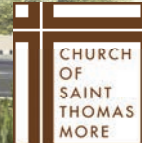


Church of St. Thomas More

A Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of San Diego

Spirituality † Tradition † Community



Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor
Deacon John Fredette
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 9, 2012 • Second Sunday of Advent

Pastor's Column

Prepare the Way of the Lord

As we continue our journey through the Season of Advent this weekend, we focus upon John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus.

The voice in the wilderness cries out: "Prepare the Way of the Lord." In John, we see and hear a message of urgency and immediacy.

So often, as we make our journey of Faith, we become dulled and deadened to life around us. We "sleepwalk" through life, missing the presence of God in our midst, and we take for granted the love and care of family members and friends.

Advent is meant to be a time to shake and arouse us to God in our midst and life around us. Time is marching on! Unfortunately, we often lack that appreciation and only become aware when some event, usually tragic or difficult, shakes our foundations. And only then, do we look at God, others, and ourselves with a fresh set of eyes, the eyes of Faith.

During this Season of Advent, we, as a Faith Community, are reminded of our common vocation to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist and to prepare the way of the Lord, to remind the world around us that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

We do so through our activities and involvements in the community of life around us, specifically in the areas that we call home, Carlsbad, Oceanside, and Vista. We are to be a voice, and a beacon of light, that points to Jesus, and his healing message of love.

In a very physical way, even our Parish Campus becomes a symbol and reminder of what the future holds for each of us—eternity. When people see a Church, when they hear a bell toll, when they see a tower with a cross, they are instantly jarred into remembering that life on Earth is temporary. We have come from somewhere and we are going somewhere. With this faith

(Continued on page 2)



YEAR OF FAITH 2012-2013

Did You Know?

Each year for Christmas and Easter Masses, we provide overflow seating on the Plaza. We provide a tent over the chairs and heaters in the midst of the chairs to provide greater comfort for those who are worshipping "al fresco."

This year's cost for Easter and Christmas is \$2,522.

Your gift to the "Did You Know?" Campaign will help to defray these costs.

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, 6:30am-7:30pm

Liturgical Ministry: Contact Douglas Lynn at 760-758-4100 x140

Music Ministry: Contact Douglas Lynn at 760-758-4100 x140

Communion for the Homebound/Hospitalized:

Contact Parish Office at 760-758-4100 x100

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Parish Office

Matrimony:

Contact Parish Office a minimum of nine months in advance

*For further information, contact Rev. Michael Ratajczak
at 760-758-4100 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 Sunday 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, contact Kathleen Bell
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.

*For further information, see page 10, or contact Chris Smith
at 760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org.*

Pastor's Column (continued from page 1)

perspective, we then, hopefully, live life in a kinder and gentler way; celebrating each day as a gift.

I would encourage us to keep in mind this symbolic importance of the Church we are building. It is not a monument to give us glory, but to give God glory and to be of assistance to God's people, those in our Faith Community, and all in our Civic Community, to live life more kindly and gently.

May the vocation of John the Baptist be our vocation as well: let us continue to prepare the way of the Lord!

F. Mike

Rosary

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



Help Establish STM's Archives

The STM Historian is looking for material from events and activities since our Parish was established in 1985. I am looking for photographs, newspaper clippings, brochures, fliers, reports, videos, drawings—anything that represents our congregational memory! Please check your drawers, file cabinets, and that creepy ol' box in the attic. You can drop off your donation at the Parish Office. Thanks!

For more information and questions, please feel free to contact: Brandon at 760-845-5450 or brandon.oswald@gmail.com.

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.

Walking Ministry

Join the Walking Ministry on Tuesday mornings at 8:00am starting from the Parish Center parking lot. For more information, contact Diane Pal at 760-815-2519.

