

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 25, 2011 • Christmas—The Nativity of the Lord



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pastor's Column

Come Home for Christmas

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

Coming Home

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

Before you die, God will offer you the deepest satisfaction you can desire. Just stop running and start trusting and receiving. Home is where you are truly safe. It is where you can receive what you desire. You need human hands to hold you there so that you don't run away again. But when

(Continued on page 2)

Mass Schedule for Mary, the Mother of God

Saturday, December 31: Mass at 5:00pm (Reconciliation at 4:00pm)

Sunday, January 1: 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)

you come home and stay home, you will find the love that will bring rest to your heart.

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

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

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

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

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

Come home for Christmas!

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

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 25 (16) Day

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

Monday, 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

Tuesday, December 27 (697)

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

Wednesday, December 28 (698)

The Holy Innocents, martyrs
1 John 1:5-2:2
Psalm 124:2-5,7b-8
Matthew 2:13-18

Thursday, December 29 (202)

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr
1 John 2:3-11
Psalm 96:1-3,5b-6
Luke 2:22-35

Friday, December 30 (17)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sirach 3:2-7,12-14 or Colossians 3:12-21
Psalm 128:1-5
Luke 2:22-40

Saturday, December 31 (204)

The Seventh Day with the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Sylvester I, pope
1 John 2:18-21
Psalm 96:1-2,11-13
John 1:1-18

Sunday, January 1 (18)

Mary, the Mother of God
Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 67:2-3,5-6,8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

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

Mary Alexander
Laura Allenfort
Lucia Ambriz
Mary Balli
Alexandra Banwell
Jean Carlos Barbosa
Jose Luis Barbosa
Patricia Barbour
Melody Batchelor
Clarice Bednarz
John Bennici
Regina Bentz
Roseanne Berg
George "Whitey" Betus
Mary Betz
Betty Jean Bielich
Lynda Brady
Christy Breier
Roy Bristol
The Roy Bristol Family
The Brophy Family
The Broughton Family
Monica Broussard
George Brown
Janet Brown
Mary Bruzas
Bridget Buford
Shelby Campbell
Brianna Campos
Claudia Caplinger
Paul Cassidy
The Castro Family
Lolly Cervantes
Pat Christopherson
Dick Clarke
Dolly Cole
Carl Coleman
James Coleman
Karen Flaharty Daley
The Daly & Hanratty Families
Beverly de Gelder
Carole Dillon
Judith DiMatteo
Sara Doge
Dave Dossman
John Drazkowski, Jr.
Bev Duncan
Phyllis Estes
Sharon Evans
Chuck Fay
The Fiore Family
Ryan Flum
Matthew Foster
Kathryn Franklin
Joe Freire
Ellen Fresca
Carmen Garcia
Rick Gonzalez
Eileen Gough
Rosemary Haeffelin
The Harker Family
Elizabeth Harrison
Mr. Harry
Lilian Hills
Susan Hori
Olga Huette
Iolanda Iacobelli
Eileen Jones
Peggy Kiernan
Debbie Kinney
Dewey Kolbo
Helen Kuhn
Lillian Lachance
The Lamelin Family
The Laub Family
Christopher & Roland Lawrence
Tom Lawrence
Brandon LeBlanc
Myles Levine
Ashley Load
Cassandra Loretto
Lauren Loretto
James MacArthur
Joaquin Maldonado
Nancy Marley
Chandler May
Mac McCullough
Bob McWilliams
Joyce Meehan
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
Helen Pingtella
Douglas Price-Williams
Hal & Lorraine Radcliffe
Mrs. Radilinski
Daniel Raiman
The Reyes Family
Clinton Ritchie
Rita Ritchie
Joanne Robinson
Maria Rogers
Dorothy Rouse
The Russo Family
The Scharbarth Family
Kimberly Schlunt
Linda Schmidt
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
John Treat
Mary Tysko & Family
Laurie Updyke
Barbara Upson
Arnie Velasco
Silvana Vettese
Donato Visciglio
Bob Vita
Vanessa Vitiello
Ashley Wandell
Kevin Watson-Graff
John Whitton
Patricia Zavala

