

# 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 23, 2012 • Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 25, 2012 • Christmas—The Nativity of the Lord

## Pastor's Column

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 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.

*(Continued on page 2)*



YEAR OF FAITH 2012-2013

### Upcoming Special Liturgies

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

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

Mary the Mother of God: Monday, December 31, Mass at 5:00pm and Tuesday, January 1, 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)

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!

*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

### Retirement Fund for Religious Share in the Care

Envelopes were attached to the bulletin earlier this month 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](http://retiredreligious.org)

### Eucharistic Adoration



Monday-Friday • 6:30am-7:30pm  
Blessed Sacrament Chapel

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

### 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 \$27,000  
from this program. Thank you donors!**



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

**Readings for the Week Ahead**

Sunday Year C; Weekday Year I  
Readings online at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

**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

**Monday, December 24 (14)**

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

**Tuesday, December 25 (16)**

*Nativity of the Lord (during the day)*  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98:1-6  
Hebrew 1:1-6  
John 1:1-18

**Wednesday, December 26 (696)**

*Stephen, the first martyr*  
Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59  
Psalm 31:3-4,6-8,17-21  
Matthew 10:17-22

**Thursday, December 27 (697)**

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

**Friday, December 28 (698)**

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

**Saturday, December 29 (202)**

1 John 2:3-11  
Psalm 96:1-3,5b-6  
Luke 2:22-35

**Sunday, December 30 (17)**

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*  
Sirach 3:2-6,12-14  
Psalm 128:1-5  
Colossians 3:12-21  
Luke 2:41-52

**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  
Angelo Barro  
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  
Marti Dawson  
Beverly de Gelder  
Stephanie de Villeneuve  
Brendan Devlin  
Ryan Devlin  
Judith DiMatteo  
Art Dossman  
Dave Dossman  
John Drzakowski, Jr.  
La Vonne Dumas  
Connor Eberhard  
Carolyn Erickson Ey  
The Eriksson Family  
Sharon Evans  
Lois "Boo" Falconer  
The Fiore Family  
Ryan Flum  
Mike Franchino  
Eugene Franciscus  
Kathryn Franklin  
Joe Freire  
Lyn Friedman  
Jim Gallagher  
Carmen Garcia  
Sally Garner  
Lois Garth  
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  
Mike Kavanaugh  
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 Leu e  
The Paul Leu e 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  
Marilyn Pirkola  
The Pitesa Family  
Douglas Price-Williams  
Barbara Ramm  
Josie Ramos  
Lisa Reaves  
Mrs. Jack (Shirley) Riley  
Rita Ritchie  
Adela & Elena Rivera  
Maria Rogers  
Dorothy Rouse  
The Russo Family  
The Ryan Family  
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  
Pete Sullivan  
David Sweet  
Tommy & Ginger 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](http://www.stmoside.org),  
Schedule and Calendar

- Dec 23 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
- Dec 24 Vigil of Christmas—Masses at 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 10:00pm (caroling at 9:30pm)
- Dec 25 Christmas Day—Mass at 9:30am
- Dec 30 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
- 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 8-9 Restaurant Fundraiser at Nucci's
- 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
- May 19 Confirmation
- 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

December 24	Sr. Katia Chavez, SJS
December 25	Sr. Ancilla Chen, SSS
December 26	Sr. Justine C. Church, MMS
December 27	Sr. Lucy Cisneros, SJS
December 28	Sr. CarolAnn Clark, CJM
December 29	Sr. Kathleen Clausen, OP
December 30	Sr. Marie Pascale Clisson, UCSC

**Mass Intentions**

Saturday, December 22, 5:00pm	Eunice Masseth �
Sunday, December 23, 8:30am	William Zynda �
Sunday, December 23, 10:30am	Zoe Dorsa �
Monday, December 24, 4:00pm	Robert Hale �
Monday, December 24, 6:00pm	Carl Bechtold �
Monday, December 24, 10:00pm	Angelita Rasmon �
Tuesday, December 25, 9:30am	Anna & Luigi Luce �
Wednesday, December 26, 8:15am	George Ken Walker �
Thursday, December 27, 8:15am	Cairo Salvatierra �
Friday, December 28, 8:15am	Colleen Bechtold
Saturday, December 29, 5:00pm	Arny Velasco �
Sunday, December 30, 8:30am	Don Miller �
Sunday, December 30, 10:30am	Candelaria Montecelo �

**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  
Dewey Kolbo  
Chaplain Van Dinh  
Lance Corp. Brandon Doyle, USMC  
StfSgt Evans Formica, USMC  
Grant Fischer  
MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC  
Sgt. Alex Garcia  
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  
Msgr. Paul Weisinger, USMC  
Major Seth Wolcott, USMC

## Welcome New Parishioners

Robert & Margery Morill

## Congratulations to

**Henny & Mike Jocelyn**

who celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary 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 soul of:

**Irma Eriksson**, who died last week. Her Funeral services were celebrated in Sweden. Please keep her son Peter, daughter-in-law Ann, and her family in your prayers.

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

## Christmas Angel Ministry 2012-2013

Thank you, STM parishioners, for your overwhelming response to the call to help children and their families this Christmas season. Toys have been delivered to local charities and 52 families were adopted from Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital. Fr. Ken is smiling down upon us!

Now, the tree is adorned with golden crowns for our annual Birth Choice drive. Please bring your baby items the weekend of January 5-6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, and present them at the manger.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who have helped with this ministry. It would not have been possible without your time and devotion. Merry Christmas!

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

## 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.

## STM Scrip News

Thanks to everyone who shopped with Scrip this season!

**Reminder:** December 23 is your last chance to purchase in-stock Scrip gift cards until January 3. **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](mailto: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](mailto:maureenb@stmoside.org).

### 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](mailto:eriksson1@mindspring.com).



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

*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.

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

*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

From all of us at Women's Guild to all of you at St. Thomas More, have a wonderful Christmas holiday and Peace in the New Year. Remember, the best gifts in life will never be found under the Christmas tree! Those gifts are family, friends, kids, and the ones you love! May the New Year find your home filled with joy, your heart filled with love, and your life filled with laughter.

Look for announcements in the future bulletins for the next Women's Guild activity. We have a great schedule of events for you. See you in the New Year!

—Vera Bayliss, President

### Young Adult Group News

ACTTS (Adult Catholics in their Twenties and Thirties who Socialize) is partnering with the North County Young Adults group, which includes young adults from several North County Parishes. For more information or to get on the email list, contact [actts@stmoside.org](mailto:actts@stmoside.org) or visit [www.yamsd.org](http://www.yamsd.org).

### Rosary

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



### 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!”

### One Week to Go!

**Total Collected to Date**

**\$542,528!**

† Generous and amazing! Special thanks to the 716 dedicated households (69% 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 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 beginning of January.*

† **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).**

**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 [chriss@stmoside.org](mailto:chriss@stmoside.org)

### Vocations

In just a couple of days, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus. Our Savior has come to dwell among us. If his Christmas present to you is a calling to serve him as a priest, deacon or religious, and you wish to explore this vocation, contact Deacon Tom at [thomasgoeltz@aol.com](mailto:thomasgoeltz@aol.com) or 760-727-8442. May the blessings of our Lord be with you this Christmas and the coming new year!

# Liturgy & Music

Worship God

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

## CHRISTMAS

### A sense of the season

#### 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

Congregation

**10:30pm Mass**

Sanctuary Choir



**DECEMBER 25**  
Christmas Day

**9:30am Mass**

Cappella Choir  
Sanctuary Choir



CHRISTMAS

In this holy night, our Advent sense of hope and expectation comes to fruition. What is the meaning of this season of Christmas? It is a “season” because we celebrate not just this night, but many feasts and solemnities from the Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord until the Baptism of our Lord. All of these observances reveal the brilliance of the Incarnation. In our prayers, readings, and songs, we celebrate Christ who has come to be the Savior of the world—a gift, if you will, from our Heavenly Father who loved us so much, he sent his only Son so that we might have eternal life.