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 \$26,000
from this program. Thank you donors!**



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

Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, December 9 (6)

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

Monday, December 10 (181)

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 85:9ab-14
Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 11 (182)

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 96:1-3,10-13
Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 12 (609A)

Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zechariah 2:14-17 or
Revelation 11:19a,12:1-6a,10ab
Judith 13:18b-19 (Psalm)
Luke 1:26-38 or
Luke 1:39-47

Thursday, December 13 (184)

Lucy, virgin, martyr
Isaiah 43:13-20
Psalm 145:1,9-13ab
Matthew 11:11-15

Friday, December 14 (185)

John of the Cross, priest, doctor
Isaiah 48:17-19
Psalm 1:1-4,6
Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday, December 15 (186)

Sirach 48:1-4,9-11
Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
Matthew 17:9-13

Sunday, December 16 (9)

Third Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Isaiah 12:2-6 (Psalm)
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18
Luke 21:25-28,34-36

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

Mary Alexander
Lucia Ambriz
Mary Balli
Jose Luis Barbosa
Patricia Barbour
Clarice Bednarz
John Bennici
Regina Bentz
Lisa Berg
Roseanne Berg
George "Whitey" Betus
Mary Betz
Betty Jean Bielich
Lynda Brady
Monica Broussard
Janet Brown
Todd Brown
Anita & Bill Buerger
Bridget Buford
Shelby Campbell
Brianna Campos
Claudia Caplinger
Paul Cassidy
Dick Clarke
Dolly Cole
Carl Coleman
James Coleman
Thomas Cornwell & Family
Lené Crowe
Karen Flaharty Daley
Beverly de Gelder
Stephanie de Villeneuve
Brendan Devlin
Ryan Devlin
Judith DiMatteo
Art Dossman
Dave Dossman
John Drazkowski, Jr.
La Vonne Dumas
Connor Eberhard
Carolyn Erickson Ey
Sharon Evans
The Fiore Family
The Fischer Family
Ryan Flum
The Fortier Family
The Fox Family
Mike Franchino
Eugene Franciscus
Kathryn Franklin
Joe Freire
Brian Frink
Jim Gallagher
Carmen Garcia
Jack & Marge Gillen
The Gliottone Family
Rick Gonzalez
Rosemary Haeffelin
Nan Hallbick
The Harker Family
Elizabeth Harrison
Barbara Hatem
Lilian Hills
Susan Hori
Iolanda Iacobelli
Linda Iacobelli Bennett
Sue Johnston
The Kater Family
Paul Kennedy
The Kersey Family
Peggy Kiernan
Debbie Kinney
Dewey Kolbo
Helen Kuhn
Lillian Lachance
The Lamelin Family
Christopher & Rolan Lawrence
Brandon LeBlanc
Jeremiah Lemus
Jeffrey Leonardi
Claudia Leué
The Paul Leué Family
Ashley Load
Cassandra Loretto
Lauren Loretto
Richard Lynn
James MacArthur
Joaquin Maldonado
Chandler May
Bob McWilliams
Joyce Meehan
Kalei Mendiola
Bill Metzger
Phyllis Minaya
June Mitchell
June Montgomery
Nancy Moore
Elizabeth Muehlbacher
Conrad Murphy
Margie Myers
Richard Obsitnik
Bernadette Padovan
Art Palle
Lupe Casas Pelletier
Helen Pingtella
Marilyn Pirkola
The Pitesa Family
Douglas Price-Williams
Barbara Ramm
Mrs. Jack (Shirley) Riley
Rita Ritchie
Adela Rivera
Elena Rivera
The Roberts Family
Maria Rogers
Dorothy Rouse
The Russo Family
Dan Ryan
Kimberly Schlunt
Linda Schmidt
The Douglas E. Schulte Family
Bob, Joan, & Julie Shea
Elizabeth Shirzad
Richard Sikora
Jeanne Sisson
Beth Snyder
Mike Snyder
Nick Soltau
Fred & Gilda Spiegel
Darek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski
Patricia St. Pierre
Dorothy Staehr
Ted Stanislawski
The Stringer Family
Pete Sullivan
David Sweet
Tommy & Ginger Thompson
Valerie Thompson
Sarah Tillinghast
William Tompson
Stephen Toth, Jr.
Mary Tysko & Family
Barbara Upson
Ethel & Bob Vanderhagen
Rovert Vasquez
Silvana Vettese
Vanessa Vitiello
Barbara Voelpel
Kevin Watson-Graff
John Whitton
Helen Wodyka
Erin Young
Patricia Zavala

