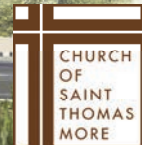


Church of St. Thomas More

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 16, 2012 • Third Sunday of Advent

Pastor's Column

Parish Advent Communal Penance Service:

The Sacrament of Reconciliation—God's Unconditional Love for Us!

In recent years, a name change has taken place with the "Sacrament of Confession." We no longer call the act "Confession," but rather "Reconciliation" and/or "Penance."

This name change better reflects what happens in this celebration. We do not go to the priest just to list our sins, have them forgiven, and receive a penance; but rather, and most importantly, we come to the priest to celebrate the forgiveness of God that we experience in our lives. We come to the Sacrament with a sense of joy for what God has already done in our lives and what God continues to do—showering us with unconditional love.

The verbalization of our sins, the verbalization of the words of absolution, and the acceptance of a penance are steps in the process of celebrating God's forgiveness and unconditional love for us.

If we are open to God's love, we begin to experience the many ways in which God forgives us our sins in the daily occurrences of our lives.

When we ask forgiveness from someone we have offended, our sins are forgiven. When we accept the forgiveness of another, our sins are forgiven. Each time we talk to God in the silence of our hearts and sincerely seek forgiveness from God, our sins are forgiven. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we hear the words of the priest shortly before the reception of Holy Communion—"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! Happy are we! We are called to His supper!"—our sins are forgiven.

So why go to the priest? We do so in order to celebrate the forgiveness of God we experience in our daily lives, to ritualize it,

(Continued on page 2)



YEAR OF FAITH 2012-2013

Upcoming Special Liturgies

Advent Reconciliation Service: Sunday, December 16, 4:00pm

Vigil of Christmas: Monday, December 24; Masses at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 10:00pm

Christmas Day: Tuesday, December 25; Mass at 9:30am

Our Mission is to: worship God,

Mass Schedule:

Saturday at 5:00pm; Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am;
Tuesday-Friday at 8:15am;
watch bulletin for holydays

Rite of Reconciliation (Confession):

Saturday from 4:00-4:30pm (or by appointment)

Eucharistic Adoration: Monday-Friday, 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)

sacramentalize it and, as in all things, to place our lives and God's involvement in our lives within the context of the Church, the Body of Christ.

The priest "stands in" for the community. As we verbalize our sins, we are mindful that there is no such thing as a personal sin. Our sins, no matter how personal we may think them to be, affect others—"No Man Is an Island." We live in community. Our lives always touch the lives of others.

Telling our sins, hearing ours sins from our own lips, helps us to be real and to acknowledge our weakness and our dependence upon God. It is so easy to rationalize our sinfulness when we talk to ourselves "in our heads." It is an entirely different experience when we hear ourselves verbalize our sinfulness. Those sins become much more real! We become much more aware and sensitive of our responsibilities to others.

The priest "stands in" for Christ. Hearing the words of absolution, the forgiveness of God, from the lips of the priest is indeed comforting. You know how wonderful it feels when a family member or friend says, "I love you!" In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we allow God to say those words to us in and through the person of the priest.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not something to be feared but to be celebrated with trust and confidence because of God's unconditional love for us.

This weekend, on Sunday, December 16 at 4:00pm our Parish celebrates its Advent Communal Reconciliation Service. In this Parish celebration, a number of our young people will be celebrating this Sacrament for the first time. Your presence will also be a sign of support to them.

About fifteen priest/confessors will be available for you. They will be in Church waiting for you so that through the words of absolution God will once again say to you:

"I forgive you and I love you unconditionally!"

Will you be there to hear God's words?

