

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor Deacon John Fredette Deacon Thomas A. Goeltz

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

parishoffice@stmoside.org • www.stmoside.org

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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 30, 2012 • Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Pastor's Column

Feast of the Holy Family

I share with you this reflection written by Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio:

Every year right after Christmas, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. There is a reason for this. It's easy to think the "incarnation" means God took on a human body.

But there is much more to it than that. In Jesus, God unites himself to an entire human nature. He fully enters into human experience, with all its peaks and valleys. And a part of that human experience, with more than its share of peaks and valleys, is family.

Jesus spent over 90% of his years in the obscure nitty-gritty of family life. Though only a few chapters (of the New Testament) are devoted to this lengthy period, what they reveal is significant. First of all, despite the cuddly image of our nativity scenes, the original Christmas was anything but cozy. A woman nine months pregnant rides 75 miles on the

back of a donkey over bumpy, dusty roads so she can have her baby in a stable full of dirty, smelly animals. Quickly after the birth they have to pick up and flee for their lives, seeking asylum in a foreign land. A few years later, the now adolescent son goes missing for several days, and there ensues a conversation characterized by no little emotion. Joseph is a saint, Mary is without sin, Jesus is God incarnate, yet there are still challenges, difficulties, tense moments, and opportunities for misunderstanding. Welcome to real family life.

All things created by God are good, with human beings and human life **very** good according to Genesis chapter 1. Yet in assuming a human body, the Divine Word elevated its dignity, sanctifying it, and ennobling it. In accepting baptism from his cousin John, Jesus sanctifies water, and, in baptism, makes it an instrument of his sanctifying power. In entering into family

(Continued on page 2)



Upcoming Special Liturgies

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)

life. Jesus does the same. The family, up till now naturally good, becomes an instrument of sanctification and growth in

As a teen, I thought a serious pursuit of holiness required opting out of marriage to enter a monastery. Holiness was about lots of quiet prayer and apostolic work. Noisy family life was a distraction to all this. The role of married folks was limited to getting to Mass and the sacraments, obeying the ten commandments, and getting into heaven after a stay in Purgatory.

The feast of the Holy Family shows how far off-base I was. It reminds us, as Vatican II teaches, that all human beings are called to the heights of holiness. That all states in life, including student, teenager, and parent, offer abundant opportunities to grow in faith, hope, and love. That the nitty gritty of family life, if approached right, can be a road to profound personal transformation and communion with God.

Think about it. The creator of the universe spent most of his human life as a craftsman, working with dad in the family business and ultimately taking it over. Mary, the holiest of all creatures, spent most of her time changing diapers, cooking, and cleaning. The secret to holiness is not to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love and gratitude (Col 3:15-17).

The word seminary means "seedbed." It is a greenhouse where, in a sheltered environment, vocations can develop till they can not just survive in the real world, but bear fruit there.

The family is the original seminary. In its soil is sown the call to share in Christ's holiness and mission. Ironically, tending to seedlings causes the parent/gardeners to grow as well. So family, in God's plan, is a community where everyone has growing to do. Maybe that's why Colossians 3 talks so much about forgiveness and forbearance!

The bottom line is this—we don't become holy **despite** the hustle-bustle of family life, but in and through it.

> —Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio Crossroads Initiative www.crossroadsinitiative.com

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

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

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Readings for the Week Ahead

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

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

Colossians 3:1. Luke 2:41-52

Monday, December 31 (204)

Sylvester I, pope 1 John 2:18-21 Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 John 1:1-18 **Tuesday, January 1** (18)

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

Calatians 4:4-Luke 2:16-21

Wednesday, January 2 (205)

Basil the Great, Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors

1 John 2:22-28 Psalm 98:1-4 John 1:19-28

Thursday, January 3 (206) The Most Holy Name of Jesus

The Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 John 2:29-3:6

Psalm 98:1, 3-6 John 1:29-34

Friday, January 4 (207)