Calendar Highlights

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

- Dec 9 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am Mass
- Dec 9 RE.A.CH Classes at Church, including high school
- Dec 9 Catholicism Series Part 4
- Dec 10 Morning Prayer at 8:15am
- Dec 16 Parish Reconciliation Service at 4:00pm
- Dec 24 Vigil of Christmas—Masses at 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 10:00pm (caroling at 9:30pm)
- Dec 25 Christmas Day—Mass at 9:30am
- Dec 31 Octave of Christmas: Mary the Mother of God—Mass at 5:00pm

2013

- Jan 1 Octave of Christmas: Mary the Mother of God—Mass at 9:30am
- Jan 6 Stewardship Appreciation Reception
- Jan 12-31 Stewardship Awareness/Renewal
- Jan 13 RE.A.CH Classes at Church, including high school
- Jan 13 Catholicism Series Part 5
- Jan 19 San Diego Walk for Life in Balboa Park
- Jan 25 Preview of Interior Church Elements
- Feb 16 Women's Guild Fashion Show at Shadowridge CC
- Mar 17 New Member Reception
- Apr 21 Towers of Faith Reception
- June 7 Second Annual STM Gala
- Jul 15-19 Vacation Bible School: *Kingdom Rock!*
- Sep 21 Treasures 2013
- Sep 29 Pastor's Dinner/Excursion

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 10	Sr. Mary Denis Bruck, SL
December 11	Sr. Annalisa Burgos, SJS
December 12	Sr. Finbarr Burke, RSM
December 13	Sr. Ada Burns, RSCJ
December 14	Sr. M. Joanna Calderon, DCJ
December 15	Sr. Celestine Callaghan, RSM
December 16	Sr. Annice Callahan, RSCJ

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 8, 9:00am	Alicia Diaz ☩
Saturday, December 8, 5:00pm	Terence Flanagan ☩
Sunday, December 9, 8:30am	Nicholas Angelucci Sr. ☩
Sunday, December 9, 10:30am	Jacinto Mangahas ☩
Tuesday, December 11, 8:15am	John Rodriguez ☩
Wednesday, December 12, 8:15am	Pernetta Franklin ☩
Thursday, December 13, 8:15am	Rita Angela Mazzarella ☩
Friday, December 14, 8:15am	Mary Janet Broughton ☩
Saturday, December 15, 5:00pm	Dr. Rudolfo Garcia ☩
Sunday, December 16, 8:30am	Marcella Scanlon
Sunday, December 16, 10:30am	Mary-Jo Porter & Joseph Immerso ☩

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
Corp. Willie Deel
Chaplain Van Dinh
Lance Corp. Brandon Doyle, USMC
StfSgt Evans Formica, USMC
Grant Fischer
MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC
Sgt. Alex Garcia
BM2 Bobby Hartdegen, US Navy
Staff Sgt. Travis M. Meyers, USAF
2nd Lt. Janelle Peske, USMC
Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army
Sr. Airman Robert Spear, USAF
Tyler Timmerman, US Army
Sgt. Charles Watts, USMC
Msgt. Paul Weisinger, USMC
Major Seth Wolcott, USMC

Welcome New Parishioners

Kate & Matt Clay & Family

In Memoriam



Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Jack Fischer, who died on November 9. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, December 14, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. 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.

Advent Reconciliation Services at Local Parishes

Mon, Dec. 10	7:00pm	Nativity, Rancho Santa Fe
Tue, Dec. 11	7:00pm	St. John, Encinitas
Thu, Dec. 13	6:30pm	St. James, Solana Beach
Fri, Dec. 14	7:00pm	Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside
Sat, Dec. 15	10:00am	Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside
Sat, Dec. 15	10:00am	St. James, Solana Beach
Sun, Dec. 16	4:00pm	St. Thomas More, Oceanside
Mon, Dec. 17	6:30pm	St. Mark, San Marcos
Tue, Dec. 18	7:00pm	St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad
Wed, Dec. 19	6:00pm	St. Peter, Fallbrook

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

STM Scrip News

Planning a holiday feast or having trouble finding a gift for that special someone...No worries. From grocery to specialty stores, Scrip can cover all your holiday needs. So ***Jingle All The Way*** over to the Scrip table or the Parish Office to place or pick up orders and help us to build our church.

