

A Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of San Diego

- ♣ Spirituality
- ☆ Tradition
- **†** Community

Mass Schedule

Saturday at 5:00pm Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am Monday-Friday at 8:15am

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday-Friday, 6:30am-7:30pm

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday, 4:00-4:30pm

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor Rev. Karl Bauer, Senior Priest 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







Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Monday, December 9 Masses at 8:15am and 7:00pm

December 1, 2013 & First Sunday of Advent

Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100 michaelr@stmoside.org

Advent Awakening

Advent is a time for rousing.

Human beings are shaken to the very depths,
so that they may wake up to the truth of themselves.

The primary condition for a fruitful and rewarding Advent
is a renunciation, a surrender...
a shattering awakening; that is the necessary preliminary.

Life only begins when the whole framework is shaken.

—Alfred Delp

As we reflect upon our lives, and as we remember those tragic events—the sudden death of a loved one, an unexpected illness, financial failure, divorce, or betrayal—we know the truth of these words.

When we are shaken to our roots, when we need to "put it all together" one more time, we then experience our fragility and we see life once again, as for the first time.

When we surrender to this reality, we then begin to really live and take hold of life.

In the Gospel today, as we begin this Season of Advent, we hear Jesus say to us: "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

"The time," whatever that event may be, will come upon us, and shake us to our roots, maybe for the first time, maybe for the second, third, or fourth time.

Advent is meant to be a season in which we are to prepare ourselves in faith so that we continue to trust in God as we go through what we know we could not go through without God.

The only constant in life is change. All is transitory and imperfect. We are a people waiting for the return of the Lord. One day we will die and will have to give all back to God.

Advent, with the help of the Scriptures, offers an opportunity to reflect upon these realities.

Our present culture rallies against such thinking. These days before Christmas we "medicate" ourselves with parties, food, drink, gifts, and continuous busy-ness; and we do so relentlessly, more than during any other time of year.

It is a challenge, but let us attempt to infuse this Season with Advent reflection. May this be a time in which we do not run away from life, but a time in which we more fully embrace it, with all of its beauty, but also with all of its tragedy and pain.

May Advent shake us to our roots, once again!



2013 World Mission Sunday Collection \$1,647.23

"Did You Know?" Collection November 2013 \$1,192.00

Restaurant Fundraiser November 2013

Famous Dave's \$361.40 Chili's \$280.00

Typhoon Haiyan Relief Effort

"Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of our brothers and sisters affected by this powerful storm. To complicate this situation, Typhoon Haiyan follows on the heels of a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in the same region just a month ago. Citizens in this Pacific Island country are already displaced and have been hurt even more. The local government and church institutions cannot manage the magnitude of this disaster on their own. Those affected need our help." —Cardinal Timothy Dolan, President, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

The envelopes attached to the bulletin recently may be returned any time in the next few weeks.

Donate via mobile phone: Text RELIEF to 25383 to donate \$10.

Terms & Conditions: A one-time donation of \$10.00 will be added to your mobile phone bill or deducted from your prepaid balance. All donations must be authorized by the account holder. All charges are billed by and payable to your mobile service provider. User must be age 18 or older or have parental permission to participate. By texting YES, the user agrees to the terms and conditions. Service is available on most carriers. Message & Data Rates May Apply. Donations are collected for the benefit of the "CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES" by the Mobile Giving Foundation and subject to the terms found at www.hmgf.org/t. You can unsubscribe at any time by texting STOP to short code "25383"; text HELP to "25383" for help.

Advent Reconciliation Services at Local Parishes

Date	Time	Parish
Mon, Dec. 2	6:30pm	St. Mary Star of the Sea, Oceanside
Mon, Dec. 2	7:00pm	St. Margaret, Oceanside
Wed, Dec. 4	7:00pm	St. Patrick, Carlsbad
Thu, Dec. 5	6:30pm	St. James, Solana Beach
Mon, Dec. 9	7:00pm	Nativity, Rancho Santa Fe
Tue, Dec. 10	1:00pm	St. Francis, Vista
Tue, Dec. 10	6:30pm	St. Francis, Vista
Wed, Dec. 11	6:30pm	St. James, Solana Beach
Fri, Dec. 13	7:00pm	St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad
Sun, Dec. 15	4:00pm	St. Thomas More, Oceanside
Mon, Dec. 16	6:30pm	St. Mark, San Marcos
Tue, Dec. 17	7:00pm	St. John the Evangelist, Encinitas

Our Mission is to:

worship God,

teach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and serve God's people in word and deed.

Welcome New Parishioners

Linden & Cynthia Burzell & Family

Announcing the Baptisms of

Nicoletta Avalon French Thien-An Ha Tran



on November 30

Our Christian community welcomes you with great joy!

Congratulations to

Jack & Andrea Sweeney

who celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary November 27.

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

In Memoriam



Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Marion Smith, who died on November 20. Her funeral services will be in Eureka, California. Please keep her family, including her daughter, Theresa Berry, in your

prayers.