Elizabeth Ann Seton 1 John 3:7-10 Psalm 98:1, 7-9 John 1:35-42

Saturday, January 5 (208)

John Neuman, bishop 1 John 3:11-21 Psalm 100:1-5 John 1:43-51 Sunday, January 6 (20)

Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

Thank you for your prayers for BM2 Bobby Hartdegen, US Navy who has returned safely.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 29, 5:00pm Arny Velasco 🕆

Sunday, December 30, 8:30am Don Miller 🕆

Sunday, December 30, 10:30am Candelaria Montecelo 🕈

Monday, December 31, 5:00pm Lucio Cugini ♥

Tuesday, January 1, 9:30am Fr. Mike Ratajczak

Wednesday, January 2, 8:15am Bill Mazzarella 🕏

Thursday, January 3, 8:15am Gloria Price-Williams

Friday, January 4, 8:15am Kay Kutler 🕆

Saturday, January 5, 5:00pm Joey Vega 🕏

Sunday, January 6, 8:30am Roy Heath ♥

Sunday, January 6, 10:30am Cosmo Nocida ♥ 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 Brianne Campos Claudia Caplinger Thomas Carr 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 Judith DiMatteo Art Dossman Dave Dossman

Thomas Cornwell & Far Lené Crowe Karen Flaharty Daley Marti Dawson Beverly de Gelder Stephanie de Villeneuve Judith DiMatteo Art Dossman Dave Dossman John Drazkowski, Jr. La Vonne Dumas Connor Eberhard Carolyn Erickson Ey Sharon Evans Lois "Boo" Falconer The Fiore Family Ryan Flum Mike Franchino Eugene Franciscus Kathryn Franklin Joe Freire Brian Frink Jim Gallagher Carmen Garcia

Sally Garner Lois Garth Jack & Marge Gillen

Rick Gonzalez

Rosemary Haeffelin
Nan Hallbick
The Harker Family
Elizabeth Harrison
Barbara Hatem
Lilian Hills
Susan Hori
Iolanda Iacobelli
Linda Iacobelli Bennett
Sue Johnston
Mike Kavanaugh
Paul Kennedy
The Kersey Family
Peggy Kiernan
Debbie Kinney
Dewey Kolbo
Helen Kuhn
Lillian Lachance
The Lamelin Family
Donna Lanzrath
Christopher & Roland Lawrenc

Lillian Lachance
The Lamelin Family
Donna Lanzrath
Christopher & Roland Lawrence
Brandon LeBlanc
Jeremiah Lemus
Claudia Leué
The Paul Leué Family
Domini Levi
Ashley Load
Cassandra Loretto
Lauren Loretto
Richard Lynn
Sue Lyon & Family
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 Janelle Poull Douglas Price-Williams Barbara Ramm Josie Ramos Lisa Reaves Mrs. Jack (Shirley) Riley Rita Ritchie Adela Rivera Elena Rivera Maria Rogers Dorothy Rouse The Russo Family

Dorothy Rouse
The Russo Family
The Ryan Family
Kimberly Schlunt
Linda Schmidt
Bob, Joan, & Julie Shea
Richard Sikora
Jeanne Sisson
Beth Snyder
Mike Snyder
Mike Snyder
Nick Softau
Fred & Gilda Spiegl
Darek, Vanessa, & Elba
Patricia St. Piegra

Parek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski Patricia St. Pierre Dorothy Staehr Ted Stanislawski

Ted Stanislawski Pete Sullivan David Sweet Tommy & Ginger Thompson Sarah Tillinghast William Tompson Stephen Toth Ir

Stephen Toth, Jr.
Mary Tysko & Family
Ethel & Bob Vanderhagen
Robert Vasquez
Silvana Vettese
Vanessa Vitiello
Barbara Voelpel
Kevin Watson-Graff
John Whitton
The Williams Family
Helen Wodyka

Erin Young Patricia Zavala

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
PFC Samuel Haro, US Army
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