Calendar Highlights

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

The Week Ahead

Dec 25 Christmas Day
Masses at 8:30am and 10:30am
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

The Month Ahead

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 8-14 National Vocations Awareness Week
Jan 9 Women's Guild Luncheon
Jan 10-11 Restaurant Fundraiser at Nucci's Italian Cafe
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 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Jan 29 Groundbreaking for Permanent Church and Parish Offices

The Month Ahead

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
July 16-20 Vacation Bible Camp

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 26	Sr. M. Rosalia Romero, DCJ
December 27	Sr. Maria Elena Romero, DCJ
December 28	Sr. M. Priscille Ronicam, MC
December 29	Sr. Ellen Marie Ryan, CSJ
December 30	Sr. Diana Sabia, SSS
December 31	Sr. Gabriel Marie (Evelin) Sales, UCSC
January 1	Sr. Delia Sarabia, CVI

Mass Intentions

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 & Luigi Luce ☩

Sunday, December 25, 10:30am
Julius Monaco ☩

Tuesday, December 27, 8:15am
Cairo Salvatierra ☩

Wednesday, December 28, 8:15am
Mini Pocino ☩

Thursday, December 29, 8:15am
Frances Graunito ☩

Friday, December 30, 8:15am
Kathryn Ernst ☩

Saturday, December 31, 5:00pm
Gene Reid Carter ☩

Sunday, January 1, 8:30am
Cindy Heywood ☩

Sunday, January 1, 10:30am
Larry Dorsa ☩

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
Staff Sgt. Travis M. Meyers, USAF
Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army
Sr. Airman Robert Spear, USAF
Sgt. Charles Watts, USMC

Thank you for your prayers for Maj. David E. Johnson, US Army Who has returned home safely.

Congratulations to

Henny & Mike Jocelyn

who celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary on December 21.

May God continue to bless your marriage, and may you be an inspiration to other married couples.

In Memoriam



Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Mary Janet Broughton, a former Parishioner who died on December 13. Her Funeral Mass was celebrated on December 22 at St. Thomas More. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Dorothy Blackburn, who died on December 13. Her funeral arrangements are pending. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Frank Brophy, a former Parishioner who died on December 16. His Funeral Mass was celebrated in San Bernardino on December 22. Please keep his family in your prayers.

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

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

If you haven't yet purchased your copy of this great collection, they will still be available after the new year in the Parish Office.

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

Now, the tree is adorned with golden crowns for our annual Birth Choice drive. These gifts assist mothers who have chosen life over abortion. Please continue to take crown ornaments over the next two weeks. 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
4johnnysangel@cox.net*

New Construction Update—December 2011

This is the first of what will be monthly updates to keep all Parishioners informed in regard to the progress of the construction of our Permanent Church and our Parish Offices.



1. The Interior Design Team with the help of our Liturgical Consultant, Robert Habiger, finalized the floor layout of the new Sanctuary for presentation to the Diocesan Art and Architecture Committee. The Committee reviewed the plan and Bishop Brom gave formal approval on September 28.
2. Renzo Zecchetto, our Architect, has taken this floor plan and has begun the structural and mechanical design development tying it in with the exterior elevations of the Sanctuary on the site development plan.
3. We recently met with the City of Oceanside Planning and Building Department to present the latest floor plan and exterior elevations for conformance with our Conditional Use Permit. Our plans were well received by the department.
4. The Planning Department has requested another meeting before giving final approval to the Sanctuary and latest site development plan. Renzo Zecchetto is preparing the final submittal for this meeting slated for January 2012.
5. Also at this time Renzo Zecchetto is moving forward with the design development of the new Sanctuary and administration building with the assistance of the construction company, T.B. Penick & Sons of San Diego.
6. The Interior Design Team continues to meet and will soon be interviewing artists who will be commissioned to create the Marian and St. Thomas More shrines. Discussion also continues with our Liturgical Consultant regarding the design and creation of our altar, ambo, baptismal font, and tabernacle.
7. Our "Groundbreaking" ceremony will take place on Sunday, January 29, 2012, at 2:00pm. Bishop Brom will be present to lead us in this celebration.

*Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor
Brian Leahey, New Construction Chairperson
Phil & Pat Goscienski, Interior Design Chairpersons*

Parish Events

Calling all Walkers

Beginning the Second Week in January!

Tuesdays – 9:30 to 10:30a.m. (starting January 10)

Thursdays – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (starting January 12)

All are welcome to meet at Parish Office as start point!

For more information, contact

Diane Pal at 760-815-2519 or dipal123@att.net

Women's Guild News

Fr. Mike drew the names of four winners in the Women's Guild Sponsored Christmas Raffle on Sunday, December 18.

The winners are...

\$500 first prize: Joanne Robinson

\$400 second prize: Joyce Dockery
(who generously donated it back to the building fund).

\$300 third prize: Ann Bukovchik

\$200 fourth prize: Beatriz La Bolle

Questions? Contact Ann Buko at 760-726-8831.

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 ~ Final Week

Groundbreaking January 29, 2012

Pledge Statistics as of December 20

Phase II		# of Families Responding
Total Responses	\$1,590,632	768
Still Needed	\$409,368	263
Total Goal	\$2,000,000	1,031
Total Collected	\$1,564,893	



† Thank you to ALL of our donors!!!

† We have now heard from 75% of the Parish, and we have collected over \$1.5 million toward our goal of \$2 million.

† **ALL DONATIONS WELCOME!!!**

† *Due to our shortfall of \$500,000 in Phase II, we will be initiating a one-year capital campaign, Phase 2.1, to cover this amount in 2012. This will be helpful to us before we enter our "mortgage phase" ~ watch for details in January*

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 and 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

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A Sense of the Season

See the light! *The people who lived in darkness have seen a great light!* Look at the Christmas lights! Thinking about these images of light helps us understand the meaning of Christmas time. As we listen to the Word during Mass and throughout the week we will hear messages of light...the light of Christ. We come together to celebrate the birth of divine light into the world, Jesus, the only son of God.

Our liturgical environment features the beautiful painting, "Epiphany Star," by Mary Castle. White is the liturgical color for the season and white poinsettias punctuate our sanctuary spaces with touches of gold. Our treasured nativity crèche is located in the north transept of our worship space, a place of honor and accessible for everyone, especially children, to be inspired by the wonder of Jesus' birth and the Incarnation story.

The environment would not be so splendid without many hands, especially Joe Buhlert, Mike Province, Dean McCoy, Ginny Cornwell, Sondra Parks, Beth Brewer, Carol and Larry Thomson, Siggie and Richard Ogan, Tony Arciero, and Joe Garcia. We were blessed by a host of heavenly angels who came to help set up the Nativity. Thank you for answering the call and your gift of service!

As we profess when we say our Creed, *Light from Light, true God from true God*, may we be bearers of light to a world in need, may we welcome the stranger in our midst and welcome home our brothers and sisters who have been away from us...be the light of Christ!

Kathy Arciero
 Liturgy Committee Chairperson
 Art & Environment

A Carol for Christmas?

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her King;
 Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
 And heav'n and nature sing...*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
 Let us, our songs employ;
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills
 and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy...*

*No more let sin and sorrows grow,
 Nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make his blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found...*

*He rules the world with truth and
 grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of his righteousness,
 And wonders of his love...*

—Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

When is a Christmas carol not a Christmas carol? When it doesn't focus on the birth of Christ, perhaps?

Isaac Watts based his "Joy to the World" text on the last half of Psalm 98, which celebrates the coming of the Lord to judge the world in righteousness. The psalmist calls on all creation to sing and shout for joy at his coming. There is nothing in the psalm, or in Watts' paraphrase, that mentions the *birth* of Christ, just the Lord's return in judgment.

