

Church of St. Thomas More

A Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of San Diego

Spirituality † Tradition † Community



Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor

Deacon Thomas A. Goeltz

1450 South Melrose Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056
760-758-4100 • 760-758-4165 fax

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-12:00noon and 12:30-4:00pm

parishoffice@stmoside.org • www.stmoside.org



StThomasMoreRCC



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 18, 2011 • Fourth Sunday of Advent



Oplatki—Christmas Wafers
See page 5 for more details.

Pastor's Column

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?

(Continued on page 2)

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24: Masses at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 10:00pm (caroling at 9:30pm)

Sunday, December 25: Masses at 8:30am and 10:30am



Our Mission is to: worship God,

In addition to Mass, Reconciliation, and Eucharistic Adoration (see page 1 for schedules), there are opportunities to participate in liturgical and music ministries.

*For further information, contact Douglas Lynn,
Director of Liturgy and Music,
at 760-758-4100 x140 or douglasl@stmoside.org*

Matrimony (9 months advance notice required), communion for the sick/homebound, and anointing are available by request

*For further information, contact the Parish Office
at 760-758-4100 x100 or parishoffice@stmoside.org.*

teach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ,

There are programs for faith development and enrichment for all ages, including preparation for receiving the sacraments.

*For further information, contact Kathleen Bell,
Director of Faith Formation,
at 760-758-4100 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 (see page 10).

*For further information, contact Chris Smith,
Director of Stewardship and Development,
at 760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org.*

See page 10 or www.stmoside.org for more details.

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?

For information, call Kathleen Bell at 760-758-4100 x110.

STM Vehicle Donation Program

Do you have a vehicle you want to donate?
The St. Thomas More program is easy!

Call us, and we'll have it picked up.
You get the tax deduction!

All we need is clear title. Non-operational is OK!

Since 2006 we have netted over \$22,300
from this program. Thank you donors!



For more information, contact the Parish Office:
760-758-4100 x100 or parishoffice@stmoside.org

Pastor's Column (continued from page 1)

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?

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

Marc Raymundo—Our Youth Advocate

It is with regret that I inform you that Marc Raymundo, our Youth Advocate, will be leaving St. Thomas More Parish to accept the position as full-time Youth Minister at Junipero Serra High School in San Juan Capistrano. Marc's last day with us will be January 31, 2012.

Our Parishioner, Rory Griffin, who has been working side by side with Marc this last year and half, as well as being the main catechist for the EDGE Program for our Middle School Youth, will become the Interim Youth Advocate.

In January 2012, Kathleen Bell and I will be forming a search committee and we will begin the process of interviews to hire a new Youth Advocate. Most probably, the new Youth Advocate would begin his/her ministry with us on July 1, 2012.

I know that I speak for not only all the youth of our Parish, but for the entire Parish and our Parish Staff, to say that we all are extremely grateful for the time that Marc has been with us.

Marc, in his short time with us, reinvigorated the Youth Program here and brought many of our youth to a deeper relationship with Christ and the Church.

Our loss is JSerra High School's gain! Marc, you will be missed!

There will be time in January for our formal good-byes.

In the meantime, I ask for your prayers as we move through this transition.

Peace.

—Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor

Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, December 18 (11)

Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16
Psalm 89:2-5,27,29
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Monday, December 19 (195)

Judges 13:2-7,24-25
Psalm 71:3-6,16-17
Luke 1:5-25

Tuesday, December 20 (196)

Isaiah 7:10-14
Palm 24:1-6
Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday, Decemb er 21 (197)

Peter Camisius, priest
Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Psalm 33:2-3,11-12,20-21
Luke 1:39-45

Thursday, December 22 (198)

1 Samuel 1:24-28
1 Samuel 2:1,4-7,8abcd (Psalm)
Luke 1:46-56

Friday, December 23 (199)

John of Kanty, priest
Malachi 3:1-4,23-24
Psalm 25:4bc-5ab,8-10,14
Luke 1:57-66

Saturday, December 24

The Nativity of the Lord (14) Midnight
Isaiah 9:1-6
Psalm 96:1-3,11-13
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

Sunday, December 25 (16) Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98:16
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

Prayer List (Call 760-758-4100 x102 to add a name for four weeks.)