Dennis Baggett, who died on November 24. His funeral services are pending. Please keep his family, including his son Dennis, daughter-in-law Trina, and granddaughters, Molly and Grace, in your prayers.

Anthony McCloskey, who died on November 25. His funeral services are pending. Please keep his wife Jean, and his family in your prayers.

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

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.*

Community Service Numbers: 2-1-1 for human services information; 5-1-1 for traffic

STM \$crip News

Scrip has all your holiday needs covered. Remember to purchase Home Depot, Lowe's, Wal-mart, and Target gift cards before heading out to buy your Christmas trees and other decorations. And, don't forget your Christmas Angel shopping!

Remember, Scrip is available for purchase FOUR ways:

- 1. On the Plaza after weekend Masses
- 2. Monday-Friday during business hours in the Parish Office
- 3. Email at scrip@stmoside.org
- 4. Phone at 760-758-4100 x150

Orders may be picked up after Mass on the weekend or at the Parish Office during the week.

Readings for the Week Ahead

Sunday Year A; Weekday Year II Readings online at www.usccb.org.

Sunday, December 1 (1)

First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122:1-9 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:37-44

Monday, December 2 (175)

Isaiah 4:2-6 Psalm 122:1-9 Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 3 (176)

Francis Xavier, priest Isaiah 11:1-10a Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17 Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 4 (177)

John Damascene, priest, doctor Isaiah 25:6-10a Psalm 23:1-6

Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 5 (178)

Isaiah 26:1-6

Psalm 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a

Matthew 7:21,24-27

Friday, December 6 (179)

Nicholas, bishop Isaiah 29:17-24 Psalm 27:1,4,13-14 Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday, December 7 (180)

Ambrose, bishop, doctor Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26 Psalm 147:1-6 Matthew 9:35–10:1,5a,6-8

Sunday, December 8 (4)

Second Sunday of Advent Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17

Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 30, 5:00pm Livaneta Barbosa 🕆

Sunday, December 1, 8:30am Donald C. Post \$\P\$

Sunday, December 1, 10:30am Dante Tusei 🕏

Monday, December 2, 8:15am Jacinto Mangahas ♥

Tuesday, December 3, 8:15am Mary & Aiden Kilbride

Wednesday, December 4, 8:15am Paula Joseph ♥

Thursday, December 5, 8:15am Donn Wilmott ♥

Friday, December 6, 8:15am Jack Williams 🕆

Saturday, December 7, 5:00pm Barbara Czintos 🕏

Sunday, December 8, 8:30am Martin Stephen Lilly Jr. 🕆

Sunday, December 8, 10:30am Herman & Helen Ratajczak ♥ **Prayer List** (Call 760-758-4100 x102 to add a name for four weeks.)

Changa Aguilera Mary Alexander Carrie Autrey Colleen Ayers The Baggett Family Jose Luis Barbosa Patricia Barbour Clarice Bednarz John Bennici Regina Bentz Lisa Berg Roseanne Berg Mary Betz Betty Jean Bielich Beth Brewer Monica Broussard Janet Brown Todd Brown Anita Buerger Bridget Buford Tony Calderone Shelby Campbell Brianne Campos Claudia Caplinger Aria Cappeluti Paul Cassidy John Castagna Marilyn Clarke The Vaughn Clevenger Family Dolly Cole
Carl & James Coleman
Frank Corrigan
Carol Costa Steven Cresencia Lené Crowe Karen Flaharty Daley The Davis Family Beverly de Gelder The Delaney Family Carole Dillon Judith DiMatteo Art & Dave Dossman John Drazkowski, Jr. La Vonne Dumas Debbie Ebaugh Connor Eberhard Carolyn Erickson Ey Sharon Evans Theresa Farrell Victoria Lopez Fenton The Fiore Family Ryan Flum Ernie Follis Eugene Franciscus Kathryn Franklin Naturyii Frankini
Joe Freire
The Greg French Family
Jim Gallagher
The Joe Garcia Family
Kathy Gardner
Jack & Marge Gillen
The Gillen and Vasquez J The Gillen and Vasquez Families Wendy Gonzales' Dad Rick Gonzalez Rosemary Haeffelin Pat & Tom Hannon Barbara Hatem Heidi Heaton Peter Hill Lilian Hills Samara Hook Susan Hori Rick Hughes Iolanda Iacobelli Linda Iacobelli Bennett Courtney Jackman Betty Karch Laura Kater