Our liturgical environment is not lavish, as we’ve all been inundated with décor at malls, gas stations, and fast food drive-ups; we need a sense of quiet joy. Our worship space features the beautiful painting, “Rose Window,” by Mary Castle. Our church chooses colors of white and gold to nobly announce Christmas joy. A new altar cloth, sewn by Charlene Buhlert, was added this year. Our treasured nativity inspires the wonder of Christ’s birth and the Incarnation

story. Please take a moment to visit, offer a prayer, and take a prayer card home to share with your family to bless your own crèche.

Thank you to all the Liturgical Ministers who work tirelessly to prepare all the special liturgies. In music and song, proclamation, welcome and sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure...each one helps bring us all closer to Christ.

In this Year of Faith, the Pope issued an Apostolic Letter proclaiming the Year of faith titled, “*Porta Fidei*” or “The door of faith.” He uses the “door” as an image of faith. Paul and Barnabas, returning after their missionary journey to different lands, sailed back to Antioch. “When they arrived they called the Churches together and related all that God has done with them and how he opened a door of faith to the Gentiles” (Acts 14:27). We are at the beginning of the days of Christmas, may you find ways to open the doors of faith for yourself and each other. As you look upon our worship space and gaze upon the images surrounding His birth may you find the light of Christ!

Come, welcome Christ, the Light of the world!

—Kathy Arciero  
Liturgy Chairperson



# Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

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

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:	15 jars



## Love!



The only man in history who could choose his destiny chose to suffer. Why am I reminding you of this so close to Christmas? Well...

As the baby Jesus stares into the eyes of the mother he created, felt the love that he invented, and lives in the world he soon will save, remember at what price this little baby will suffer for your joy.



Remember that this baby is on a mission to win you over by suffering for you.

Remember that as you chose to embrace spiritual death, godlessness, and pride, this baby chose to meet you there.

Remember that he chose you first, because none of us have chosen him. Out of love he created us, yet this little baby was not loved by the world he created. He chose to live among us precisely to die on our behalf.

This is the price of love. We children asked for roses, and because there was nothing to cut them off the thorny rose bush, our Father reached out with his bare hand and cut them for us.

Some people are apprehensive about receiving compliments because they don't know how to properly respond to them. I am sometimes guilty of this. Receiving compliments and gifts can be humbling.

However, as you unwrap presents this year, accept the loving truth that God destroyed himself on a cross for you. There's nothing you can say, no gift you can exchange, and no compliment to give that will match this present.

Just accept it with gratefulness and devotion.

*Merry Christmas.*  
**Marcus Cabrera**

# Youth Justice Foundation

## MAKING A LIST, CHECKING IT TWICE !

The Youth Justice Foundation thanks you for your support.

With proceeds from the Fair Trade Advent/Christmas Table we adopted a 7-year-old boy at Casa de Amparo, and purchased infant supplies and indoor and outdoor toys from their general wish list.

We also adopted a Camp Pendleton family of five from the Christmas Angel tree.

Four Youth Justice teens were joined by four elves from our parish who helped us to select just the right toys for everyone on our list.

HO HO HO!



# Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

## Celebrating Christian Stewardship ~ A Way of Life Getting Ready for Christmas

At this time of year, it is worth stopping to think about things that we cannot control, as many of these things are what make life so special. The love of family, the warmth and support of friends, the generosity of strangers, and the opportunity bequeathed to us by previous generations to live in a nation such as ours.

How beautiful is this gift of life, and as we have seen once again this past week, how quickly it can end.

As we come together in prayer, especially for those families who lost their loved ones so suddenly and sadly in Connecticut, we are still sick and in shock as we move forward with our lives.

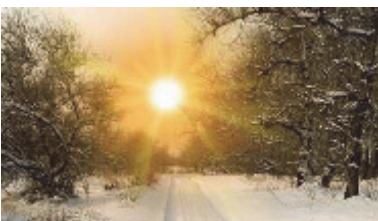
Many of you know about our two youngest grandchildren and how much they mean to me. Ava recently turned six years old and little Shawn is 18 months old. I update my "Grandma wall of pictures" outside of my cubicle (and inside) to keep them close to me in that way. Experiencing the gift of life again through the eyes of a child is the best gift of all. The thought of any harm coming to either of them is more than I can bear.