Fr. Mike

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

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 \$27,000
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 16 (9)
Third Sunday of Advent
 Zephaniah 3:14-18a
 Isaiah 12:2-6 (Psalm)
 Philippians 4:4-7
 Luke 3:10-18

Monday, December 17 (193)
 Genesis 49:2,8-10
 Psalm 72:3-4,7-8,17
 Matthew 1:1-17

Tuesday, December 18 (194)
 Jeremiah 23:5-8
 Psalm 72:1-2,12-13,18-19
 Matthew 1:18-25

Wednesday, December 19 (195)
 Judges 13:2-7,24-25a
 Psalm 71:3-6,16-17
 Luke 1:5-25

Thursday, December 20 (196)
 Isaiah 7:10-14
 Psalm 24:1-6
 Luke 1:26-38

Friday, December 21 (197)
Peter Canisius, priest, doctor
 Song of Songs 2:8-14 or
 Zephaniah 3:4-18a
 Psalm 33:2-3,11-12,20-21
 Luke 1:39-45

Saturday, December 22 (198)
 1 Samuel 1:24-28
 1 Samuel 2:1,4-8 (Psalm)
 Luke 1:46-56

Sunday, December 23 (12)
Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Micah 5:1-4a
 Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-45

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

Mary Alexander
 Lucia Ambriz
 Regina Aulisio
 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
 Brienne 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
 Mike Franchino
 Eugene Franciscus
 Kathryn Franklin
 Joe Freire
 Brian Frink
 Jim Gallagher
 Carmen Garcia
 Jack & Marge Gillen
 Rick Gonzalez
 Rosemary Haeffelin
 Nan Hallbick
 The Harker Family
 Elizabeth Harrison
 Barbara Hatem
 Lillian Hills
 Susan Hori
 Iolanda Iacobelli
 Linda Iacobelli Bennett
 The Kater Family
 Mike Kavanaugh
 Paul Kennedy
 The Kersey Family
 Peggy Kiernan
 Debbie Kinney
 Dewey Kolbo
 Helen Kuhn
 Lillian Lachance
 The Lamelin Family
 Donna Lanzrath
 Roland & Christopher Lawrence
 Brandon LeBlanc
 Jeremiah Lemus
 Jeffrey Leonardi
 Claudia Leué
 The Paul Leué Family
 Domini Levi
 Ashley Load
 Cassandra Loretto
 Lauren Loretto
 Richard Lynn
 James MacArthur
 Joaquin Maldonado
 Angelo Marrone
 Chandler May
 Bob McWilliams
 Joyce Meehan
 Kalei Mendiola
 Bill Metzger
 Robin Mickle
 Phyllis Minaya
 June Mitchell
 June Montgomery
 Nancy Moore
 Elizabeth Muehlbacher
 Conrad Murphy
 Margie Myers
 Richard Obsitnik
 Bernadette Padovan
 Helen Pingtella
 Marilyn Pirkola
 The Pitesa Family
 Douglas Price-Williams
 Barbara Ramm
 Josie Ramos
 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 Softau
 Fred & Gilda Spiegl
 Darek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski
 Patricia St. Pierre
 Dorothy Staehr
 Ted Stanislawski
 Pete Sullivan
 David Sweet
 Tommy & Ginger Thompson
 Valerie Thompson
 Sarah Tillinghast
 William Tompson
 Stephen Toth, Jr.
 Mary Tysko & Family
 Barbara Upson
 Ethel & Bob Vanderhagen
 Robert 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 16 Parish Reconciliation
Service at 4:00pm
- Dec 18 Spirited Seniors
Winter Luncheon
- 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

Questions? Contact Henny at
 760-758-4100 x100
hennyj@stmoside.org

Mass Intentions
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 ☩
Tuesday, December 18, 8:15am Bud Hazlett ☩
Wednesday, December 19, 8:15am Mr. & Mrs. William Baker ☩
Thursday, December 20, 8:15am Albert Fleeman ☩
Friday, December 21, 8:15am Christie Elliott
Saturday, December 22, 5:00pm Eunice Masseth ☩
Sunday, December 23, 8:30am William Zynda ☩
Sunday, December 23, 10:30am Zoe 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
 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