The Keeffe Family Paul Kennedy

Peggy Kiernan Debbie Kinney Martha Knutzen

Dewey Kolbo Tony Korwin Helen Kuhn

Lillian Lachance The Lamelin Family Brandon LeBlanc

Jeremiah Lemus

Claudia Leué The Paul Leué Family

Sen Lew Ashley Load Cassandra & Lauren Loretto

The Magnus & Bosse Families

Joaquin Maldonado Paige Mansell Connor Marshall Connor Marshall
Alexander Mathews
Chandler May
The McCloskey Family
Bob McWilliams
Kalei Mendiola
Bill Metzger Phyllis Minaya June Mitchell June Montgomery Nancy Moore Elizabeth Muehlbacher Conrad Murphy Margie Myers
Richard Obsitnik
The Oey Family
Ethan Palm
Perry Postulka
Douglas Price-Williams
The Joe Proken Family The Joe Prokop Family Barbara Ramm The Reiter Family Jan Riley Rita Ritchie Adela & Elena Rivera Lily Robinson Maria Rogers Dorothy Rouse The Russo Family Cindy Sanelli Linda Schmidt Don Shaw Joan Shea Jack and Rita Shepard Elizabeth Shirzad Cary Slabaugh The Smith & Berry Families Nick Soltau Fred & Gilda Spiegl Darek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski Patricia St. Pierre Mike Sterling Leah Stevens Pete Sullivan David Sweet Julie Teare Tommy & Ginger Thompson Sarah Tillinghast Satian Trininghast
William Tompson
Stephen Toth, Jr.
The Trejo/Maldonado/Uribe Family
Barbara Upson
Lucy Vienna
Lucy Vienna Dorina Visciglio Vanessa Vitiello Kevin Watson-Graff Sue Welch John Whitton Marceline Williams Erin Young Patricia Zavala Martin Zschoche

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
CPL Greg Bergman
PFC John Brandone
Maj. Tom Browne, Jr., USMC
Corp. Willie Deel
Chaplain Van Dinh
Lance Corp. Brandon Doyle, USMC
Capt. Branden M. Felker, USAF
Patrick G. Felker, USN
Grant Fischer
MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC
Sgt. Alex Garcia
PFC Samuel Haro, US Army
Staff Sgt. Travis M. Meyers, USAF
Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army
Sr. Airman Robert Spear, USAF
Sgt. Charles Watts, USMC

Calendar Highlights

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

Dec 1	Liturgy of the Word for
	Children at 8:30am Mass
Dec 1	RE.A.CH Classes at Church
Dec 4-5	Restaurant Fundraiser at
	Feliccia's
Dec 8	Liturgy of the Word for
	Children at 8:30am Mass
Dec 8	RE.A.CH Classes at Church
Dec 9	Immaculate Conception of
	the Blessed Virgin Mary—
	Masses at 8:15am and
	7:00pm
Dec 17-18	Restaurant Fundraiser at
	Nucci's
Dec 24	Vigil of Christmas—Masses
	at 4:00pm, 4:15pm,
	6:00pm, and 10:00pm
Dec 25	Christmas—Mass at 9:30am
Dec 31	Mary Mother of God—
	Mass at 5:00pm
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Jan 1	Mary Mother of God—
	Mass at 9:30am
Jan 5	Twelfth Night
	Choral Festival at STM
Jan 11-31	Stewardship Awareness/
	Renewal
Jan 25-26	STM Authors Book Signing
	Event

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

STM Annual Gala

New Member Luncheon

Jun 13

Jun 22

Pray for Women Religious

Please join us in praying for the women religious who serve in the Diocese of San Diego. They have been assigned to days of the year in alphabetical order.

December 2
Sr. Luz Eugenia Guitron, SJS
December 3
Sr. Charlotte Gulban, FDC
December 4
Sr. Blanca Patricia Gutierrez, SJS
December 5
Sr. Ana Maria Guzman, SJS
December 6
Sr. Maria Javier Guzman, DCJ
December 7
Sr. Margaret Hama, DMI
December 8
Sr. Joyce Hampel, CSJ

Social Ministries/Outreach

Engaging Spirituality

- † Are you deeply concerned about our world?
- † Are you looking for wisdom about how to follow Jesus with integrity?
- † Are you open to opportunities for spiritual growth?

If your answer to these questions is an enthusiastic "Yes," then you may be ready for *Engaging Spirituality*.

Engaging Spirituality is a prayerful process that invites us to draw this world down into ourselves, to hold it in prayer together, and to practice living more deeply.

Two new groups, a Monday evening and a Wednesday morning group, will begin the second week of January. The groups will be filled on a "first come" basis. Call Sr. Maureen at 760-758-4100 x131 to sign up now, or look for us on the Plaza after Masses the weekend of December 7-8!

Vocations

What do you get from a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate, or religious life? A life of service to God and his people and the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a difference in people's lives. If that appeals to you, give it some prayerful consideration. If you want to discuss the possibilities, contact Deacon Tom at *thomasgoeltz@aol.com* or 760-727-8442.

Journey Through Scripture – "Genesis to Jesus" Starting January 2014 at STM

Next week, watch for the flyer and sign up to participate in the inspiring Journey Through Scripture Series, written by Dr. Scott Hahn. We are starting with "Genesis to Jesus," an exciting study beginning with "The Creation Covenant" ending with "Jesus: Fulfillment of the Promises." The seven-week session begins Wednesday, January 22, at 9:00am or Thursday, January 23, at 7:00pm.