Check online for an updated Scrip list and online ordering system: www.stmoside.org, Contact Us, then Scrip.

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

New Engaging Spirituality Group to Begin in January!

Engaging Spirituality is a structured, small group opportunity to practice living deeply and loving broadly! We look to Jesus as our model of integrity, of holiness. The **Engaging Spirituality** process helps us pattern our lives around prayer, outreach, personal, and communal practices in order to set us loose as agents of love and healing in this broken world.

A new evening group will begin this journey together the last week in January 2013. If there is enough interest in a day group, we will do our best to accommodate.

Please sign up at the Information Table on the Plaza soon so that we have time to plan!

For further information or if you have any questions, please call Sr. Maureen at 760-758-4100 x131.

Christmas Angel Ministry 2012-2013

The toy boxes are overflowing! Thank you for bringing your stocking items in so promptly this past week! Approximately 175 stockings and gift bags have been stuffed for Catholic Charities. Now the "angel ornament" gifts and "snowflake" gift cards are due this weekend.

Take advantage of our scrip table this weekend and buy those extra gift cards for teens and Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital family packages. There are still families available for adoption. Again, these family packages are due back to the Parish Office **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16**. They will be delivered the next day.

A huge "thank you" to everyone for your time, talents, and treasures to assure the success of this ministry!

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

Need Help with Transportation to Church!

Volunteer drivers are needed in our Parish. Some Parishioners would like to attend Mass and cannot drive themselves. Please prayerfully consider helping some of our fellow Parishioners. If you can help in any way with this service, please contact Ann Eriksson 760-599-7151 or eriksson1@mindspring.com.



Food Bank Contributions

Look for the blue barrels on the Plaza at weekend Masses to deposit your contributions for North County Community Services Food Bank in San Marcos. Thank you for your support! For more information, contact Ron Briseno at 760-758-4100 x153 or ronb@stmoside.org.

Hurricane Sandy Relief

Catholic Charities is accepting contributions for the Hurricane Sandy Storm Relief efforts. Donations can be made at www.ccdsd.org or by mailing a check to Catholic Charities, 349 Cedar St., San Diego, CA 92101 (indicate "Hurricane Sandy" in the memo line). 100% of donations will be directed to assist those in the affected area.

Parish Events

Women's Guild News

Please join us:

The next General Meeting will be held on Monday, December 10, at 11:00 am on the lower level of the Parish Center. This year we will be celebrating Italy and will have a fabulous Italian luncheon. Don't miss this great event with lots of fun and entertainment. We will have a few surprises for you. You know who to call for reservations: Vera at 760-295-0059 or Siggie at 760-994-4727. We would love it if you joined us.

Friendship is like a book. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.

—Vera Bayliss, President

Spirited Seniors Winter Luncheon

The Spirited Seniors are sponsoring a Winter Luncheon on Tuesday, December 18, for members and guests. The deadline for reservations is December 10. The Luncheon is \$12.50 for members and \$15 for guests. Please put your reservation request and check in an envelope marked "Spirited Seniors Winter Luncheon" and place it in the offertory collection or the Parish Office Box 12, by December 10. For more info, contact Jim and Marilyn Day at 760-509-4545 jandmday@cox.net.

K of C Entertainment Books and More!

The Knights of Columbus will be selling Entertainment Books for \$40 on the Plaza after weekend Masses, as well as Christmas cards and "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets, and the proceeds will go to helping our church and community. Please contact Matt Perun at 760-734-1934 if you are interested or have any questions.

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.

2012 Phase 2.1 "... A Time to Build!"

Four Weeks to Go!

Total Collected to Date

\$521,692!

† Generous and amazing! Special thanks to the 704 dedicated households (68% of the Parish) who have helped us exceed our \$500,000 campaign goal!



† As 2012 draws to a close, plans for 2013 and beyond are underway. Capital Campaign Chair Bill Ipsen presented a status update on November 3-4, in which he shared the good news of our progress AND let us know that we will be moving into the "Mortgage Phase" of our building fund in January 2013.

† We are all encouraged to continue our patterns of building fund support as the Church is built! In this way, we "pay as we go" in order to reduce our loan principal before interest payments begin.