So now, still numb, we move forward with our busy routines, and added lists at this time of year. We do so with constant prayer going out to all those affected by any tragedy. We are secure in faith that God holds these precious ones close now in eternity, a much more beautiful place than we can imagine.

I heard it said on the news that one of best ways to move forward through grief, is to help make a difference in the lives of others. This, of course, takes time . . . but oh have I seen this more times than I can count since joining St. Thomas More! Through the vale of the darkness of grieving, eventually the light shines again with the promise of hope and the strength to carry on.

All of our stewards are precious in God's eyes, I might add. Christ calls us to live in the best way we can with the gifts bestowed on us. All of you, at this very special Parish, know this. For as numerous are our stewards so, too, are the reasons for our ministerial involvement.

*Our faith comes alive when we respond to God's gifts.* Each of us has the opportunity to hear God's call, and we only need to say "yes" to make a difference, not only in our lives, but in the lives of others as well. How often has God healed our hearts, blessed us abundantly and calmed the seas in our homes. God's love sustains us in good times and in bad times.



Now Advent draws to a close and we welcome the ultimate gift of the Christ child. I send you my warmest wishes for a Christmas filled with grace, hope and love! ~ *Chris*

*Behold, I come to do your will.*

## LAST CHANCE! YEAR-END PLANNING TIPS

### 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](mailto:chriss@stmoside.org)

**All gifts to St. Thomas More are deeply appreciated!**

### Collection for Week of December 15/16, 2012

Number of Registered Households		1,039
Offertory*	\$	7,233.27
Offertory (Loose Collection)		1,074.00
Children's envelopes		2.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,309.27</b>

\* 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](mailto: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 events. Visit [www.sandiego.edu/ccs](http://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](http://www.sanluisrey.org) for more details.

**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](mailto:ShaynaH@sdhfh.org).

**After-Abortion Healing Retreat for Catholic Women (or Catholic Friendly)**—January 11-13, St. Mary Retreat Center in Escondido. Given by Rachel's Hope. For more information, contact Leslie Brunolli at 760-745-2529 or [LBrunolli@yahoo.com](mailto:LBrunolli@yahoo.com) or [www.RachelsHope.org](http://www.RachelsHope.org).

**Foster Children Need Advocates**—Voices for Children is looking for volunteers to be Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). Information meetings on January 8 and 16. For more information, call 858-598-2235 or visit [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org).

**Anglican/Roman Catholic "Day of Dialogue"**—Saturday, January 19, 9:00am, Diocesan Pastoral Center, 3888 Paducah Dr., San Diego. For more information, contact 858-487-4317

**North County Magnificat Women's Group**—Saturday, January 19, 8:00am-12:00noon, St. Gabriel Church, Poway. Speaker will be Mark Price. For more information, contact Elise Botch at 858-436-4946.

## 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](http://www.sfs-vista.org).

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

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:fwgrant@gmail.com).

### 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](http://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](http://www.CatholicsComeHome.org).

### Young Adult Ministry Activities

Visit [www.yamsd.org](http://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.

### Marriage & Family Life Corner

**The Bishops' Letter on Marriage—Children:** "Marriage is not merely a private institution. It is the foundation for the family, where children learn the values and virtues that will make good Christians as well as good citizens. The importance of marriage for children and for the upbringing of the next generation highlights the importance of marriage for all society." To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

**Marriage Moments**— "Mary set out and traveled to the hill country." (Lk 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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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-12:00noon and 12:30-4:00pm

**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 & Evangelization .....Rory 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

**Liturgy .....Kathy 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

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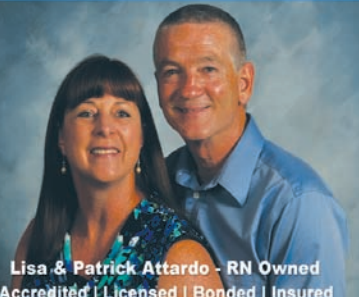

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