Rosary

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



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 \$39,943
from this program. Thank you donors!









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

Marriage & Family Life

Bringing the Celebration Home—This coming Friday is the celebration of Saint Nicholas - this year, have your family leave their shoes by the front door and leave a treat for them in their shoes. Talk about who Saint Nicholas was and the impact that he had on modern-day Christmas. For more



had on modern-day Christmas. For more ideas, visit: http://enterundermyroof.blogspot.com.

Promoting Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty—Pray for this cause and JOIN THE MOVEMENT. Visit *www.usccb.org/fast* to sign the fasting pledge & to sign up for weekly e-mail reminders & intentions, or text "Fast" to 99000 to receive weekly text messages.

Bishops' Letter on Marriage—Responsible Parenthood: "[Finally], living according to God's design for love and life does not mean that married couples cannot plan their families. The principle of responsible parenthood describes the way spouses can work with God's gift of fertility. Spouses can recognize their own duties towards God, themselves, their families and human society as they decide when to try to achieve a pregnancy or conclude that there are sufficiently serious reasons to justify postponing one." To read the document go to http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/.

Marriage Moments—Advent is a time of quiet preparation, in the dark days before the "re-birth" of Christ. Don't let our hectic consumer culture rob you of this special spiritual time. Sure, buy some gifts, but allow yourself to be blessed by less - stress, clutter, and frenzy. Sometimes less is more.

Parenting Pointers—This Friday is St. Nicholas Day. St. Nick was a secretive giver. Is there anything nice you can hide for your spouse or children to find later in the day? A treat? A note? A chore finished? Be creative.

For more information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/Ministries/Marriage & Family Life or call Jen Frost at 858-692-7438.

Christmas Angel Ministry

Twenty-five (24) days 'til Christmas, you're shopping with all your might (right?)

On a happier note it's Advent, we welcome its glowing light. Stockings that hung on the Angel Tree with care,

Well, did you notice, they are no longer there? When what to our wondering eyes should appear? But a dusting of snowflakes and angels so dear!

Time to bring stocking gifts back really quick We'll prepare them for parties with a local St. Nick.

Our volunteers so eager, helpful and merry! YOU can still be one, now's the time, do not tarry! We gather the gifts; we sort, count and stuff them, "Shop 'til we drop" is our Angel Tree anthem.

Bring more gift cards & toys, picture smiles that never end. Would you considerate yet a gift pack for a military friend?

We hope we've explained well how this ministry goes, See you out on the plaza – we'll order up your halos!

Please see our insert in this weekend's bulletin. You know where to find us.

Marti and John Harper 760-724-1181 or *4johnnysangel@cox.net*

Parish Events

Attention Men!

Join us for the weekly *That Man is You!* Program, which meets Saturday mornings from 6:45-8:30am. Next week's topic is *To Open the Eyes of Modern Man*.

For more information, contact Deacon John Fredette at *johnf@stmoside.org* or 760-758-4100 x132.

Women's Guild News

Have you returned your green sheet of stubs for the Christmas raffle yet? Time is getting short. There are only two weeks left to return them before the December 15 drawing. They will fit in the small envelope if you tear them apart along the perforated lines. Checks may be made payable to STM Women's Guild. We appreciate your participation and we look forward to making three people a little bit happier with \$500, \$300, and \$200.

The December 9 meeting of the Women's Guild is only one week away. Please call in your lunch reservation to Vera Bayliss at 760-295-0059. We need a count as soon as possible. Its Advent theme will help keep us in the spirit of the season as our neighborhood lights go up around us. Let them remind us of the coming of the Light of the world which we are preparing to celebrate on December 25. Even our Christmas decorations and cheerful clothing remind us it is preparation time. So join us for lunch as we light a candle on the Advent wreath at home and look at other German Advent customs at the meeting. You will also get a chance to choose the nicknames that you think describe our awesome Women's Guild and what our members accomplish. O Come All Ye Faithful.

Have a holy week with Advent in mind. —Ann Buko, president

Spirited Seniors Winter Luncheon

St. Thomas More Spirited Seniors have planned a delicious luncheon to celebrate this holy season on Tuesday, December 17, at 11:30am. We have catering by Bobby's Hideaway, games to play, and of course a bit of wine to enjoy. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for guests. Please complete the reservation form found on the flyer that was in the bulletin or make a check with the name or names of those attending and put it in the basket or Box 12.

Reservations will be accepted on a first come first served basis. This luncheon is open to all Spirited Senior members, guests and other St. Thomas More and St. Francis Parishioners. The deadline to RSVP is December 10. Please call Nancy Gayvert at 760-295-0645 with questions.

The Knightly News

Stop by the Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" Sale after weekend Masses in November and December to buy Christmas cards, stickers, "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets, etc. For more information please contact Roger Burkardt at 760-727-1829.