Mary Alexander
Laura Allenfort
Emily Allison
Lucia Ambriz
Phyllis Bader
Mary Balli
Alexandra Banwell
Jean Carlos Barbosa
Jose Luis Barbosa
Melody Batchelor
Clarice Bednarz
John Bennici
Regina Bentz
Roseanne Berg
George "Whitey" Betus
Mary Betz
Betty Jean Bielich
Lynda Brady
The Roy Bristol Family
Monica Broussard
George Brown
Mary Bruzas
Shelby Campbell
Brianna Campos
Claudia Caplinger
Paul Cassidy
The Castro Family
Lolly Cervantes
Pat Christopherson
Dick Clarke
Dolly Cole
Carl Coleman
James Coleman
Thomas Cornwell & Family
Karen Flaharty Daley
The Daly & Hanratty Families
Beverly de Gelder
Judith DiMatteo
Sara Doge
Dave Dossman
John Drazkowski, Jr.
Bev Duncan
Phyllis Estes
Sharon Evans
Chuck Fay
The Fiore Family
Dan Fletcher
Ryan Flum
Matthew Foster
Kathryn Franklin
Joe Freire
Ellen Fresca
Carmen Garcia
Rick Gonzalez
Eileen Gough
Rosemary Haeffelin
Susan Hallahan
The Harker Family
Elizabeth Harrison
Mr. Harry
Lilian Hills
Susan Hori
Olga Huette
Iolanda Iacobelli
Eileen Jones
Paul Kennedy
Peggy Kiernan
Beverly Killen
Debbie Kinney
Dewey Kolbo
Sr. Anne Kremenik
Helen Kuhn
Carrie Labadie
Lillian Lachance
The Lamelin Family
The Laub Family
Christopher & Roland Lawrence
Tom Lawrence
Brandon LeBlanc
Myles Levine
Ashley Load
Cassandra Loretto
Lauren Loretto
The Lyon & Stewart Families
James MacArthur
Joaquin Maldonado
Nancy Marley
Chandler May
Mac McCullough
Bob McWilliams
Kalei Mendiola
Phyllis Minaya
June Mitchell
Nancy Moore
Conrad Murphy
Margie Myers
Maurine Nichols
Cosmo Nocida
Helen O'Connell
Heidi Olson
Juanita Matamala Pacheco
Bernadette Padovan
Art Palle
Douglas Price-Williams
Hal & Lorraine Radcliffe
Mrs. Radilinski
The Rasmon Family
The Reyes Family
Clinton & Rita Ritchie
Joanne Robinson
Maria Rogers
Dorothy Rouse
The Russo Family
The Scharbarth Family
Kimberly Schlunt
Linda Schmidt
The Douglas E. Schulte Family
Pete Serle & Family
Bob, Joan, & Julie Shea
Elizabeth Shirzad
Richard Sikora
Jeanne Sisson
Mike Snyder
Nick Soltau
Fred & Gilda Spiegel
Darek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski
Dorothy Staehr
Ted Stanislawski
Pete Sullivan
Maria Surmenidis
David Sweet
Jim Thompson, Jr.
The Tiernan & Gayvert Families
Sarah Tillinghast
Stephen Toth, Jr.
John Treat
Mary Tysko & Family
Laurie Updyke
Arnie Velasco
Silvana Vettese
Bob Vita
Vanessa Vitiello-Koble
Ashley Wandell
Kevin Watson-Graff
John Whitton
Patricia Zavala
Bill & Katrina Zynda

Calendar Highlights

More details at www.stmoside.org,
Schedule and Calendar

The Week Ahead

Dec 18 Liturgy of the Word for
Children at 8:30am and
10:30am Masses
Dec 19 Advent Morning Prayer
Dec 24 Vigil of Christmas
Masses at 4:00pm,
6:00pm, and 10:00pm
(caroling at 9:30pm)
Dec 25 Christmas Day
Masses at 8:30am and
10:30am

The Month Ahead

Dec 26-Jan 2 Parish Office and Chapel
closed for the holidays;
Daily Mass as usual
Dec 31 Mary, the Mother of God
Mass at 5:00pm

2012

Jan 1 Mary, the Mother of God
Masses at 8:30am and
10:30am
Jan 1 Liturgy of the Word for
Children at 8:30am and
10:30am Masses
Jan 9 Women's Guild Luncheon
Jan 11 Diocesan Council of
Catholic Women,
Oceanside Deanery,
at STM
Jan 14-31 Stewardship Awareness and
Renewal
Jan 15 RE.A.CH classes at church
Jan 29 Groundbreaking for
Permanent Church and
Parish Offices
Feb 18 Women's Guild
Fashion Show
Mar 11 **Rescheduled**
Towers of Faith Reception
Mar 21 Women's Guild
Day of Recollection
June 1 13th Annual Golf Classic