So should we stop singing this at Christmas? Of course not. But this carol brings to mind the bi-focal vision of Christmas, one eye to look back and praise God for the gift of his son, Jesus, and another to look forward to Christ's return, when God will bring a righteous conclusion to all things. Then we will begin to fully enjoy the "wonders of his love" for all eternity. **Merry Christmas!**



Upcoming Music

JANUARY 1
Mary, the Mother of God
5:00pm Mass
 Sanctuary Choir
8:30am Mass
 Handbell Choir
10:30am Mass
 Praise Team



Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

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



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 evening January 5 at 7:00pm for 15 sessions exploring St. John's Gospel and the Johannine Letters.

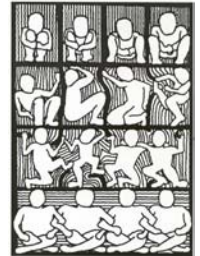
St. John was moved by the Holy Spirit to write his gospel so "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

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.



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, especially those where there is a personal interest for action.

Engaging Our Conflicts sessions provide participants a strong understand 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 bring to fruition.

Please plan to commit to all eight sessions which will be coordinated by Sr. Maureen Brown, Dolores Silva, and Melissa Noble.

There will be a registration flyer in next week's bulletin.

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

✦ IGNITE

No Youth Group on December 26! I hope and pray that your Christmas is amazing and blessed. Enjoy your break and stay safe. We will see you at the beginning of the new year on Monday, January 2 at 7:00pm! See you then.

✦ Confirmation, Phase 1 and Phase 2

Confirmation Phase 2: Remember to have your forms in by January 8!

Please check the website, www.stmosideym.org, to make sure you are aware of classes coming up and when they begin!

Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

Christian Stewardship A Story of True Christmas Gift Giving

The first time I ever bought anyone a Christmas present was when I was in the first grade. As Christmas was approaching, I asked my mother if I could have one dollar to buy someone a present. She gave me the dollar, even though I could tell that she was a bit suspicious about what I was going to do with the money.

I went off to the corner drug store and bought a bright blue ballpoint pen for 79 cents. When I returned home, I gave my mother the change from the dollar and took my precious gift up to the bedroom where I could properly wrap it.

On Christmas Eve, my mother opened up a small and not too neatly wrapped object to discover the bright blue ballpoint pen. I was wondering just what her reaction would be upon opening the present. She broke out into a huge smile and thanked me for such a nice Christmas present.

Christmas stories do bring warmth and cheer to our hearts as we recall stories of caring and love. My little story has an interesting irony, doesn't it? The gift that pleased my mother was purchased by me, but with my mother's own money. Does that sound familiar to you?

In the U.S. Bishops document, *Stewardship, a Disciple's Response*, we see the insight that *everything* we have comes from God.

The disciple then is grateful for God's gifts and returns them to God with increase because, after all, those gifts belong to God in the first place. Our sacrifice of our prayer time, our parish and community involvement, and our financial giving is really a gift from what is God's all along. It's like buying your mother a Christmas present with her own money.

During the Christmas season, our gift giving is an imitation of the great giving-and-receiving that takes place between God and us every day. We receive everything from Him, and through our stewardship of love, give back to Him. Perhaps that is why the Christmas season is so special and heart-warming.

A very Merry Christmas to you and all of your family!

—The Catholic Steward, Fr. Michael Troha, (with permission)



A few years ago, my youngest brother sent me a 'money tree' plant. We have a thing between us to see how big it will get and it is now taller than me. What our family knows, especially this year after the death of our mother, is that love is the most important thing that continues to grow.

Just as God gave us His precious son out of love, we give of ourselves, as much as we can, in as many ways as we can. Just as God gifted us, we gift one another and those in need. Thank you for your many gifts, today and always! ~ Love, Chris

God's blessings and peace to each of you this Christmas!

FINAL 2011 YEAR END PLANNING TIPS

PLEASE READ BELOW!!!