Advent and Christmas Schedules...

...were mailed to all registered households. Watch for yours!

Annual Financial Report

The annual financial report for fiscal year ending 2013 is available on the Parish website, www.stmoside.org. Click on Finance under Parish Councils, then click on Parish Financial Report Fiscal Year Ending 2013 on the right side. For those without internet access, copies are available through from the Parish Office during the week.

Memorial Item Donations

Memorials are a way of honoring those whom we love, whether they are living or deceased. Often, memorials are made for a special intention or in thanksgiving for a variety of blessings received from God.

Our Parish Campus will be a living memorial. All who help in building it will leave something to the community itself that will be used by generations to come. The good they do is not interred with them, but will remain to share in the divine activity of God here on earth.

Listed below are items still available for adoption.

All contributions will be recognized in a special memorial to be displayed in our Parish Memorial Garden.

For more information or to adopt an item, contact Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120 or *chriss@stmoside.org*

Pipe Organ	\$850,000
Memorial Garden	\$500,000
Reflection Garden	\$250,000
Church Doors (Bronze)	\$100,000
Crucifix	\$75,000
St. Thomas More Shrine (Tapestry)	\$75,000
Pew Seating for the Church (1,000) 907 available	\$300/person

Daily Mass Chapel and Choir Chairs (200) 137 available

11/20/13

\$300/each



For more information on our progress, visit our website, stmoside.org, and click on Our New Church.

Stay Up to Date on Construction Activity!

Check the Parish website (*www.stmoside.org*) to watch live action on our webcams (click on the camera icons) or view the Construction Progress album (click on *Our New Church*).

Attention STM Authors (and Book Lovers)

Mark your calendars for January 25-26, when we will have a book signing table on the Plaza following all Masses. Any St. Thomas More Parishioners who have authored book may display and sell their books. Contact Judy Smith at 760-685-4678 to reserve a space.

Liturgy & Music



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

VISIONS

Scripture Themes for December

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

Youth Choir

Christmas Eve

Grades 6-12

Contact Joleen

joleens@cox.net

760-458-2973

Upcoming Music

X

DECEMBER 8 2nd Sunday of Advent

5:00pm Mass

Praise Team

8:30am Mass

Tower Bells

10:30am Mass

Sanctuary Choir

X

DECEMBER 9 Immaculate Conception

8:15am Mass

Cantor and Congregation

7:00pm MassCappella Choir

In a recent interview that aired on the news program "60 Minutes," Bill Gates said that he and his wife Melinda have a vision of Africa free of deadly diseases. A generous and practical man, Gates has given himself over to the task of realizing his vision, one disease at a time.

Martin Luther King Jr. also had a vision. He called it a dream that "one day our nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." King worked tirelessly toward the realization of his vision and died a martyr for the cause of civil rights. Oscar Romero also died for his efforts at realizing his vision of an El Salvador free of tyranny. Mohandas Gandhi had a similar vision of his native India free of British rule and free of its own caste system. Gandhi prayed, fasted, and cared for the poor, himself a living witness to the vision he hoped to see fulfilled.

Pope John XXIII had a vision of the church returning to its roots and welcoming the Holy Spirit so it could more authentically witness to Christ and be the salt, light, and leaven our world needs so much. To see this vision fulfilled, Pope John convened a worldwide XXIII council of clergy and laity who, graced by the Spirit of God, began a spiritual renewal that continues to challenge the church's integrity, identity, relevance, and mission, even after 50 years. Today, Pope Francis is actively sharing his vision of a church that seeks out and cares for the poor, as Jesus did.

When Dorothy Day allowed herself to be found by the Hound of Heaven, she envisioned a community that truly lived according to the Great Sermon, feeding the poor, clothing the naked, and sheltering the homeless. Day spent the rest of her life realizing that vision. A similar vision compelled Mother Teresa to found her own religious order dedicated to serving the needs of the poorest of the poor while offering them love, compassion, and deep respect.

What do all of these visionaries have in common? Each was able to voice his or her vision so powerfully and poignantly that others wanted to be drawn into the experience. Isaiah of Jerusalem will offer a similar experience to the praying community during Advent. On each of the Sundays of Advent, the prophet will give voice to a vision about the reign of God; that vision will stoke our hopes and encourage our efforts at realizing God's reign in our lives and, through us, in our world.

In his first vision (Dec. 1), Isaiah a cavalcade of nations streaming toward Jerusalem to hear the word of God. Isaiah lived in a time much like our own, with political conflict and war ever threatening and ever near. His vision of peace would have offered great comfort. Isaiah's vision will be realized only when implements of war (swords, spears, tanks, IEDs, drones, bombs, missiles) are truly and forever beaten into plowshares and pruning hooks. Until then, we wait, we hope, we pray and we choose peace rather than conflict, and mutual respect rather than alienation.