† Please consider maintaining your current pattern of giving with regard to the Operations Budget and the Building Fund, which is now our "Mortgage Offering." Your commitment to both is essential in our ongoing quest to pay for our build-out. Watch for a love letter from Fr. Mike in the near future.

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

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

Vocations

In today's Gospel, Luke quotes Isaiah "A voice of one crying out in the desert: Prepare the way of The Lord..." Thousands of years later, our Lord still needs workers to prepare the hearts and minds of his people. Do you feel a calling to be a voice for our Lord as a priest, deacon, or religious? If you wish to explore a possible vocation within the Church, contact Deacon Tom at thomasgoeltz@aol.com or 760-727-8442.

A Retreat at Sea!

I will be leading a "Retreat at Sea" on a cruise from Miami Beach to Rio de Janeiro in November 2013. Flyers are available in the Parish Office or at the information table on the Plaza after Masses. —Fr. Mike Ratajczak

Liturgy & Music

Worship God

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

SINGING A NEW SONG

I recently received an email from a Parishioner asking about the Mass settings we introduced in October, and why we sing new songs. Continuing our liturgical education, I share with you my response:

Congregations are called to be active participants in the liturgy by means of prayers, acclamations, and singing. The reasons we learn new songs to complement the ones we have learned before are all connected to this congregational imperative, but the basic reasons for a broad and ever-changing congregational repertoire are these:

First, there is the formal reason, a concept the Church calls *progressive solemnity*, in which the style and amount of music varies depending on the level of solemnity (or celebration). The greater feasts and liturgical seasons call for music that is capable of expressing greater solemnity. As a consequence, the settings of the parts of the Mass assigned to the congregation—the Gloria, Alleluia, Holy, Amen, Memorial Acclamation, and Lamb of God—are called to be more celebratory during the Easter and Christmas seasons than in Ordinary Time, when we might sing a simpler setting.

Practically speaking, this means that we need a variety of settings for different levels of solemnity. Usually Parishes have a single, most solemn setting that they use for the Easter and Christmas seasons (and, sometimes, Christ the King Sunday) with a variety of others for the differing needs of Advent, Lent, and Ordinary Time. Before the new Roman Missal texts were introduced, we were singing six different congregational settings of the Mass on a rotating, seasonal basis. With the change in the texts of the Roman Missal last year, we had

to retire all the familiar settings. We are in the process of learning new musical settings of the Mass texts, slowly building our way back up to five or six settings. We have learned two settings since October 2011, and we have recently embarked on our third. Since it takes time to learn each new setting, we will learn no more than two each year.

Second, it is important that we be open to the workings and guidance of the Holy Spirit made manifest in the new creations of authors and composers. The quantity of new texts and songs that cross my desk every week is quite staggering (and not a little daunting), but I think we have an obligation to delve into some of it as best we can. A mentor of mine likes to remind me that at one point “Amazing Grace” was new, and had pastors and musicians not taken the chance of choosing it as part of their Sunday morning music, we might never have had the opportunity to hear it, let alone be moved by it. Certainly, there has always been the need to let the cream rise to the top, musically speaking, but unless we sing the new songs, we won’t encounter those songs that eventually rise to the top, which bring us closer to God. The music ministry probably introduces a new song to the Parish every two or three months. Some of these songs have found a firm place in our Parish’s regular repertoire; others have left the repertoire list quietly after a few singings.

Third, there is a need to honor the “big tent” that we worship under, recognizing that St. Thomas More is comprised of a diverse group of people and that our music must support everyone, as best it can, in their worship of God. It is for this reason that our music ministry offers a variety of musical forces at every



Mass: choir, praise team, cantor, handbells, flute, piano, and organ. It is also why we (congregation and music ministers) sing a variety of styles of music: hymns, contemporary praise songs, psalms, Gregorian chant, classic Catholic folk-style songs, and litanies. It is important to note, though, that the texts that are the most important consideration, and that, for the most part, all the words that we sing at Mass relate to the scriptures proclaimed at that liturgy.

Keep those questions coming!

—Douglas

A Prayer for Choosing Music

Loving God, give us the wisdom we need to choose the best songs, the ones that give us life, for you are the true song by which we always live. Amen.