Calendar Highlights

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

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 Restaurant Fundraiser at Jan 8-9 Nucci's Jan 12-31 Stewardship Awareness/ Renewal RE.A.CH Classes at Jan 13 Church, including high school Catholicism Series Part 5 Jan 13 Jan 19 San Diego Walk for Life in Balboa Park Preview of Interior Church Jan 25 Elements Women's Guild Fashion Feb 16 Show at Shadowridge CC Mar 17 New Member Reception Apr 21 Towers of Faith Reception May 19 Confirmation Second Annual STM Gala June 7 Jul 15-19 Vacation Bible School: Kingdom Rock! Treasures 2013 Sep 21 Sep 29 Pastor's Dinner/Excursion Ouestions? Contact Henny at

760-758-4100 x100

hennyj@stmoside.org.

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.

Congratulations to

Cathy & David Blecki

who celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary December 30.

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:

Jack Williams, who died December 20. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, January 11, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep his wife Mary and his family in your prayers.

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

11 Days before Christmas 2012

'Twas 11 days before Christmas, around 9:38 when 20 beautiful children stormed through heaven's gate. Their smiles were contagious, their laughter filled the air. They could hardly believe all the beauty they saw there. They were filled with such joy, they didn't know what to say. They remembered nothing of what had happened earlier that day. "Where are we?" asked a little girl, as quiet as a mouse. "This is heaven." declared a small boy. "We're spending Christmas at God's house." When what to their wondering eyes did appear, but Jesus, their savior, the children gathered near. He looked at them and smiled, and they smiled just the same. Then He opened His arms and He called them by name. And in that moment was joy, that only heaven can bring; those children all flew into the arms of their King, and as they lingered in the warmth of His embrace, one small girl turned and looked at Jesus' face. And as if He could read all the questions she had He gently whispered to her, "I'll take care of mom and dad." Then He looked down on earth, the world far below; He saw all of the hurt, the sorrow, and woe. Then He closed His eyes and He outstretched His hand, "Let My power and presence re-enter this land!" "May this country be delivered from the hands of fools" "I'm taking back my nation. I'm taking back my schools!" Then He and the children stood up without a sound. "Come now my children, let me show you around." Excitement filled the space, some skipped and some ran. All displaying enthusiasm that only a small child can. And i heard Him proclaim as He walked out of sight, "In the midst of this darkness, I AM STILL THE LIGHT." —Attributed to Cameo Smith of Mt. Wolf, Pennsylvania

STM \$crip News

Thanks to everyone who shopped with Scrip this season!

Reminder: Scrip sales will resume on 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
- 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*..

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*.

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 Happy New Year and may peace be with you in 2013.

Our next board meeting will be January 7 at my house.

The next general meeting will be Monday, January 14, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. We will be holding our annual auction and serving a very different menu this time. Please join us. Call 760-295-0059 or 760-994-4427 for reservations.

Look for more announcements in the future bulletins, including for our Fashion Show in February. Save the date: February 16. Tickets will be on sale soon. We have a great schedule of events for you for this year.

See you soon!!

-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 or visit www.yamsd.org.

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 5-6, 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 • 4johnnysangel@cox.net • 760-724-1181

International Committee for Worker Justice News



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

One Day to Go!

Total Collected to Date \$548,015!

† Generous and amazing! Special thanks to the 716 dedicated households (69% of the Parish) who have helped us exceed our \$500,000 campaign goal!



- † Beginning January 1, 2013, we willb e moving into the "Mortgage Phase" of our building fund.
- † 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 later this week.
- † 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

STM Custom Calendars (\$2 donation)! Available Next Weekend—January 5-6 Check the Information Table

Vocations

The new year is upon us—a time for new beginnings. If this new year brings with it a calling to a vocation as a priest, deacon or religious and you wish to explore that calling, contact Deacon Tom at *thomasgoeltz@aol.com* or 760-727-8442. May God's blessings be upon you this new year!