In his second vision (Dec. 8), the prophet describes the bringer of God's reign as filled with the Spirit and all good gifts. Thus endowed, the Messiah will establish God's own justice upon the earth, so that the poor will have an advocate and the ruthless will no longer hold sway. So far-reaching is God's justice that it will be reflected in



Matthew 24:42

nature. Predators and prey will live in harmony, and all the earth will be filled with knowledge of the Lord. While helping to realize this vision, we wait, we hope, we pray, and we work for true justice for all.

Isaiah's third vision (Dec. 15) is full of promise. When the Lord appears, there will be healing in his hands for the meek, the frightened, the blind, the deaf, the lame, and the mute. Sorrow and mourning will flee, and all of creation will bloom with new life. While we wait for the Lord, we hope, we pray, and we reach out to one another with words that soothe, with hands that heal, and with loving hearts that extend mercy, compassion, and encouragement to one another.

Advent's fourth Sunday (Dec. 22) centers on a sign. Isaiah envisioned a virgin who would bear a son and name him Emmanuel, or "God-withus." This sign, this vision came to fruition in Mary, Mother of Jesus, Mother of God. We celebrate the realization of this vision; we acknowledge that the very Lord and Master of the created universe has come among us in flesh and blood. Ours is a God who wants to be known, to be touched, to be near, to be loved. No matter that this world is fraught with ugliness, violence, hatred, and evil, God is with us. All of Isaiah's visions have been realized in the person and through the mission of Jesus. This is our faith; this is our hope!

Faith Formation



Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation 760-758-4100 x110 kathleenb@stmoside.ore

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



Today is a RE.A.CH day at Church

Two- in- a- row at church

Pr Advent Project

for RE.A.CH Students
of St. Thomas More
(and anyone else who would care to help!)



PBJ Drive

Advent is a time for gift-giving: doing good works for those in need. In this way we bring Jesus to birth in our world.

Your challenge:

- Look at the money you spend for gifts on others
- Think about what the gifts you want for Christmas will cost
- Decide what part of that money you will spend on our brothers and sisters who are not as fortunate and buy some

Peanut Butter and/or Jelly

- We will give it to Catholic Charities in Vista, to be distributed to children in need
 - * Plastic jars are safer than glass
 - * Small jars go further than big ones
 - * Bring the jars to RE.A.CH class December 8 or to the Church office anytime

(for children in our community are hungry all year long)



What difference does faith make in YOUR life?

YOUTH MINISTRY

Happy Advent Everyone!

Who: Teens!

What: Youth Group!

Come join the teens of STM to remember what the season of

Advent is all about.

When: Mon, December 2, 7:00-8:30pm

Morning of Discernment

Who: If you're a boy and at least a

junior in high school,

you should *definitely* check out our Priestly Discernment morning!

What: Q&A with Fr. Pedro Rivera,

the Director of Priestly Vocations for the Diocese of San Diego.

Even if you don't think the priesthood is for you, come and ask questions!

There will be free breakfast!

When: Sat, December 7, 9:00am-12:00noon.

Cost: FREE!

Mass

Who: Everyone!

What: A holy day

The teens will be heading to Mass so come and bring a friend!

When: Mon, December 9, 7:00pm

Ugly Christmas Sweater and White Elephant Party!

Who: Teens!

What: Bring a funny present and enjoy a

"White Elephant" present exchange! The ugliest Christmas sweater will

win a secret prize!!!

When: Mon, December 16, 7:00-8:30pm

NO YOUTH GROUP DECEMBER 23 OR DECEMBER 30

WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN JANUARY 6 FOR AN IGNITE NIGHT!!!

Stewardship & Development



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

HELPFUL YEAR-END PLANNING TIPS GOT DEDUCTIONS?

2013 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 4:00pm on Friday, December 20, 2013 to Monday, January 6, 2014.
- ◆ Donations received the weekend of December 28-29, 2013, and the Tuesday, December 31 Vigil Mass will be credited in the 2013 tax year.
- ♦ Envelopes POSTMARKED on or before Tuesday, December 31, 2013 will be counted toward the 2013 tax year.
- ♦ Annual Catholic Appeal ~ Parishioners with a balance due on their pledges made to this year's ACA are requested to conclude payments by December 31, 2013. (*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.

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

All gifts to St. Thomas More are deeply appreciated!

Collection for Week of November 23/24, 2013

Total	\$	13,112.11
Children's envelopes		0.00
Offertory (Loose Collection)		1,265.00
Offertory*	\$	11,847.11
Number of Registered Households		1,068

* 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.

Christian Stewardship Preparing for the Coming of Christ

As we prepare for the coming of Christ during Advent, the Church points us both backward to his coming in humility as Messiah and forward to his coming in glory as judge.

When he came as Messiah, he inaugurated the Kingdom of God among us. As judge, he will ask us to account for the life he gave us, how freely we shared this life with those around us.