Cynthia Serjak, RSM

Upcoming Music



DECEMBER 16
3rd Sunday
of Advent



5:00pm Mass

Sanctuary Choir

8:30am Mass

Praise Team

10:30am Mass

Handbell Choir

Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

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

Today is a RE.A.CH Sunday
at Church

PBJ Update

(Food for children at the Emergency Crisis Center)

2013 GOAL: 365 jars
Collected to date: 4 jars



*Our count begins again
with the new church year.*

Parents Parishioners

*Join us for the
Catholicism Series
Sunday,
5:00-6:30pm*

Part 4: MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

In this episode, Father Barron masterfully correlates the Catholic Faith's testimony to the revelation of God in Christ with the vivid practices of reverence offered to his Mother. Mary is explained as an on-going presence, an actor in the life of the Church.

Father Barron journeys to the humble remains of Mary's house in Nazareth, to the ruins of the ancient city of Ephesus and to the great Marian shrines of Lourdes and Guadalupe to explain the Church's teachings about Mary as the Mother of God, the Immaculate Conception and the dogma of the Assumption.

Fair Trade Christmas Table TODAY!

Youth Justice Foundation

The Youth Justice Foundation offers coffee and cocoa as well as chocolate today. These new products help farmers receive a fair wage for their labor. All of the products that the Youth Justice Foundation offers are harvested and grown by farmers that were paid fairly and happily.

Additionally, the Youth Justice Foundation's sales this month will help Casa de Amparo, an organization that works to treat and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Do You Know Jesus? or Do You Know ABOUT Jesus?

Marcus Cabrera

Hope, for a child, is that excitement on Christmas Eve to open presents and, eventually, get that pony. For a teenage girl, hope is that anxious anticipation for her high school crush to finally call her. Hope, for a young adult, is hunting diligently for that perfect career after years of hard work and improvement.

What do you hope for? In this Advent Season, do you hope for Christ with the excitement, anticipation, and diligence that used to highlight so many aspects of your life? Maybe you're experiencing a new kind of hope right now, but in every case, we all hope to arrive at something new and incredible.

This Advent let the new liturgical year fill you with hope for Christ as the greatest present, the greatest relationship, and the greatest vocation we can ever experience. That, at least, is my hope for you.

Having an intimate relationship with God is pure ecstasy. Knowing that no matter what, God will always be there for you, pushing you on and loving you through everything, gifting you with what you need to be happy and fulfilled. The best part is, if you allow it and work at it, your faith will only grow.

Megan House

The journey I take with Christ is one that forces me to remember that I am loved. The friends I have made because of Christ will become saints one day.

Julia Rodriguez



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

**"Truly I say to you,
whoever does not receive the kingdom
of God like a child
will not enter it at all."**

Luke 18:17

Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

Christian Stewardship and Christmas: Turning the World Upside Down

For women in the ancient world, motherhood was prized and desired above almost all else. Sacred scripture tells of many women who pleaded with God to let them conceive. From Sarah, the mother of Isaac, to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, the Bible is replete with women who finally, in old age, were granted the gift of motherhood for which they had begged God.

How marvelously significant it is, that in the town of Nazareth those many years ago, a young girl named Mary, unmarried and probably feeling altogether unready for motherhood, was visited by an angel who delivered God's plea: would she give God a child? Mary's response is a model *par excellence* for all those who aspire to be good stewards: "Behold, I am the Lord's servant. Let it be done to me according to your word" (Lk. 1:38).

And so the real mystery and beauty of Christmas is delivered: God turns the world upside down. In the words of the *Magnificat*, Mary proclaims the hope of every good steward: "My soul magnifies the Lord" (Lk. 1:46). He has dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart, lifted up the lowly, filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

Here is a new understanding of the God who desires not our begging and our pleas, but our 'yes' to God's invitation to be active stewards in His plan of salvation. For the Christian steward, the consumerism, the gaudiness, the excesses of our cultural Christmas can be overcome by answering the call to live simpler lives, to use less, to feed the poor, to quiet ourselves in stillness rather than grow louder in frenzied activity.



In her book *The Vigil: Keeping Watch in the Season of Christ's Coming*, Professor Wendy Wright from Creighton University writes: "The ancient desert dwellers of our early Christian communities tell us that the surest way into the heart of God is to be still. In

being still we learn to be attentive to the vast and hidden stillness that permeates all things."