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 19	Sr. M. Krista Ramirez, RSM
December 20	Sr. Norma Alicia Reyes, HCJS
December 21	Sr. Celia Robledo, OLC
December 22	Sr. Virginia Rodee, RSCJ
December 23	Sr. Eva Lucia Rodriguez, SJS
December 24	Sr. Paulina Rodriguez, DCJ
December 25	Sr. Carmen Romero, CVI

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 17, 5:00pm	Harry Fallace ☩
Sunday, December 18, 8:30am	Bud Hazlett ☩
Sunday, December 18, 10:30am	Mari-Jo Porter ☩ Joseph Immerso ☩
Tuesday, December 20, 8:15am	Albert Fleeman ☩
Wednesday, December 21, 8:15am	Pat Cope ☩
Thursday, December 22, 8:15am	Eunice Masetth ☩
Friday, December 23, 8:15am	Zoe Dorsa ☩
Saturday, December 24, 4:00pm	Joseph Conlon III ☩
Saturday, December 24, 6:00pm	Bernard de Simone ☩
Saturday, December 24, 10:00pm	Larry & Betty Dorsa ☩
Sunday, December 25, 8:30am	Anna & Juigi Luce ☩
Sunday, December 25, 10:30am	Julius Moncao ☩

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.
1st Lt. Jeffrey Bauer, USMC
PFC John Brandone
1st Sgt Christian Bull, USMC
Corp. Willie Deel
Lance Corp. Brandon Doyle, USMC
Grant Fischer
MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC
Maj. David E. Johnson, US Army
Staff Sgt. Travis M. Meyers, USAF
Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army
Sr. Airman Robert Spear, USAF
Sgt. Charles Watts, USMC

Welcome to Newly Registered Parishioners

Jerry Peralta
Bessie Sandoval
Jennifer Thieme

Jesus Washing the Feet of His Disciple

On display in the Parish Office lobby is a large olive wood carving that was obtained on my recent trip to the Holy Land.

The carving is from Bethlehem, and it is a welcome addition to our Parish and our new Church.

The carving is a gift from Parishioners, Ralph and Flora Fallone, who were on pilgrimage with me.

The next time you are in the Parish Office, please take a look.

Ralph, Flora, thank you for your generous gift!

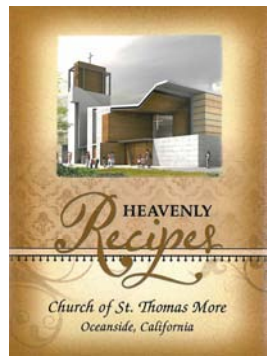
—Fr. Mike Ratajczak

Parish Cookbook

Be sure to pick up one of our Parish cookbooks, and maybe a few extra for your Christmas list.

Available on the Plaza after weekend Masses and in the Parish Office during the week.

\$15 each, \$15 for a CD version or \$25 for the pair.



Advent Reconciliation Services at Local Parishes

Date	Time	Parish
Mon, Dec. 19	6:30pm	St. Mark, San Marcos
Tue, Dec. 20	6:00pm	St. Peter, Fallbrook

Helping Seminarians

We continue to collect laundry supply items and personal hygiene items for our seminarian, Ricardo Juárez Frausto, and his fellow seminarians. Bring items to the Parish Office. Thanks!

STM Scrip News

TRY US NOW! FREE Fundraising.
Earn money for the Building Fund AND
do your Christmas shopping at the same time!

Thanks to all who support our Parish Building Fund by purchasing Scrip gift cards!

Remember, Scrip is available for purchase FOUR ways!

1. Monday-Friday during business hours in the Parish Office
2. Online at www.stmoside.org, click on Contact Us, then click on Scrip
3. Email at scrip@stmoside.org
4. Phone at 760-758-4100 x150

Orders may be picked up after Mass on the weekend or at the Parish Office during the week.

Social Ministries/Outreach

Christmas Angels

Thank you STM parishioners for your overwhelming response to the call to help children this Christmas season. On Saturday, 217 stockings and gift bags were assembled for Catholic Charities. Toys are stacking up for the other local charities AND 45 families have been adopted from Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital!