He will also ask us how we treated the ones he calls "the least of these my brethren" (Matthew 25:40), those people around the world whose suffering and needs are greater than ours.

- † Did we afford them the same dignity and respect we would give our friends or family?
- † Did we look upon their hurts with compassion and try to alleviate their suffering?
- † Did we recognize them as our brothers and sisters, equal heirs with us of the kingdom of heaven?

Throughout the world, organizations are committed to helping the victims of economic, natural, or political disasters.

As we ponder Jesus' concern for the least of his brethren, we may consider whether we wish to help people in emergency conditions like these.

—Parish Publishing, LLC, December parish newsletter December 2013 (with permission)



Giving is a time for each one of us to be joyful and thankful to God for all he has given and daily gives to us.

We receive from God in order to give. Jesus said, "Give and it shall be given to you."

News and Information from the Larger Church

Casa de Molina & Friends of the Poor Annual Children's Christmas Party—Saturday, December 14, 12:00-2:00pm.

Calling Volunteers! If you are able to help in any capacity, please contact *motherv5@cox.net*. Our Parishioner, Vicky Molina, has organized this event for over 25 years to provide Christmas gifts for underprivileged children.



Franciscan School of Theology at Mission San Luis Rey—accepting applications for spring semester enrollment. For more information, contact Vince Nims at 510-828-2869 (call or text) or *vnims@fst.edu* or visit *fst.edu*.

Author Book Signing by Parishioner Judy C. Smith—Saturday, December 14, 12:00-4:00pm, O'Connor's Religious Goods, 3720 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, for her book *Egree's Journey*.

Options Program at Cathedral Catholic High School—the first Inclusive Education Program in a Catholic High School in California. The Options Program will provide students with intellectual disabilities and/or delays an opportunity to become a part of the CCHS community. Options will accept 2-4 freshmen to start in January 2014. For more information and applications, contact Megan Burton at mburton@cathedralcatholic.org or 858-523-4000 x1215.

Volunteer with Voices for Children—Voices for Children provides volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to abused and neglected children in San Diego County to ensure their needs are met in the courtroom, classroom, and community. For more information, contact *www.speakupnow.org* or 858-598-2235.

Monthly Holy Hour for Priestly and Religious Vocations—Third Wednesday of each month (next is December 18), 7:30-9:00pm, Diocesan Pastoral Center, 3888 Paducah Dr., San Diego. For more information, contact Fr. Pedro Rivera at privera@diocese-sdiego.org or 619-291-7446.

Catholic Charities Food Resource Center Has Volunteer Opportunities for YOU!—Drivers, Daily Food Packers, Intake Workers, and Calfresh (food stamp) Advocate. For information call Lisa DuMolt at 619-231-2828 x221

Weekly Peaceful Prayer Vigil to End Abortion—Mondays, 10:00am, Planned Parenthood Isabella Center, 1820 Marron Rd.,

News from St. Francis Church

525 W. Vista Way, Vista ● 760-945-8000 ● stfrancis-vista.org

St. Francis School is our Parish School!—Families from St. Thomas More are extended the same benefits and rewards as St. Francis Parishioners, including:

- Parishioner priority for enrollment at St. Francis School,
- Equal tuition rates,
- Financial aid opportunities, and
- Fundraising support.

#110, Carlsbad (just west of Westfield Plaza Camino Real). For more information, contact Richard Hodges at 760-439-3415 or Jahna White at 760-586-6356.

Birth Choice Volunteer Counselors Training—Call Heidi at 760-744-1313 for details and to sign up. Birth Chioce is a pro-life, Christ-centered pregnancy resource center offering free pregnancy testing, ultrasound, and options counseling for women in crisis. For more information, visit *www.birthchoice.net*.

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.

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

Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center in Oceanside has an ongoing schedule of retreats! Visit www.sanluisrey.org for more details.

Natural Family Planning Course in San Diego—For more information and/or to register for the series, contact 619-303-5053 or *davidandcherylross@gmail.com*.

Retrouvaille for Troubled Marriages—A three-month program that consists of a weekend experience combined with seven post sessions. It is designed to provide the tools to help put marriages in order again. For details, call 951-259-9474 or visit www.helpourmarriage.com.

Advent-Christmas Calendar Online

Reflections and activities for each day of Advent and the Christmas Season from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

http://usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-resources/advent/.

Online Rosary

Pray the rosary online—visit www.therosary3.com

Catholic Radio—AM 1000/Sirius 130—San Diego

Free program guides and bumper stickers available at the information table the Plaza after weekend Masses.

Visit ihradio.com/sandiego

Young Adult Ministry Activities

Visit www.yamsd.org for complete information on events for young adults, Bible Study, social activities, praise and worship nights, outreach projects., Theology on Tap evenings, ultimate Frisbee, and a relationships skills series.

Also, search Office of Young Adult Ministry on Facebook.

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.



