

**SAINT
THOMAS
MORE
CATHOLIC
CHURCH**



**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



StThomasMoreRCC



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

December 8, 2013 ✠ Second Sunday of Advent

Pastor's Column

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

**Parish Advent Communal Penance Service:
The Sacrament of Reconciliation—
God's Unconditional Love for Us!**

In recent years, a name change has taken place with the "Sacrament of Confession." We no longer call the act "Confession," but rather "Reconciliation" and/or "Penance." This name change better reflects what happens in this celebration. We do not go to the priest just to list our sins, have them forgiven, and receive a penance; but rather, and most importantly, we come to the priest to celebrate the forgiveness of God that we experience in our lives. We come to the Sacrament with a sense of joy for what God has already done in our lives and what God continues to do—showering us with unconditional love.

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

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

When we ask forgiveness from someone we have offended, our sins are forgiven. When we accept the forgiveness of another, our sins are forgiven. Each time we talk to God in the silence of our hearts and sincerely seek forgiveness from God, our sins are forgiven. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we hear the words of the priest shortly

(Continued on page 2)

A word cloud of major themes from *Evangelii Gaudium* by Pope Francis. Go to www.vatican.va, click on The Holy See, then Apostolic Exhortations to read the letter.

Pastor's Column *(continued from page 1)*

before the reception of Holy Communion— **“Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the lamb!”**—our sins are forgiven.

So why go to the priest? We do so in order to celebrate the forgiveness of God we experience in our daily lives, to ritualize it, sacramentalize it and, as in all things, to place our lives and God's involvement in our lives within the context of the Church, the Body of Christ.

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

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

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

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

Next **Sunday, December 15, at 4:00pm**, our Parish celebrates her Advent Communal Penance Service. In this Parish celebration, a number of our young people will be celebrating this Sacrament for the first time. Your presence will also be a sign of support to them.

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

“I forgive you and I love you unconditionally!”

Will you be there to hear God's words?


Congratulations to

Richard & Siggie Ogan

who celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary December 7.

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:

Michael Pal, who died on November 25. His funeral services are pending. Please keep his family, including his daughter, Diane Pal, in your prayers.

James Grieg, who died on November 24. His funeral services were held in Florida. Please keep his family, including his brother, David Greig, 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.

**Prayer for Priestly Vocations
Diocese of San Diego**

Jesus, Lord of the harvest, look with love on this portion of your vineyard. Bless the Diocese of San Diego with more priests to shepherd your people, priests with hearts like your own.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

For inquiries into vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, or religious life, contact Deacon Tom at thomasgoeltz@aol.com or 760-727-8442.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Help aging sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. “Each year the need to provide for our elderly (members) becomes more pressing, and we are ever more grateful for these providential funds,” writes a religious sister about the financial assistance received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation helps provide necessities such as prescription medication and nursing care. Please give to those who have given a lifetime. You may return the envelopes any time during December. Thank you!

STM Scrip 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.

Advent Reconciliation Services at Local Parishes

Date	Time	Parish
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

Readings for the Week Ahead

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

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

Monday, December 9 (689)
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Genesis 3:9-15,20
Psalm 98:1-4
Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12
Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 10 (182)
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 96:1-3,10-13
Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 11 (183)
Damasus I, pope
Isaiah 40:25-31
Psalm 103:1-4,8,10
Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday, December 12 (690A)
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelations 11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab
Judith 13:18-19 (Psalm)
Luke 1:26-38 or 1:39-47 or 707-712

Friday, December 13 (185)
Lucy, virgin, martyr
Isaiah 48:17-19
Psalm 1:1-4,6
Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday, December 14 (186)
John of the Cross, priest, doctor
Sirach 48:1-4,9-11
Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
Matthew 17:9a,10-13

Sunday, December 15 (7)
Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-6a,10
Psalm 146:6-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