Now, the tree is adorned with golden crowns for our annual Birth Choice drive. Please bring your baby items the weekend of January 7-8, the Feast of the Epiphany.

Attention coupon clippers: Please drop off extra coupons for diapers, baby wipes and formula, to share with Parishioners. They can certainly help with the cost of these items.

John & Marti Harper at 760-724-1181 or
4johnnyangel@cox.net

Adult Faith Formation Coming Up—

Engaging Our Conflicts: *An Exploration of Nonviolent Peacemaking*

7:00-9:30pm

Wednesday evenings

February 1, 8, 15, 29,

March 14, 21, 28, April 4

Limited to the first 15 participants to sign up.

This much-anticipated module was developed by *Pace e Bene* Nonviolence Service, the international leader in this work. The eight-session module explores the power and potential of nonviolent peacemaking in our lives and in the world. Participants will learn about nonviolence and how to apply it in real issues that they are interested in taking action on. Engaging Our Conflicts sessions will provide participants a strong understanding of and commitment to the practice of nonviolent peacemaking and will cultivate a deeper communal practice in the group culminating in a peacemaking activity they plan and engage in.

Please plan to commit to all eight sessions. Coordinated by: Sr. Maureen Brown, Dolores Silva, and Melissa Noble.

Watch for a registration flyer in the bulletin the weekend of December 31-January 1.

Eucharistic Adoration



Monday-Friday • 6:30am-7:30pm

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Exposition of the Eucharist on First Fridays.

Next date: Friday, January 6.

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

Rosary

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



Parish Events

Knights of Columbus News

The Knights are selling *Entertainment Books* on the Plaza after weekend Masses. They make great gifts!

They will also be selling religious-themed Christmas cards and “Keep Christ in Christmas” car magnets and bumper stickers.

Women’s Guild News

Thank you members and guests who attended our December luncheon. We had great fun, good food and a wonderful program. Thanks especially to Patt Goeltz for telling us the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was very informative, and we all learned a great deal. How much fun were all those door prizes!!!!

On January 9 we are looking forward to our monthly meeting. We will have our famous “Chinese Auction.” Save the date so you can attend.

Thanks also to all church members who contributed to our annual Christmas Raffle. The drawing will be on the December 18 after the 10:30am Mass.

Peace to everyone during this holy season.

—Vera Bayliss, President

Oplatki – Christmas Wafers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our Journey Into The Future . . . Together! **Phase II ~ Two months to go!** **Groundbreaking January 29, 2012**

Pledge Statistics as of December 12

Phase II		# of Families Responding
Total Responses	\$1,577,857	765
Still Needed	\$422,143	266
Total Goal	\$2,000,000	1,031
Total Collected	\$1,535,721	



† We have now heard from 74% of the Parish and we have collected \$1.5 million toward our goal of \$2 million.

† Please pray for our success in the final weeks of Phase II.

† **ADDITIONAL GIFTS WELCOME!!!**

† The quality of our build out is dependent on how much we raise and you are making this happen. Thank you to ALL of our donors!!!

www.stmoside.org; click on Our New Church.

Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development
760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org

Retirement Fund for Religious Share in the Care

Envelopes were attached to the bulletin last week for the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps to support retired nuns, brothers, and priests. Envelopes can be returned any time during December. Thank you! For more information, visit retiredreligious.org

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) have been available after Mass at the Information Table on the plaza for the past several weekends and will be available this weekend as well. They are also available in the Parish Office during the week.

There is no charge for the wafers. They are a gift to us from our Parishioners, Ed & Clarice Bednarz.

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

Please take advantage of this gift, and if you haven’t already, start a new family Christmas Tradition.

Liturgy & Music

Worship God

Douglas Lynn
Director of Liturgy and Music
douglasl@stmoside.org; 760-758-4100 x140

A PRAYER FOR THE FINAL WEEK OF ADVENT



O Wisdom,
O holy Word of God,
you govern all creation with
your strong yet tender care.

**Come and
show your people
the way to salvation.**



O sacred Lord
of ancient Israel,
who showed yourself to
Moses in the burning bush,
who gave him the holy law
on Sinai mountain:

**Come, stretch out your
mighty hand to set us free.**



O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light,
sun of justice:

**Come, shine on those
who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.**

Upcoming Music

DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve
4:00pm Mass

Children's Choir

6:00pm Mass

Praise Team

9:30pm

Caroling

10:00pm Mass

Sanctuary Choir

DECEMBER 25
Christmas Day

8:30am Mass

Cantor &
Congregation

10:30am Mass

Sanctuary Choir



O Flower of Jesse's stem,
you have been raised up
as a sign for all peoples;
kings stand silent in your
presence; the nations bow
down in worship before you.