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

Parish Contacts

Updated 11/17/2013

Council Chairpersons: Pastoral-Doug D'Agrosa 760-941-6800 • Finance-Paul Ibbetson 760-734-1051 • Development-Ron Briseno 760-726-4496					
Pastoral Council Committees	Social Ministries Cherie & Greg Abrahms 760-598-6776				
Faith Formation & EvangelizationRory Griffin 760-414-3939 Religious Education (Adults) Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110	Blood DriveLinda Dicus 760-726-5081				
Small Church Communities Sondra Parks 760-598-1269	Brother Benno's Collections Deacon Tom Goeltz 760-727-8442				
Little Rock Scripture Studies Pauline Lapre 760-727-8339	Mike Nichols 760-822-3664				
Religious Education (Children) Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110	Brother Benno's Kitchen ServersGeorge Jones 760-940-9288				
Liturgy of the Word for Children Cathy Meyer 760-598-7853	Christmas Angel MinistryJohn & Marti Harper 760-724-1181 Culture of LifeJane Kelleher 760-822-7041				
Sacramental Preparation Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110	CPR/AED Classes				
Mid. Sch. Youth MinistryMarcus Cabrera 760-758-4100 x161	Disability Facilitation				
High School Youth Ministry Marcus Cabrera 760-758-4100 x161	Jail Ministry				
North County Young Adults Marcus Cabrera 760-758-4100 x161	Prayer Request Line Pat Wong 760-806-1310				
Women's Ministry					
Men's Fellowship	Project Linus				
Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Regina Aulisio 760-295-5530 Vocations	Social Justice Committee				
RCIA	Engaging Spirituality Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131				
Liturgy	Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice				
Altar Linen CareAnna Meyers 760-727-4998					
Art & Environment Kathy Arciero 760-231-1022	JustFaith Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131				
Bereavement Facilitator Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131	San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP)				
Eucharistic Adoration	Craig & Mary Castle 760-727-3097				
Interior Design Team Pat & Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414	Solutions for Change Kevin & Lyn Leahy 760-643-0872				
Liturgical MinistriesDouglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140	Family Shoe Ministry Rick & Heidi Madden 760-470-4998				
Liturgical MusicDouglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140	St. Bonaventure Mission				
Sick & Homebound (<i>Eucharist</i>). Jean McCloskey 760-758-4100 x100	Youth Justice Foundation Cherie & Greg Abrahms 760-598-6776				
Marriage & Family Life Jen Frost 858-692-7438	Office Support Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100 General Support Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100				
Bringing the Celebration HomeJen Frost 858-692-7438	Chair Set-UpLorraine Doering 760-758-4100 x102				
Family Nights	Kitchen OverseerRebecca Eyer 760-758-4100 x100				
Family Services					
Marriage Preparation Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100	Development Council Committees				
Widows & Widowers of North CountyCarol Kope 760-726-0533	Annual Catholic AppealFlora Fallone 760-758-4100 x100				
Parish Organizations & Events Lisa & Pat Attardo 760-940-1505	New Construction				
Historian	Parish Membership				
Knights of Columbus	Publicity/Public RelationsJane Gladden 760-659-6168				
Social ActivitiesHenny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100	Scrip SalesMike Nichols 760-727-7522				
Spirited Seniors	Andrea Sweeney 760-216-6389				
St. Thomas More Gala Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120	Stewardship				
Treasures Rummage Sale John & Wendy Murphy 760-497-6117	Vehicle Donations Diana Diaz 760-758-4100 x100				
Walking MinistryDiane Pal 760-815-2519	Welcome Ministry Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120				
Women's GuildAnn Buko 760-726-8831					
	ral Staff				
Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor	/00-/38-4100 X100 michaelr@stmoside.org				
Deacon John Fredette					
Deacon Tom Goeltz					
Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate					
Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation	760-758-4100 x110 kathleenh@stmoside.org				
	760-758-4100 x161 marcusc@stmoside.org				
	760-758-4100 x110 staceyg@stmoside.org				
Douglas Lynn, Director of Liturgy and Music					
	760-758-4100 x100 kathys@stmoside.org				
	760-758-4100 x100 sallyf@stmoside.org				
Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development					
Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance					
Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary					
Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper					
Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician					
Brian Leahey, Director of Construction	/60-/58-4100 x152brianl@stmoside.org				

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Christmas Angel Update! Menu of Ornaments



Choose a stocking and purchase several small items for stockings and gift bags. **DUE BACK BY 12/1**



Choose a gingerbread man to adopt a family from *Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital*. This is an anonymous donation of new toys, clothes, gift cards and any other special treats for families ranging from three to seven members. See an angel at the table for more information. **DUE BACK BY 12/11**



Choose a snowflake to purchase gift cards of all sorts for bookstores, toy stores, convenience stores, etc.
Order gift cards through the Scrip Table or see an angel at the tree. **DUE BACK BY 12/15**



Choose an angel (pink for girls, green for boys) to purchase individual gifts by age.

DUE BACK BY 12/15

May God bless all His angels!