- ◆ **BE SURE TO COMPLETE** all gifts by December 31 to qualify for tax savings on 2011 your tax return.
- ◆ **The Parish Office is closed from December 24, 2011/ January 1, 2012.** Gifts received in the offertory at Mass on Saturday, December 31 will be credited for 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.**
- ◆ Keep all gift receipts and acknowledgment letters, especially for gifts of \$250 or more.
- ◆ Tax letters will be mailed to all registered parishioners by the end of January 2012.

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

*Thank you for your generosity to the
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2011 National Needs Collection

\$713.97

Collection for Week of December 17/18, 2011

Number of Registered Households		1,030
Offertory*	\$	10,107.80
Offertory (Loose Collection)		1,507.50
Children's envelopes		4.00
Total	\$	11,619.30

* 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 parishoffice@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.

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

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. Next weekend is January 13-15.

Young Adult Ministry Activities in San Diego County—Visit www.yamsd.org for complete information on events for young adults, including a New Year's Eve Celebration on Saturday, December 31, 9:00pm-2:00am at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church.

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.

JSerra Catholic High School in San Juan Capistrano—Open house and campus tour on Thursday, January 19, 6:30-8:00pm, 26351 Junipero Serra Rd., San Juan Capistrano. For more information, contact 949-493-9307 or www.jerra.org or Marc Raymundo!

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.



Divorce Prevention 101: Healing Hurts & Finding Love that Lasts! Workshop in Del Mar—Saturday, January 21, 1:00-4:30pm at St. Thérèse of Carmel, 4355 Del Mar Trails Rd, San Diego. Whether you're in a relationship, married, divorced, widowed, or single, this afternoon workshop is meant for you! Catholic author and speaker Rose Sweet shares powerful messages on living marriage as God intended, finding your soul mate, and being a "Happy Catholic Single!" For more information, contact ASG@sttheresecarmel.org or www.sttheresecarmel.org/284640.ihtml.

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.

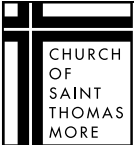
Marriage & Family Life Corner

The Bishops' Letter on Marriage—Parents-first evangelizers: "Not only do parents present their children for Baptism, but, having done so, they become the first evangelizers and teachers of the faith. They evangelize by teaching their children to pray and by praying with them. They bring their children to Mass and teach them biblical stories. They show them how to obey God's commandments and to live a Christian life of holiness." 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—As the year ends, pull out your 2011 calendar and reminisce with your children about both the joys and sadnesses that that this past year brought.

For more information, visit [www.diocese-sdiego.org/Ministries/Marriage & Family Life](http://www.diocese-sdiego.org/Ministries/Marriage%20&%20Family%20Life) 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 Ministry Rita 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 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
 - 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 Overseer Agne 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