Liturgy & Music



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

A GOD WHO GATHERS ALL

Scripture themes for January

by Patricia Datchuck Sánchez and Rafael Sánchez Alonso, excerpted from Celebration January 2013, with permission.

Even a cursory reading of the sacred texts for January affirms quite clearly that God's concerns are universal. Isaiah's insights, shared on the feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6), will put before our eyes the vision of a great cavalcade of nations being drawn toward Jerusalem and toward God. The Ephesians author and the Matthean evangelist will join Isaiah in celebrating the fact that every human who ever lived, and each one yet to be born, is known and loved by God and saved through the sacrifice of Jesus.

On the feast of Jesus' baptism (Jan. 13), Isaiah will sing the song of the chosen servant who was endowed with God's own Spirit to be a light for all nations. Through him, God's covenant with all people will be forged forever. Luke, speaking through Peter, will confirm God's universal embrace: "I see that God shows no partiality ... in every nation, whoever fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to God" (Acts 10:34-35).

As Ordinary Time begins, the sacred texts will speak again of the unity of this world's diverse peoples. All drink the same Spirit, insists Paul (Jan. 20, 27); all enjoy unique gifts and talents, but it is the same Spirit who enlivens each for the sake of the entire body of Christ. When Jesus, who is the head of this living, breathing body, began his public ministry, he claimed for himself the role of the Isaian Servant, and by the power of that Spirit, he preached the good news to the poor, proclaimed liberty to captives, healed the sick and freed the oppressed regardless of their race, sex, social status or religious affiliation. As we go through this liturgical year, the Lucan evangelist will make sure we remember that God's embrace is universal; so was Jesus', so must be our own.

In his consideration of God's universal care, Walter Brueggemann has said that God is essentially a gatherer, and we, who are exiles and sojourners on this earth, are in desperate need of being gathered unto God (Mandate to Difference, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, Kv.: 2007). Ours is an exile-producing culture, insists Brueggemann; we tend to reject those who are different or whose values and lifestyles do not mesh with our own. These exiles-the poor, the immigrant, the stranger, the addicted, the sick, as well as those who are gay, lesbian, or transgender—are frequently ostracized. Women also are exiles, in that they are barred from sharing fully in the ministry of Jesus and the church. Ours is a God who gathers; our God has a universal embrace. Unfortunately, the ministry and missiology of the church has not always kept pace with the magnanimous character of the God it preaches. The church has not always been the champion and protector of the exiles on this earth.

But this is a new month and a new year, and by God's good patience and gracious mercy, stretched out before us is a new opportunity to cultivate the character of our God, who gathers all unto life, light and salvation. As God's representatives, as God's images here and now, we are to be gatherers without bias or prejudice. We are to gather others to God without determining their worthiness or right to belong. Taking a cue from elsewhere in Isaiah's writings (Chapter 56), we are to gather foreigners and eunuchs and all others who will observe what is right and just, who will join themselves to God in covenant and keep each day holy. God promised those whom others would exclude, "I will give them a name [i.e., a new



existence, a new life] in my house, better than sons and daughters; an eternal imperishable name I will give them" (Isa 56:5). Do you remember the name God gave you when you were first gathered in? At various times, God has named us "Blessed," "Espoused," "My Delight," "Blessed One," "Bride," "Child." Jesus gathered us in and calls us "Brother," "Sister," "Friend," and "Disciple." Now, we, for our part, must do likewise. We must set aside racial slurs. stereotypes, and derogatory labels. No longer can we call another queer or freak, fanatic or infidel, illegal or alien, lazy or useless, unloved or unwanted. With this new year comes the privilege of beginning anew and repenting of past wrongs. With this new year, we redouble our efforts at being a gathering church rather than a church that creates exiles. Instead of simply rearranging our prejudices, we are to surrender them to the past and allow the universal character and the gathering nature of God to take hold and inspire our minds and guide our actions.

As this year begins, I remember that I am named "Loved," "Forgiven," "Graced," and "Redeemed."

