout Advent. This is one way to stay grounded and remember, after all, the reason for this season.

Gratitude, Generosity, and Trust have been the stewardship focus the first three Sundays of Advent. Having these in our hearts, we are more ready as we await Christ's coming. This coming week will be a week filled with joyful anticipation. Good Christian stewards live in anticipation of fulfilling, doing, and sharing in the Master's work.



Some Other Rules for Happiness

(from those who've studied what makes people happier)

- ♥ Don't define yourself by your possessions. Someone will always have more or better possessions than you.
- ♥ There is little correlation between money and happiness. Once people's basic needs are met, the correlation between money and happiness levels off dramatically.
- ♥ Being constantly and consistently grateful is one important way to make yourself happier. Dwelling on the good things in life (even if they are little, like a warm shower or chocolate chip cookies) will improve your happiness level.
- ♥ Studies show that devoting a lot of your time and money to things that bring short-term happiness ~ eating out, shopping, or expensive pastimes, for instance ~ won't bring long-term happiness.
- ♥ Having purpose or direction in your life is a primary way to increase your happiness. —ICSC December 2009

*Deep faith in action is love,
and love in action is service.*

—Blessed Mother Teresa

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.

All gifts to St. Thomas More are deeply appreciated!

2009 National Needs Collection

\$1,081.71

Collection for Week of: December 12/13, 2009

Number of Registered Households:		1,013
Offertory*	\$	6,732.66
Offertory (Loose Collection)		1,156.00
Children's envelopes		1.51
Total	\$	7,890.17

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

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.

News from the Larger Church

Mark Price Series in Vista—Unique presentations where Mark Price presents “In His Own Words” for specific bible characters. Catch all four appearances in 2010—St. Joseph on January 8, Judas Iscariot on February 5, Doubting Thomas on April 16, and Simon Peter on June 4, all at St. Francis Church, 525 W. Vista Way, Vista. Discount ticket packages available. For more information, visit www.stfrancis-vista.org/specialevents.htm or call 760-945-8000.

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). For more information, including locations in your area, please visit 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.

New Year's Eve Celebration with Jesus for Young Adults in San Diego—Thursday, December 31, 10:30pm-1:30am, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 1629 Columbia St., San Diego. For more information, contact Alex at adepaulis011@gmail.com or Pia at ppuertollano@powayusd.com.

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.

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

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.

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

or 619-423-0182 (Spanish).

Winter Series of Theology on Tap for Young Adults in Mira Mesa—Mondays, January 18-February 8, 7:00-9:00pm, at Callahan's, 8111 Mira Mesa Blvd., Mira Mesa. For more information, visit www.yamsd.org or contact Carrie Giebel at cgiebel@diocese-sdiego.org or 858-490-8260.

Spring Forward Catechetical Conference in San Diego—Saturday, January 23, 9:00am-12:30pm at St. Therese Social Center. Kathleen Hendricks, MA, will speak on *Praying Like Jesus*. For more information, call 858-490-8230 or visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/evangelization.htm

Praying for Life—A group of North County Parishioners meets on the third Monday of each month from 10:00-10:30am to peacefully pray the rosary in front of the Carlsbad Planned Parenthood Clinic, 1820 Marron Road, Carlsbad. For more information, call Jahna White at 760-586-6356.

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 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

Advent Reconciliation Services at Local Parishes

Date	Time	Parish
Mon., Dec. 21	6:30pm	St. Mark, San Marcos
Tue., Dec. 22	6:00pm	St. Peter, Fallbrook



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 Anna Meyers 760-727-4998
 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 **Lisa & Pat Attardo 760-940-1505**
 Golf Classic Jim & Suzy Bailey 760-754-1635
 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
 Deacon Tom Goeltz 760-758-4100 x130 or 760-727-8442 thomasg@stmoside.org
 Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate 760-758-4100 x131 maureenb@stmoside.org
 Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation 760-758-4100 x110 kathleenb@stmoside.org
 Gale & Jeff Gibbons, High School Youth Ministers 760-758-4100 x150 jeffg@stmoside.org, galeg@stmoside.org
 Ron & Louise Briseno, Middle School Youth Ministers 760-758-4100 x153 ronb@stmoside.org, louiseb@stmoside.org
 Stacey Griffin, Faith Formation Office Assistant 760-758-4100 x110 staceyg@stmoside.org
 Douglas Lynn, Director of Music/Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries 760-758-4100 x140 douglasl@stmoside.org
 Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director 760-758-4100 x100 kathys@stmoside.org
 Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship & Development 760-758-4100 x120 chriss@stmoside.org
 Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance 760-758-4100 x151 joeg@stmoside.org
 Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary 760-758-4100 x100 hennynj@stmoside.org
 Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper 760-758-4100 x104 nataliep@stmoside.org
 Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician 760-758-4100 x102 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.

Catholic Update December 2009

The Holy Family

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/preview.aspx?id=233>