**Come, let nothing
keep you from coming
to our aid.**



O King of all the nations,
the only joy of
every human heart;
O Keystone of the
mighty arch of humankind:

**Come and save the
creature you fashioned
from the dust.**



O Key of David,
O royal power of Israel
controlling at your will
the gate of heaven:

**Come,
break down the
prison walls of death
for those who
dwell in darkness; and
lead your captive people
into freedom.**



O Emmanuel,
king and lawgiver,
desire of the nations,
Savior of all people:

**Come and set us free,
Lord our God.**

Amen

Faith Formation


Teach and Live the Gospel

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



UNDERSTANDING
Fides quaerens intellectum
— St. Anselm

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities
Beginning in January, 2012



The Journey Continues

Join us for the four Wednesdays in January at 7:00pm for the remaining episodes in the CATHOLICISM Series by Fr. Robert Barron.

Part 7 is entitled *Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven—The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church.*

Fr. Barron explores the notion that “all value is summed up in the liturgy, the supreme act by which we commune with God.” Considered by the Catholic faith to be “the source and summit” of our identity and mission, the Eucharist is the central practice of our Church’s culture.

Each episode “stands alone,” so please come, even if you have not attended the rest of the series.



Little Rock Scripture Study 

Please join Little Rock Scripture Study beginning Wednesday morning January 4 at 9:00am or Thursday January 5 at 7:00pm for 15 sessions exploring St. John’s gospel and the Johannine letters.

St. John was moved by the Holy Spirit to write his gospel so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:31).

Join your faith family and fellow sojourners at STM as we continue on our journey supporting each other with love, compassion, and forgiveness as we listen to the living “Word of God.” Registration forms are available at the information table on the Plaza or in the Parish Office.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Marc Raymundo,
Youth Advocate
760-758-4100 x161
marcr@stmoside.org

High School
✦ **IGNITE**

ONE week left until Christmas! Why not start it off right with youth group? We have journeyed the last couple of weeks through a different look at Advent, from spending less, giving more and worshipping fully. This Monday will be about loving all. Bring everyone you know, put it as your Facebook status, that you will be at youth group. See you Monday at 7:00pm.

Middle School
✦ **EDGE**

Thank you for all your participation this first season! You have all been amazing and made it happen. I know that you have all grown in your faith. We will begin again January 15. Enjoy your holidays and God bless your families.

✦


MINI COURSES FINISH SUNDAY
December 18 @ 6:30pm




Today is a RE.A.CH day at Home

Next Church Session: January 15

Check your Annual Plan for Home




One used book, CD or DVD =




One Homeless Child’s Life Changed for One Day

Drop off useable books, CD’s, DVD’s at the Faith Formation Office while you’re out Christmas shopping for new ones.

(Pick up some gift certificates while you’re here!)



PBJ Update 

(Food for children at the Emergency Crisis Center)

2012 GOAL:	365 jars
Collected to date:	128 jars

Special thanks to our RE.A.CH children who turned in 108 jars of peanut butter and jelly on Sunday!

Children Helping Children

Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

Christian Stewardship Prayer for Advent



Heavenly Father,
You give us this blessed season
of Advent
as a gift of time to prepare for the
coming of the Christ Child.

But all too often we turn this gift
into a source of
frenzy, stress, and anxiety;
a time where we're apt to
prepare for a
Christmas celebration looking
perfect on the outside,
but spiritually exhausting and
without true meaning.

Restore in us that inherent quest for
quiet expectation and hope.

Show us the way to a more
peaceful, prayerful disposition
that makes us more open to a
conversion of heart.

And give us the courage to let go
of things that are ultimately
unimportant to the true meaning of Christmas.

Help us be good stewards of this
Advent season,
so that on the Feast of the Nativity,
we will be ready with our own sacred space
for the arrival of your Son, Jesus Christ,
in whose name we now pray.

Amen.

God comes to you disguised as your life.

—Paula D'Arcy

HELPFUL YEAR-END PLANNING TIPS GOT DEDUCTIONS?