What is your name?

Upcoming Music

JANUARY 1 The Octave of Christmas

Mary, the **Mother of God** 5:00pm Mass

(December 31) Cantor &

Congregation 9:30am Mass

Cantor & Congregation

JANUARY 6 **Epiphany** 5:00pm Mass

Cantor & Congregation

8:30am Mass

Handbell Choir

Sanctuary Choir 10:30am Mass

Faith Formation



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

Come Home for Christmas!

This is an invitation extended to all who worship with us in this Christmas season. If you are visiting family, if you live in the area, you are invited to get to know your Catholic faith in an updated and deeper way here at St. Thomas More parish.

Many of us drift away from our faith or have difficulty with how we understand some of the teachings of the Church. Come home to your Church this Christmas, even if it involves some forgiveness—perhaps in both directions.

No home, no church is perfect. It is simply a place where imperfect people treat each other with a kindness that no one has to earn.

Continue to worship with us on Sundays. Consider refreshing your knowledge and understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church by attending the remaining sessions of the Catholicism Series ~ an opportunity for a new and updated "look."

Please feel free to be in touch if I can help open the door to welcome you home.

Christmas blessings!





Sunday is a RE.A.CH day at Home

Next Church Session: January 13

Check your Annual Plan for Home Sessions



PBJ Update

(Food for children at the Emergency Crisis Center)

2013 GOAL: 365 jars Collected to date: **31 jars**

X Marks the Spot

A bishop, priest, and altar server were spending time playing cards. As the cards were dealt, they began wondering, "What would you do if Christ returned this very moment?" As cards were exchanged, the three of them mused over the question for some time.

"I would like to be found in an impressive archdiocese giving a spectacular homily," the bishop asserted. It certainly was impressive to imagine.

"I hope to be found in a hospital visiting the dying," shared the priest, true to his charitable nature.

The altar server's heart began racing. He had drawn a very good hand! After some silence, when the clergy rested contently on their ideas and sensing it was his turn to speak, the altar server said with more triumph than those before him, "If Christ returned right now, I hope to be winning this card game."

We love to place ourselves anywhere but the present. We scatter ourselves all over the place in our minds, in our lives, in our dreams, in our children, in *everything*. We spend more time living outside of ourselves that the idea of making New Year's Resolutions is laughable.

What part of us is left to keep these promises? What part of us is left to find God? After being swept away by the future, or buried in the past, what remains?

The resolution we should make is in ourselves—to find ourselves—not in another project or goal. Until we find the perfection and vibrancy that God has made within us, we'll continue looking to the ends of the Earth because we are too chaotic, too lost, or too frustrated to find life within ourselves. Another vacation, another electronic device, or another piece of clothing will distract us.

When Paul asks, *Don't you realize that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?* in 1 Corinthians 6:19, it's as if we have been given the location of buried treasure, and have refused to start digging.



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

Stewardship & Development



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

Christian Stewardship ~ A Way of Life Stewardship of Family

Many of us can relate to the multiple responsibilities that come with supporting a family. Couples and singles also deal with financial obligations and time constraints.

Joseph and Mary said *yes* to God, assuming the responsibilities of raising a family. They did this knowing that Jesus was only "on loan" to them by God and entrusted to their care. They faced a number of unexpected challenges, including flight from the comfort of their homeland to a foreign place.

As Joseph and Mary were tasked with taking care of the needs of their family so, too, we have been given the same responsibility to take care of our needs—and not always all of our wants.

Immediately following the commercialization and consumer oriented time preceding Christmas, we are flooded with more commercialization via "After Christmas" and "End of the Year" sales and bargains. For those who can afford it, these sales are an opportunity to practice Stewardship of Treasure. Shopping for bargains has almost become an art form in these days of economic strain and uncertainty.

One thing our family has learned over the years is that our most difficult financial periods are an opportunity to truly appreciate the most important things in life . . . those things money cannot buy. Our faith and faith community, family and friends and the opportunity to serve others are the most important things.