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 17 Sr. Irma Leticia Campos, SJS
December 18 Sr. Dolores CarlosCoutu, OLVM
December 19 Sr. Mary Lou Carlson, OSF
December 20 Sr. Maria Casas, SJS
December 21 Sr. Margaret Castro, SFCC
December 22 Sr. KyungAh Chang, RSCJ
December 23 Sr. Abigail Chavez, SJS

Welcome New Parishioners

Joe & Tracy Garcia

Announcing the Baptism of

Ethan Elliott Childers

on November 25

at St. Mary of the Assumption Church
in Santa Maria, California



Our Christian community welcomes you with great joy!

Advent Reconciliation Services at Local Parishes

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

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.

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.

Reminder: Sunday, December 16, is the last opportunity to place special orders for gift cards needed before Christmas. We will have in stock Scrip available to sell during the week and next weekend. December 23 is your last chance until January 3. Happy shopping!

Remember, Scrip is available for purchase FOUR ways!

1. On the Plaza after weekend Masses
2. Monday-Friday during business hours in the Parish Office
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!

As much as we try to be contemplative and live simply during the Advent Season, inviting Christ to enter more deeply into our lives, the expectations of our culture distract us! While we continue to try to allow this to happen, there is also hope for the future!

Begin your new year by entering into a process that will help you to live deeply and love broadly by signing up for Engaging Spirituality, which will begin at the end of 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. 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 or maureenb@stmoside.org.

Christmas Angel Ministry 2012-2013

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 • 4johnnysangel@cox.net • 760-724-1181

Save the Date! Thursday, January 3, 6:00-8:30pm Potluck and Interaction

St. Francis Parish, Father Ullman Hall
Sponsored by JustFaith Graduates

“Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you.” Matthew 2:13

From the time of Jesus and beyond, good people have fled their native lands for refuge, safety, and a better life. Let us gather as sister Parishes to reflect on our own stories of immigration and become more educated around two of the issues our Parishes are supporting that immigrants are needing today:

- DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)
- How promoting good community relations between immigrant communities and public safety officials can have a positive influence for all.

The building of community with migrants and new immigrants leads to a growing sense of solidarity. The bishop as pastor of the local church should lead the priests, deacons, religious, and faithful in promoting justice and in denouncing injustice towards migrants and immigrants, courageously defending their basic human rights. (Article 43)

—Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope (USCCB)

Parish Events

Women's Guild News

At our December Luncheon we celebrated St. Francis of Assisi and Italy. We had a strolling mandolin player, a great Italian lunch, good program regarding St. Francis of Assisi and lots and lots of door prizes. Thank you Mary Coxon for such a great program. We enjoyed the day!

After the holiday season, we are planning our annual "Chinese Auction" at our January luncheon. Look for more details later in the month. Also keep in mind February 16 when we will hold our Fashion Show at Shawdownridge Country Club. Much more details later as well.

Congratulations to the winners of our Christmas Raffle. They are: first prize—Monica Simler \$500, second prize—Ann Eriksson: \$300, third prize—Mary Glenane \$200.

The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot.
—Vera Bayliss, President

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.



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.

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

Two Weeks to Go!

Total Collected to Date

\$535,710!

† Generous and amazing! Special thanks to the 711 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.

† On Friday evening, January 25, from 6:30-8:30pm, we are presenting an Informational evening with:

◆ Renzo Zechetto, Architect;

◆ Robert Habiger, Interior Design Consultant; and

◆ Lynn Kircher, Artist (designer of our crucifix corpus).

RESERVE THE DATE!!! There will be updates on all of our progress, plus wine, cheese, and delectables for everyone.

www.stmoside.org; click on Our New Church.
Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development
760-758-4100 x120 or chris@stmoside.org

Vocations

In today's second reading, Paul says "Rejoice in The Lord always. I say again Rejoice!!" As we await the coming of Jesus, we should do so in joyful anticipation...and listen to Him calling. Is our Lord calling you to serve Him as a priest, deacon or religious? If so, fear not, but listen to the call joyfully and rejoice. If you wish to explore God's calling, contact Deacon Tom at thomasgoeltz@aol.com or 760-727-8442. Listen for God's call and REJOICE!!!