2011 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, 2011/January 1, 2012. Gifts received in the offertory at Mass on Saturday, December 31 will be credited for year ending 2011.**
- ◆ **Envelopes POSTMARKED by Saturday, December 31, 2011 will be counted toward this tax year.**
- ◆ **Donations received on Sunday, January 1, 2012 will be credited in the new year, 2012.**
- ◆ **Annual Catholic Appeal** ~ Parishioners with a balance due on their pledges made to this year's ACA are requested to conclude their payments by December 31, 2011. *Tithing families, know 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.

Chris Smith, 760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org

All gifts to St. Thomas More are deeply appreciated!

Collection for Week of December 10/11, 2011

Number of Registered Households		1,031
Offertory*	\$	6,802.74
Offertory (Loose Collection)		1,113.00
Children's envelopes		1.00
Total	\$	7,916.74

* 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).

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.

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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News and Information from the Larger Church

Catholic Radio in San Diego—Includes Catholic Answers, interviews and discussions by Diocesan staff, youth programs, and more. Visit www.catholicradioofsandiego.com for details or tune in to AM 1000 Monday-Friday, 6:00-8:00pm.

Pregnancy Resource Center in San Marcos—Birth Choice of San Marcos, 760-744-1313 or www.birthchoice.net.

Marriage Encounter Program in San Diego—Resolving to have a better relationship? Choose a Marriage Encounter weekend to start that process! For more information, contact barfive@cox.net or 866-473-7730.

Retrouvaille for Troubled Marriages—Call 951-259-9474 or visit www.RetroCA.com.

Young Adult Ministry Activities in San Diego County—Visit www.yamsd.org for complete information on events for young adults..

Lectures and Retreats at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—Visit www.sanluisrey.org or call 760-757-3659 for details on upcoming events, including a Serenity Retreat with Fr. Tom Weston, January 20-22.

St. Patrick Catholic School in Carlsbad (K-8)—accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. For more information contact 760-729-1333 x105 or www.stpaddys.org.

St. Joseph Academy in San Marcos (K-12)—accepting high school applications for the 2012-2013 year. For more information, contact www.stjosephacademy.org or 760-305-8505.

Ignatian Volunteer Corps for Retired or Semi-Retired—Serve people who are poor one or two days a week, grow deeper in faith through reflection and prayer, and meet monthly with other IVC members and a spiritual guide. For more information, visit www.ivcusa.org or contact 619-881-9509.

Volunteers Needed as Advocates for Foster Children—Become a child advocate and make a lasting difference in the life of a foster child. More than just a mentor, you can give hope to a child who has none. For upcoming information session dates, contact www.speakupnow.org or 858-569-2235.

Separated/Divorced Support Group in Solana Beach—If you are in pain from a separation or divorce, please consider joining our support group. We meet 10:15am Sunday mornings at St. James Catholic Church Ministry Center Offices, 625 S. Nardo, Solana Beach. For additional information please contact Frank Grant at 760-533-1520 or fwgrant@earthlink.net.

Weekly Rosary in Carlsbad—A group of North County Parishioners meets every Monday from 10:00-10:30am to peacefully pray the rosary in front of the Carlsbad Planned Parenthood Clinic. The clinic is located at 1820 Marron Road, in the shopping center just west of Plaza Camino Real Mall. Please join us in our prayers to promote a culture of life. For more information, please call Richard Hodges at 760-439-3415 or Jahna White at 760-586-6356.

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.

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.

News from St. Francis Church

St. Francis School is now our Parish School. St. Thomas More Parishioners are extended the same benefits and rewards as a St. Francis Parishioner, including:

- Parishioner priority for enrollment at St. Francis School,
- Equal tuition rates,
- Financial aid opportunities, and
- Fundraising support.



For more information, contact the school at 760-945-7960.

Recycle your electronics at St. Francis School!—On January 21 and 22 you can drop off your old TVs, radios, telephones, cell phones, computers, printers, electrical cords and wires, just to name a few. We can recycle all forms of electronics except: auto/motorcycle batteries; light bulbs; and large appliances. Help protect Mother Earth and raise money for your Parish school. Please contact ptg@sfs-vista.org with questions.

Marriage & Family Life Corner

The Bishops' Letter on Marriage—The Call to Parents: “While all members of the family are called to live out the foundational Christian virtues, fathers and mothers have a special responsibility for fostering these virtues within their children. They are the first to proclaim the faith to their children. They are responsible for nurturing the vocation of each child, showing by example how to live the married life, and taking special care if a child might be called to priesthood or consecrated life.” To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

Marriage Moments—“Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary.’” (Lk 1:31) Sometimes it can be frightening to embark upon a big change in life—a birth, a death, changing a job, retirement...Call to mind a current or past fear. Trust that sharing it with your beloved will be safe.