I appreciate each of you at STM, and the examples that you continually set for me and for one another. Thank you! —*Chris*

The Heart of Stewardship

About 12 years ago, I was given an insight into the true meaning of stewardship without ever realizing it until recently. My then two-year old son had his bath and was given a snack to enjoy. He



then came into the living room to watch television with me, he climbed up on the sofa and showed me his snack—an absolutely perfect pair. He then said to me, "Daddy, would you like the first bite of my pair?"

It was very nice of him to offer, but more importantly, he had hit on the heart of stewardship. Do we offer the first "bite" of our most precious fruit to God for all that he has given to us? Or, do we offer the second, third, or sometimes the core back to God?

It is important to ask ourselves these questions and to remember that stewardship is not just a new "buzz word" but a new way of life for us all.

—Stewardship, December 2012 Parish Publishing, LLC (with permission)

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

All gifts to St. Thomas More are deeply appreciated!

Collection for Week of December 22/23, 2012 Number of Registered Households 1,039

 Offertory*
 \$ 18,942.20

 Offertory (Loose Collection)
 1,268.50

 Children's envelopes
 2.00

 Total
 \$ 20,212.70

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 events. Visit www.sandiego.edu/ccs for more details.

Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center in Oceanside has an ongoing schedule of retreats, including a *Quiet Monday* on January 31. Visit *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*.

40 Minutes for Life in San Marcos—Sunday, December 30, 7:00pm, San Marcos Abortion Clinic, 120 Craven Rd. at Twin Oaks Valley Rd., San Marcos. An ecumenical holy witness held the fourth Sunday of each month. For more information, visit www.40minutesforlife.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* or *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*.

News from St. Francis Church

Electronic Recycling Event—January 19-20. For details and questions, contact *ptg@sfs-vista.org*.

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 **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 Magnficat 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.

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.SDdivinemercy.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*.

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, 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—Two Become One: "Marriage, the clinging together of husband and wife as one flesh, is based on the fact that man and woman are both different and the same. They are different as male and female, but the same as human persons who are uniquely suited to be partners or helpmates for each other. The difference between man and woman, however, cannot be restricted to their bodies, as if the body could be separated from the rest of the human person. The human person is a union of body and soul as a single being. Man and woman are two different ways of being a human person." To read the document go to https://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/.

Marriage Moments—As the close of the year draws nigh, is there anything you need to ask your family (especially your spouse) to forgive you for? Are there any relatives you need to forgive? It doesn't matter if you were right. Forgive anyway.

Parenting Pointers—What has your family done 500 times? (dinners together, loads of wash, bedtime prayers...) Have fun figuring out some more with your children.

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



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	Brother Benno's Collections Deacon Tom Goeltz 760-727-8442							
Walking Ministry	Stewardship							
Social Ministries Cherie & Greg Abrahms 760-598-6776 Blood Drive Linda Dicus 760-726-5081	Welcome Ministry Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120							
Pastoral Staff								
Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor	760-758-4100 x100 michaelr@stmoside.org							
Deacon John Fredette	760-758-4100 x132johnf@stmoside.org 760-758-4100 x100thomasg@stmoside.org							
Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate								
Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation	760-758-4100 x110 kathleenb@stmoside.org							
Marcus Cabrera, Youth Advocate	760-758-4100 x161 marcusc@stmoside.org							
	760-758-4100 x110 staceyg@stmoside.org							
	760-758-4100 x140							
	760-758-4100 x100							
	760-758-4100 x100							
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Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician								
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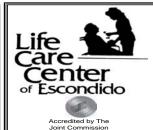
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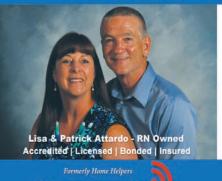
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Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. -- Matthew 2:13

Connect with the Holy Family by sharing your family's story of immigration and by listening to others' witness on challenges and successes they have experienced coming to a foreign land.