In a world which prizes and desires wealth above so many things, the Christian steward finds in the stillness the true hope which lies at the heart of Christmas. Christ has come, and he comes again and again, and finally in the end, Christ comes. Once again, God implores us to receive this child in the stillness of our hearts, and respond to his call to transform the world's values—to turn the world upside down.

—ICSC Parish e-bulletin, December 2012(with permission)

*"Behold, I am the Lord's servant.
Let it be done to me according to your word."*

—Luke 1:36

HELPFUL YEAR-END PLANNING TIPS GOT DEDUCTIONS?

2012 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 25, 2012-January 2, 2013. Please contact the office BEFORE December 25 to make arrangements if necessary.**
- ◆ Donations received the weekend of December 29-30 (or on December 31), will be credited in 2012.
- ◆ **Envelopes POSTMARKED by Monday, December 31, 2012 will be credited for the 2012 tax year.**
- ◆ **Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA)** ~ If you have a balance due on this year's ACA pledge, please complete payments by December 31, 2012. (*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. Please confer with your tax consultant for more information.

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

All gifts to St. Thomas More are deeply appreciated!

Collection for Week of December 1/2, 2012

Number of Registered Households		1,039
Offertory*	\$	17,975.50
Offertory (Loose Collection)		1,275.00
Children's envelopes		3.00
Total	\$	19,253.50

* 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.

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

The Center for Christian Spirituality at the University of San Diego has a great line up of fall events. Visit www.sandiego.edu/ccs for more details.

Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center in Oceanside has an ongoing schedule of retreats. Visit www.sanluisrey.org for more details. Upcoming events include a Retreat December 14-16 on St. Francis and the First Live Nativity.

St. Patrick Catholic School in Carlsbad—accepting applications for the 2013-2014 school year (kindergarten through eighth grade). For more information, contact Cynthia Orozco, Registrar at 760-729-1333.

Casa de Molina/Friends of the Poor Annual Children's Christmas Party—Saturday, December 15, 4833 Morning Canyon Rd., Oceanside, 12:00-2:00pm. Parishioner Vicky Molina and her family and friends have been hosting this event for over 25 years. They can use help with time, money, and/or toys. If you are interesting in participating, please contact Vicky at motherV5@cox.net or 760-630-1983.

Fifteenth Annual Divine Mercy Conference—February 8-9, San Juan Diego Center at Mission San Antonio De Pala, 3015 Mission Rd., Pala. For more information, contact 619-276-6637 or www.SDdivinemercury.org.

Magnificat Women's Group—Saturday, February 23, 9:30am-12:00noon, Sheraton Hotel, 1433 Camino Del Rio S., San Diego. Speakers will be Jason and Crystalina Evert. For more information, contact 619-701-2718 or www.magnificat-sd.org.

Support Group for Separated/Divorced—An ongoing support group meeting Sundays at 10:15am at St. James Catholic Church

in Solana Beach. For more information, contact Frank Grant at 760-533-1520 or fwgrant@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed at Birth Choice of Oceanside—Training provided for those interested in volunteering as counselors for this pro-life, Christ-centered pregnancy resource center offering free pregnancy testing, ultrasound, and options counseling for women in crisis. For more information, contact Mary Rose Stearns at 760-434-5063 or mrstearns@birthchoice.net.

Pauline Books and Media—5945-B Balboa Ave., San Diego, carries a wide selection of gifts, books, and bibles—great for First Communion and Confirmation gifts. For more information, contact 858-565-9181.

Catholic Singles Organization—The Catholic Alumni Club International is expanding into the San Diego area. Visit www.caci.org for more information.

24/7 Catholic Radio—AM 1000—San Diego

Free program guides and bumper stickers available from our Parish ambassador on the Plaza after weekend Masses.

Visit ihradio.com/sandiego

Catholics Come Home

Do you have a family member, friend, or co-worker who has left the Catholic Church? If so, encourage them to visit www.CatholicsComeHome.org.

Young Adult Ministry Activities

Visit www.yamsd.org for complete information on events for young adults, including *Theology on Tap* series, Christmas Gala on December 8, New Year's Eve Celebration on December 31, and outreach projects.