Parenting Pointers—“How much longer till we get there?” This familiar travel refrain applies to Advent too. We’re almost there, but not quite yet. It’s hard to wait. Calm yourself and your children with lilting Advent music.

For more information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/Ministries/Marriage & Family Life or call Jen Frost at 760-758-4100 x100.



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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-12:00noon and 12:30-4:00pm

Parish Contacts

Updated 12/4/11

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

Pastoral Council Committees

Faith Formation & EvangelizationRory Griffin 760-414-3939

- Religious Education (Adults).....Wayne Zych 760-598-9244
- Small Church Communities Sondra Parks 760-598-1269
- Little Rock Bible Studies Pauline Lapre 760-727-8339
- 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 Marc Raymundo 760-758-4100 x161
- High School Youth Ministry..... Marc Raymundo 760-758-4100 x161
- Young Adult Ministry..... Marc Raymundo 760-758-4100 x161
- Women's Minsity/Fellowship.....Debbie Fredette 760-630-1946
- Men's Fellowship.....John Fredette 760-630-1946
- Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Regina Aulisio 760-295-5530
- VocationsDeacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 760-727-8442
- RCIA..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110

LiturgyKathy Arciero 760-231-1022

- Altar Linen CareAnna Meyers 760-727-4998
- Bereavement FacilitatorSr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- Environment & Art Kathy Arciero 760-231-1022
- 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 AdultsJen Frost actts@stmoside.org
- Family Services..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
- Marriage Preparation..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
- Widows & Widowers of North County..... Carol Kope 760-726-0533
- Germaine Wilmott 760-758-9949

Parish Organizations & Events..... Lisa & Pat Attardo 760-940-1505

- Golf Classic..... Skip Wilson 760-330-3293
- Historian..... Brandon Oswald 760-845-5450
- Knights of Columbus Matt Perun 760-734-1934
- Social ActivitiesHenny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100
- Spirited Seniors..... Judy & Jerry Buoniconti 760-758-5113
- Women's Guild..... Vera Bayliss 760-739-9061

Social Ministries Dick & Charlene Belprez 760-295-1431

- Blood Drive.....Linda Dicus 760-726-5081
- Bereavement Follow-up SupportLinda Dicus 760-726-5081

Brother Benno's Collections..... Deacon Tom Goeltz 760-727-8442

-Mike Nichols 760-822-3664
- Brother Benno's Kitchen Servers George Jones 760-940-9288
- Christmas Angel Ministry.....John & Marti Harper 760-724-1181
- Culture of LifeJane Kelleher 760-822-7041
- CPR/AED Classes..... Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414
- Disability FacilitationAnn Eriksson 760-599-7151
- Faith Works Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- Fraternity & Michaelle House.....Diantha Zschoche 760-685-0081
- Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice
- Joyce Meehan 760-724-4974
- Jail MinistryRita McCarthy 760-758-4100 x100
- JustFaith..... Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- Cathy Blecki 760-603-8930
- More's WorkersJerry Gayvert 760-295-0645
- North County Solutions for Change (NCSC)
- Dick & Charlene Belprez 760-295-1431
- Prayer Request LinePat Wong 760-806-1310
- Norma Flanagan 760-630-0180
- Project Linus..... Mary Coxon 760-599-8760
- Sick & Homebound (*Eucharist*) Jean McCloskey 760-643-2363
- Social Justice Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- St. Bonaventure Mission..... Knights of Columbus 760-734-1934

Office Support..... Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100

- General Support..... Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100
- Chair Set-Up..... Lorraine Doering 760-758-4100 x102
- Kitchen OverseerAgne Bolsakov 760-473-8461

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 Valerie Thompson 760-630-1703
- 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
- Welcome Ministry Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120

Pastoral Staff

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Marc Raymundo, Youth Advocate	760-758-4100 x161	marcr@stmoside.org
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Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance	760-758-4100 x151	joeg@stmoside.org
Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary.....	760-758-4100 x100	hennyj@stmoside.org
Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper.....	760-758-4100 x104	nataliep@stmoside.org
Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician	760-758-4100 x102	lorrained@stmoside.org

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