Liturgy & Music

Worship God

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

A PRAYER FOR THE FINAL DAYS OF ADVENT

The **O Antiphons** are Magnificat antiphons used during the last seven days of Advent. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the O Antiphons are sung or recited at Vespers from December 17 through December 23. Each antiphon is a name of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture.

The Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a definite purpose. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one—*Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia*—the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, meaning, “Tomorrow, I will come.” Therefore Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us: “Tomorrow, I will come.” We pray...

Upcoming Music

✕

DECEMBER 23
4th Sunday of
Advent

✕

5:00pm Mass

Praise Team

8:30am Mass

Handbell Choir

10:30am Mass

Sanctuary Choir

✕

DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve

✕

4:00pm Mass

Praise Team

6:00pm Mass

Cantor and
Congregation

9:30pm

Caroling

10:00pm Mass

Sanctuary Choir

✕

DECEMBER 25
Christmas

✕

9:30am Mass

Sanctuary Choir



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

Come and set us free.



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

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

Amen

Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

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

We Celebrate



FORGIVENESS

Sunday is our Parish's communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 4:00pm. All Parishioners are strongly encouraged to attend, not only for our own experience of the forgiveness of our loving God, but also to bear witness and celebrate with our children who approach this Sacrament for the first time.

Briana Michelle Avila
Davis Caroline Berry
Alexis Marie Breier
Elizabeth Marion Bush
Ethan Childers
Olivia Dianne Doyle
Alexander Paul Granata
Matthew Adam Green
Nathan Andrew Green
Mercedes Elizabeth Hartdegen
Isabella Linda Hernandez
Diego Manuel Holguin
Dominic Joseph Holguin
Liano Tennessee Lazo
Maximilian Gregory Mendiola
Riley James Minter
Joven Ethyn Morente
Eamon Newsome
Abigayle Heitman Paliotti
Isabella Renee Rocha
Ian Schiller
Luke William Socha
Jack Henry Solari
Isaiah Kyle Santos Tallod
Michael Thomas Townzen
Owen Jay Zack

Sunday is a RE.A.CH Sunday
at Home
Check your Annual Plan

PBJ Update

(Food for children at
the Emergency Crisis
Center)

2013 GOAL:
365 jars

Collected to date
5 jars



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

What do Joy and the SAT test have in common?

Alacrity, burgeon, and rhapsody are what you might call "SAT words." They're complicated and nobody uses them—unless of course, you do.

Unfortunately, we also don't use "joy" anymore. We are happy, so happy, and very happy, but we are never *joyful*. Why then, unlike SAT words, do we still hear about joy even though we never use it? Why should the pink candle on the Advent wreath stand for a word we don't use?

Because joy is *transcendent*—another SAT word.

Joy extends beyond the limits of experience and it permeates our lives even when we aren't aware. We cannot deny what we are, even if we forget. We are joy, even if we've forgotten what that timeless happiness feels like. We are God's incredible, joyful, and vibrant image, and as Advent progresses, we need to rediscover what that means.

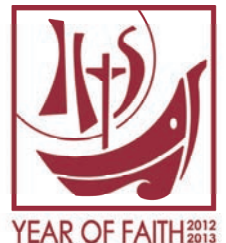
That's a fancy way of saying that there's more to you and me than we understand, so don't let this week escape us like others before it. Discover your joy in Christ Jesus, who is also timeless. Don't pretend you know. Don't assume you know enough.

By the way, *alacrity* means eagerness and enthusiasm, *burgeon* means to grow and flourish, and *rhapsody* means an overflowing feeling of ecstatic expression. I hope you find them, now that you know.