Also, search *Office of Young Adult Ministry* on Facebook.

News from St. Francis Church

Let your child reach out and discover the world

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

For 30 years, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School has shown the world to thousands of children through the window of our preschool! With classes for two-year-olds through pre-K, our program allows children to discover and develop in a warm, loving, Christ-centered environment.



Is your child ready for preschool? We offer a variety of part- and full-time programs to accommodate your child's needs. Limited space is currently available and applications for the 2013 school year will be out soon.

Find out more about our programs by calling preschool director, Jennifer Paino at 760-630-7964 or visit www.sfs-vista.org.

St. Thomas More Parishioners are extended the same benefits and rewards as St. Francis Parishioners.

Marriage & Family Life Corner

The Bishops' Letter on Marriage—A Natural and Spiritual Blessing: "While marriage is a special blessing for Christians because of the grace of Christ, marriage is also a natural blessing and gift for everyone in all times and cultures. It is a source of blessing to the couple, to their families, and to society and includes the wondrous gift of co-creating human life." To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

Marriage Moments— "Love is work. It's good work, if you can get it. But it's work, nevertheless." (Benjamin Cheever) What's the first work project that you and your spouse took on together—painting a room, washing the car, repairing a window, learning better communication skills? What's difficult about working together?

Parenting Pointers— "Rejoice, Mary...The Lord is with you...You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus." (Lk 1:28-31) Ponder when you first learned that you were pregnant. (Fathers, try identifying with Joseph hearing this news.) Pray for women with difficult or unexpected pregnancies today.

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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Parish Contacts

Updated 11/18/2012

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)..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
- 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 Marcus Cabrera 760-758-4100 x161
- High School Youth Ministry Marcus Cabrera 760-758-4100 x161
- Women's Ministry/Fellowship..... Shannon Oswald 760-889-1469
- Men's Fellowship..... Dcn. John Fredette 760-758-4100 x132
- Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Regina Aulisio 760-295-5530
- Vocations Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 760-727-8442
- RCIA..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110

LiturgyKathy Arciero 760-231-1022

- Altar Linen Care Anna Meyers 760-727-4998
- Art & Environment Kathy Arciero 760-231-1022
- Bereavement Facilitator Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- 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
- Sick & Homebound (*Eucharist*). Jean McCloskey 760-758-4100 x100

Marriage & Family Life Jen Frost 858-692-7438

- ACTTS Young Adults Jen Frost 858-692-7438
- 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

- Historian..... Brandon Oswald 760-845-5450
- Knights of Columbus Jim Baker 760-726-2807
- Social Activities Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100
- Spirited Seniors Judy & Jerry Buoniconti 760-758-5113
- St. Thomas More Gala Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
- Treasures Flea Market..... John & Wendy Murphy 760-497-6117
- Walking Ministry Diane Pal 760-815-2519
- Women's Guild Vera Bayliss 760-295-0059

Social Ministries Cherie & Greg Abrahms 760-598-6776

- Blood Drive..... Linda 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 Life Jane Kelleher 760-822-7041
- CPR/AED Classes..... Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414
- Disability Facilitation Ann Eriksson 760-599-7151
- 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 Workers Cherie & Greg Abrahms 760-598-6776
- North County Solutions for Change (NCSC)
- Kevin & Lyn Leahy 760-643-0872
- Prayer Request Line Pat Wong 760-806-1310
- Norma Flanagan 760-630-0180
- Project Linus..... Mary Coxon 760-599-8760
- San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP)
- Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- Social Justice Committee Henri Black 760-758-8137
- St. Bonaventure Mission..... Dick Belprez 760-295-1431

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..... Jane Gladden 760-659-6168
- Sacrificial Giving/Tithing Paul Ibbetson 760-734-1051
- Scrip Sales Mike Nichols 760-727-7522
- Andrea Sweeney 760-216-6389
- Stewardship Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
- Vehicle Donations..... Diana Diaz 760-758-4100 x100
- Welcome Ministry Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120

Pastoral Staff

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Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance	760-758-4100 x151	joeg@stmoside.org
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Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician	760-758-4100 x102	lorrained@stmoside.org

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