DATE: January 3, 2013

PLACE: St Francis Church, Father Ullman Hall

525 W. Vista Way, Vista

TIME: 6:00 until 8:30PM

Bring a dish to share, and share family stories or listen to others while you eat.

After we eat, short talks will be given to help us learn about what is happening in our two sister Catholic Communities on immigration.

Join us to learn more about:

- policies like DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and
- how promoting good community relations between immigrant communities and public safety officials can have a positive influence on everyone.

For more information, contact:

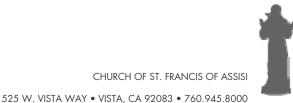
Marilyn Lilly at 760-598-3304 (St. Thomas More)

Kathy Valdez at 760-724-2898 (St. Francis)

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January 11-13, 2013 www.weekendofprayer.net

DID YOU KNOW THAT SLAVERY STILL EXISTS IN THE UNITED STATES? THIS IS INTOLERABLE AND THE CHURCH MUST LEAD THE EFFORT TO STOP IT.

Next weekend thousands of churches across the country will join together in prayers to help end human trafficking. Just as nineteenth abolitionists shown in the photos used prayer in their efforts, today's Christian abolitionist leaders believe the church must employ prayer and the guidance from God in the fight against modern day slavery.

Prior to next weekend we encourage you to take an hour to educate yourself about the slavery that exists right here in the United States, because knowledge is an important first step in prevention.

- To learn more about domestic sex trafficking in the U.S., visit: http://sharedhope.org/learn/what-is-sex-trafficking/
- For information on labor trafficking, visit: http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/labor-trafficking-in-the-us
- Access a free monthly newsletter at: www.stopenslavement.org/
- Learn how you can recognize possible signs that a person is a trafficking victim:

http://www.northstarinitiative.org/identifyreporttrafficking.htm

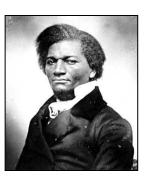
If you are a victim or are aware of a possible victim. please call (24/7) the toll-free National Trafficking Hotline to seek help:

1-888-3737-888

What did these nineteenth century abolitionist leaders have in common?







(William Wilberforce in England, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass in the United States.)

PRAYER!

We will use the power of prayer to fight 21st century slavery.

Friday, January 11, is Human Trafficking Awareness
Day, as declared by Congress.

Join thousands in prayer at noon your time.

Sample prayers can be found on our website:

www.weekendofprayer.net

Saturday, January 12: Join in a National Conference Call with key servant leaders in abolition & prayer movements. **9am-11am Eastern Standard Time.** Call 712-432-0075 & use access code 6149782 followed by the # sign.

At 2:00 p.m. on Saturday there will be a National Prayer Rally in Washington, at the Lincoln Memorial, streamed over the Internet on our Website. The keynote speaker will be Kenneth B Morris, Jr., who is a direct descendant of Frederick Douglass.

Sunday, January 13: This church will join thousands of others across the country in praying to end human trafficking