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

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January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
1 Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God 8:30 AM-Mass 10:30 AM-Mass	2 10:30 AM-Women's Guild Board Meeting 7:00 PM-IGNITE/High School	3 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 9:30 AM-Walking Ministry 7:00 PM-Ground Breaking Reception Meeting 7:00 PM-Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM-Knights of Columbus	4 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Scripture Study 9:30 AM-Mass (Emeritus @ Oceanside) 1:30 PM-Spirited Senior Board Meeting 6:30 PM-Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-Catholicism: It's Your Story 7:00 PM-Interior Design Team	5 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 10:00 AM-Women's Guild Quilters 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 5:30 PM-Walking Ministry 7:00 PM-Scripture Study 7:00 PM-Youth Ministry LEAD 7:00 PM-Sanctuary Choir 7:00 PM-Inquiry	6 Parish Office Closed at 11:30 AM (Staff Retreat) 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Exposition of the Eucharist 7:00 PM-Reposition of the Eucharist	7 4:00 PM-Reconciliation Epiphany of the Lord 5:00 PM-Mass 6:00 PM-Holy Land Pilgrimage Reunion Reception		
8 Epiphany of the Lord 8:30 AM-Mass/RCIA 8:30 AM-Knights of Columbus Breakfast 10:30 AM-Mass 12:00 PM-Baptisms	9 Baptism of the Lord 11:00 AM-Women's Guild Luncheon 7:00 PM-IGNITE/High School	10 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 9:30 AM-Walking Ministry 7:00 PM-Ground Breaking Reception Meeting 7:00 PM-Interior Design Team 7:00 PM-Baptism Preparation Part I 7:00 PM-Praise Team Rehearsal	11 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Scripture Study 11:00 AM-Women's Guild Deanery Meeting 6:30 PM-Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-Catholicism: It's Your Story 7:00 PM-Development Council Meeting	12 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 5:30 PM-Walking Ministry 7:00 PM-Scripture Study 7:00 PM-Sanctuary Choir 7:00 PM-Youth Ministry LEAD	13 8:15 AM-Mass 9:30 AM-Mass (Aegis) 7:00 PM-Men's Fellowship	14 Stewardship Awareness 9:00 AM-Adult CPR/AED 4:00 PM-Reconciliation 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 PM-Mass		
15 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Stewardship Awareness 8:30 AM-Mass/RCIA/LOWC 10:20 AM-RE.A.CH. 10:30 AM-Mass 12:30 PM-RE.A.CH. 5:00 PM-RE.A.CH.	16 Parish Office and Chapel Closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 7:00 PM-IGNITE/High School	17 Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 9:30 AM-Walking Ministry 7:00 PM-Ground Breaking Reception Meeting 7:00 PM-Praise Team Rehearsal	18 Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Scripture Study 6:30 PM-Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-Catholicism: It's Your Story 7:00 PM-Interior Design Team	19 Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 10:00 AM-W. G. Quilters 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 5:30 PM-Walking Ministry 7:00 PM-Scripture Study 7:00 PM-Youth Ministry LEAD 7:00 PM-Sanctuary Choir 7:00 PM-Inquiry	20 Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 10:00 AM-JustFaith Core Team 6:00 PM-Parish Potluck	21 Stewardship Awareness 8:45 AM-Chair Set Up 9:00 AM-RCIA Retreat (MSLR) 11:30 AM-Confirmation Candidate and Sponsor Retreat 4:00 PM-Reconciliation 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 PM-Mass		
22 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Stewardship Awareness 8:30 AM-Mass/RCIA 10:30 AM-Mass/LOWC 6:30 PM-RE.A.CH Mini Course	23 Stewardship Awareness 7:00 PM-IGNITE/High School	24 Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 9:30 AM-Walking Ministry 7:00 PM-Ground Breaking Reception Meeting 7:00 PM-Baptism Preparation Part II 7:00 PM-Praise Team Rehearsal	25 Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Scripture Study 1:00 PM-Parish Social Justice Committee 6:30 PM-Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-Catholicism: It's Your Story	26 Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 5:30 PM-Walking Ministry 7:00 PM-Scripture Study 7:00 PM-Sanctuary Choir 7:00 PM-Youth Ministry LEAD	27 Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass	28 Stewardship Awareness 4:00 PM-Reconciliation 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 PM-Mass		
29 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Stewardship Awareness 8:30 AM-Mass/RCIA/LOWC 8:30 AM-Confirmation 2012 8:30 AM-K of C Communion 10:20 AM-RE.A.CH. 10:30 AM-Mass 12:30 PM-Eucharist Parent Meeting 12:30 PM-RE.A.CH. 2:00 PM-Ground Breaking Ceremony 5:00 PM-RE.A.CH. 6:30 PM-RE.A.CH Mini Course	30 Stewardship Awareness 7:00 PM-IGNITE/High School	31 Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 9:30 AM-Walking Ministry 7:00 PM-Praise Team Rehearsal					<p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Church of St. Thomas More</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">1450 South Melrose Drive,</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Oceanside, CA 92056</p> <p style="margin: 0;">(760) 758-4100</p> <p style="margin: 0;">www.stmoside.org</p>	