*You can bury your joy,
forget your joy,
and skew your joy,
but in the end
there it is.*

—Unknown

Marcus Cabrera, Youth Advocate
marcusc@stmoside.org, 760-758-4100 x161



Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

Keeping Christ in Christmas by Feeding the Littlest Ones

The wonderful joy we feel in December as we await the coming of the Christ child is not so joyful for the millions of children in the United States who will go hungry this Christmas.

In every community in the United States where a county election commission announced the results of last month's historic elections, children woke up hungry. They spent the day hungry. They went to bed hungry. In fact, more than 8 million children go to bed hungry every night (see "America's Report Card 2012: Children in the U.S." by First Focus and Save the Children).

As many as 17 million children nationwide are affected by food insecurity, a phenomenon defined by experts as inconsistent access to enough nutritious food to live a healthy life.

The consequences and costs of child hunger are severe. Research shows that lack of nutrition can permanently alter a child's brain architecture, stunting intellectual capacity and a child's ability to learn and interact with others. With hunger comes more frequent sickness and higher healthcare costs; not to mention the resulting societal costs later on.

Many children will not enjoy a bountiful meal on Christmas day, or any day, and for many, there may be no festivities, no tree, no gifts. Christian stewards understand the obvious paradox as they celebrate the Incarnation of Christ as an innocent child.

Finding comprehensive remedies to hunger in the United States and worldwide is complex, subject to debate, and transcends politics and ideologies. But what is not subject to debate is the fact that Catholics don't let children go hungry. Good stewards are motivated by the words of Blessed Mother Teresa: "Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person."

Like the Good Samaritan, good stewards do not avert their eyes from the needs of the littlest ones who suffer in our own communities and neighborhoods. They know they are called to reach out. Blessed Mother Teresa also said: "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

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

To all who participate in our Christmas Angel Program, chaired by Marti & John Harper, **thank you!** A loving job well done!



To all of you who continue to bring food in weekly for our Interfaith food bins, jars of peanut butter for Catholic Charities, dinners for Solutions for Change families, pies for Brother Bennos, and more, **thank you!**

You are the Body of Christ ~ Chris

One way to keep Christ in Christmas is to Be Christ to a hungry child.

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 8/9, 2012

Number of Registered Households		1,040
Offertory*	\$	7,098.46
Offertory (Loose Collection)		1,380.00
Children's envelopes		2.00
Total	\$	8,480.46

* 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.

San Diego Habitat for Humanity Providing Homes for Wounded Veterans—For more information, contact Sheyna Hensley at 619-283-4663 x314 or ShaynaH@sdhfh.org.

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.SDdivinemeracy.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.

Foster Children Need Advocates—Voices for Children is looking for volunteers to be Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). Information meetings on May 22 and June 6. For more information, call 858-598-2235 or visit www.speakupnow.org.

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

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—What Is Marriage?: "Marriage is a lifelong partnership of the whole of life, of mutual and exclusive fidelity, established by mutual consent between a man and a woman, and ordered towards the good of the spouses and the procreation of offspring." To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

Marriage Moments— "Mary set out and traveled to the hill country." (Luke 1:39) During the upcoming Christmas season many travel to be with family. If you're traveling or receiving visitors this Christmas, let the children lift your hearts with joy. It's not just about presents but your presence to them.

Parenting Pointers—One of the Spiritual Works of Mercy is to "forgive offences willingly." (Mt 6:14) Christmas is generally thought of as a family time, but the hectic pace that precedes it and family gatherings can also be a time of conflict and hurt. Teach your child to forgive siblings, classmates, neighbors. Do it yourself.

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 12/12/2012

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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Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development	760-758-4100 x120	chriss@stmoside.org
Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance	760-758-4100 x151	joeg@stmoside.org
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Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper.....	760-758-4100 x104	nataliep@stmoside.org
Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician.....	760-758-4100 x102	lorrained@stmoside.org
Brian Leahey, Director of Construction.....	760-758-4100 x152	brianl@stmoside.org

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