January 2013

January 2013							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1450 South N Oceanside	Thomas More Melrose Drive, , CA 92056 58-4100 hoside.org	Mary, Mother of God Parish Office and Chapel Closed 8:00 AM-Walking Ministry 9:30 AM-Mass	Parish Office and Chapel Closed 8:15 AM-Mass 7:00 PM-Praise Team	8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 7:00 PM-Sanctuary Choir	4 8:15 AM-Mass 9:15 AM-Communion Service (Emeritus @ O'side) 7:00 PM-Women's Ministry	4:00 PM-Reconciliation The Epiphany of the Lord 5:00 PM-Mass	
6 The Epiphany of the Lord 8:30 AM-Mass/RCIA/LOWC 10:30 AM-Mass/LOWC 12:00 PM-Baptisms 3:00 PM-Stewardship Appreciation Reception 6:00 PM-12 th Night at UMC-Vista	7 10:30 AM-Women's Guild Board Meeting 7:00 PM-High School Youth Group	Restaurant Fundraiser Nucci's Vista 8:00 AM-Walking Ministry 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 6:30 PM-Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-Baptismal Preparation Part I 7:00 PM-Interior Design Team 7:00 PM-Knights of Columbus	Restaurant Fundraiser Nucci's Vista 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Scripture Study 1:30 PM-Spirited Senior Board 5:30 PM-Prayer Hour 7:00 PM-College Night- Mission San Luis Rey 7:00 PM-Praise Team	8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 7:00 PM-Scripture Study 7:00 PM-Sanctuary Choir	8:15 AM-Mass 10:15 AM-Communion Service (Aegis) 7:00 PM-Men's Fellowship	Stewardship Awareness 4:00 PM-Reconciliation Youth Justice Chocolate Sales The Baptism of the Lord 5:00 PM-Mass	
Youth Justice Chocolate Sales Stewardship Awareness The Baptism of the Lord 8:30 AM-Mass/RCIA/LOWC 10:20 AM-RE.A.CH 10:30 AM-Mass 12:30 PM-RE.A.CH 5:00 PM-RE.A.CH 5:00 PM-Catholicism Series 6:30 PM-REACH High School Mini Course	Stewardship Awareness 11:00 AM-Women's Guild Luncheon 7:00 PM-High School Youth Group	Stewardship Awareness 8:00 AM-Walking Ministry 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 6:30 PM-Handbell Choir	Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Scripture Study 12:00 PM-SDOP Clergy Luncheon 5:30 PM-Prayer Hour 7:00 PM-Praise Team	Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 10:00 AM-Women's Guild Quilters 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 4:00 PM-Teen Bible Study 7:00 PM-Scripture Study 7:00 PM-Sanctuary Choir	18 Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass	Stewardship Awareness 6:45 AM-That Man Is You! 8:15 AM-Chair Set Up 8:30 AM-Liturgy Committee 11:30 AM-Confirmation Candidate and Sponsor Retreat 4:00 PM-Reconciliation 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 PM-Mass/Covenant Ritual	
20 Stewardship Awareness 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30 AM-Knights of Columbus Breakfast 8:30 AM-Mass/RCIA 10:30 AM-Mass 5:00 PM-Edge-Lite 6:30 PM-REACH High School Mini Course	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Parish Office and Chapel Closed Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 7:00 PM-High School Youth Group	Stewardship Awareness 8:00 AM-Walking Ministry 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 6:30 PM-Handbell Choir 7:00 PM-Baptismal Preparation Part II	Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Scripture Study 1:00 PM-Parish Social Justice Committee 5:30 PM-Prayer Hour 7:00 PM-College Night- Mission San Luis Rey 7:00 PM-Praise Team	Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 4:00 PM-Teen Bible Study 7:00 PM-Scripture Study 7:00 PM-Sanctuary Choir	25 Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 6:30 PM-Town Hall Preview of Interior Elements of Our Church	26 Stewardship Awareness 6:45 AM-That Man Is You! 4:00 PM-Reconciliation 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 PM-Mass	
Stewardship Awareness 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30 AM-Mass/RCIA/LOWC 10:20 AM-RE.A.CH 10:30 AM-Mass 12:30 PM-RE.A.CH 12:30 PM-Parent Meeting for First Eucharist 5:00 PM-RE.A.CH 6:30 PM-REACH High School Mini Course	28 Stewardship Awareness 7:00 PM-High School Youth Group	Stewardship Awareness 8:00 AM-Walking Ministry 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 6:30 PM-Handbell Choir	30 Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 5:30 PM-Prayer Hour 7:00 PM-Pastoral Council 7:00 PM-Praise Team	Stewardship Awareness 8:15 AM-Mass 9:00 AM-Donuts and Coffee 10:00 AM-Women's Guild Quilters 1:00 PM-Centering Prayer 4:00 PM-Teen Bible Study 7:00 PM-Sanctuary Choir			