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

- Changa Aguilera
Mary Alexander
Carrie Autrey
The Baggett Family
Jose Luis Barbosa
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
Brianna Campos
Claudia Caplinger
Aria Cappeluti
Paul Cassidy
John Castagna
Marilyn Clarke
The Vaughn Clevenger Family
Dolly Cole
Carl & James Coleman
Carol Costa
Steven Cresencia
Lené Crowe
Karen Flaharty Daley
The Davis Family
Carole Dillon
Judith DiMatteo
Art & Dave Dossman
John Drazkowski, Jr.
La Vonne Dumas
Debbie Ebaugh
Connor Eberhard
Carolyn Erickson Ey
Sharon Evans
Ed Eyre
Victoria Lopez Fenton
The Fiore Family
Ryan Flum
Ernie Follis
Eugene Franciscus
Kathryn Franklin
Joe Freire
The Greg French Family
Jim Gallagher
The Joe Garcia Family
Kathy Gardner
Jack & Marge Gillen
Wendy Gonzales' Dad
Rick Gonzalez
The Greig Family
Rosemary Haeffelin
Pat & Tom Hannon
The Harker Family
Barbara Hatem
Heidi Heaton
Peter Hill
Lilian Hills
Samara Hook
Susan Hori
Rick Hughes
Iolanda Iacobelli
Linda Iacobelli Bennett
Betty Karch
The Keffe Family
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
James MacArthur
The Magnus & Bosse Families
Joaquin Maldonado
Paige Mansell
Connor Marshall
Alexander Mathews
Chandler May
The McCloskey Family
Bob McWilliams
Joyce Meehan
Kalei Mendiola
Bill Metzger
Phyllis Minaya
June Mitchell
June Montgomery
Nancy Moore
Elizabeth Muehlbacher
Conrad Murphy
Margie Myers
Richard Obsitnik
The Oey Family
Bernadette Padovan
The Pal Family
Ethan Palm
Sondra Parks
Perry Postulka
Douglas Price-Williams
The Joe Prokop Family
Barbara Ramm
The Reiter Family
Jan Riley
Rita Ritchie
Adela Rivera
Elena Rivera
Lily Robinson
Maria Rogers
Dorothy Rouse
The Russo Family
Cindy Sanelli
Linda Schmidt
Rita Schmedar
Don Shaw
Joan Shea
Jack and Rita Shepard
The Smith & Berry Families
Nick Soltau
Fred & Gilda Spiegl
Darek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski
Patricia St. Pierre
Mike Sterling
Pete Sullivan
David Sweet
Julie Teare
Tommy & Ginger Thompson
Sarah Tillinghast
William Tompson
Stephen Toth, Jr.
The Trejo/Maldonado/Uribe Family
Barbara Upson
Lucy Vienna
Dorina Visciglio
Vanessa Vitiello
Kevin Watson-Graff
Sue Welch
Paul West
John Whitton
Marceline Williams
Erin Young
Patricia Zavala

Calendar Highlights

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

- 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 9 Women's Guild Luncheon
- Dec 15 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
- Dec 15 Advent Communal Reconciliation Service
- Dec 17 Spirited Seniors Winter Luncheon
- 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

2014

- 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 12 RE.A.CH Classes at Church, including High School
- Jan 19 High School RE.A.CH Classes
- Jan 25-26 STM Authors Book Signing Event
- Jan 26 RE.A.CH Classes at Church, including High School
- Jun 13 STM Annual Gala
- Jun 22 New Member Luncheon

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 9	Sr. Celeste Hanigan, OSF
December 10	Sr. Yvonne Hanke, OCD
December 11	Sr. Barbara Hanna, DMI
December 12	Sr. Patricia Hanson, CSJO
December 13	Sr. Yvonne Hawker, OSF
December 14	Sr. Linda Hayward, RSCJ
December 15	Sr. Katharine Heidkamp, MMS

Mass Intentions	
Saturday, December 7, 5:00pm	Barbara Czintos ☩
Sunday, December 8, 8:30am	Martin Stephen Lilly Jr. ☩
Sunday, December 8, 10:30am	Herman & Helen Ratajczak ☩
Monday, December 9, 8:15am	Henry Robles ☩
Monday, December 9, 7:00pm	Mario Vozza ☩
Tuesday, December 10, 8:15am	Andrew Werlein ☩
Wednesday, December 11, 8:15am	Kathy Acquarelli ☩
Thursday, December 12, 8:15am	Patricia Thompson ☩
Friday, December 13, 8:15am	Billie McGinty ☩
Saturday, December 14, 5:00pm	Mary Springer ☩
Sunday, December 15, 8:30am	Jack Fischer ☩
Sunday, December 15, 10:30am	Joseph Vozza ☩

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

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!

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.

Community Service Numbers:

2-1-1 for human services information; 5-1-1 for traffic

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—For ideas, on celebrating Advent in your home, visit: <http://enterundermyroof.blogspot.com>.

Promoting Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty—Defense of Traditional Marriage: Are conversations about

defending traditional marriage becoming difficult in parish, family, and work settings? Listen to Bill May, author of “Getting the Marriage Conversation Right,” and guest on the Setting Things Right Radio Show, where he describes best practices on how to defend traditional marriage in ways that are effective, reasonable, and compelling. On the internet, go to: <http://ihrarchive.org/archive/str-20130717.mp3>.

Bishops’ Letter on Marriage—Natural Family Planning: “Natural family planning (NFP) methods represent authentic family planning. They can be used both to achieve and to postpone a pregnancy. NFP makes use of periodic abstinence from sexual intercourse based upon the observation of the woman’s natural signs of fertility, in order to space births or to limit the number of children when there is a serious reason to do so. NFP methods require that couples learn, accept, and live with the wonders of how God made them. This is essentially different from contraception.” To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

Marriage Moments—“Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary.’” (Luke 1:30) Sometimes it can be frightening to embark upon a big change in life—a birth, a death, changing a job, retirement...Call to mind a fear—past or present. Trust that sharing it with your beloved will be safe.

Parenting Pointers—December 13 is the Feast of St. Lucia (Lucy), a virgin who brought gifts to the poor around the winter solstice. Her name means light. You may already be lighting Advent candles as you approach Christmas. As you light two candles today, tell your children the story of St. Lucia.

For more information, visit [www.diocese-sdiego.org/Ministries/Marriage & Family Life](http://www.diocese-sdiego.org/Ministries/Marriage%20&%20Family%20Life) or call Jen Frost at 858-692-7438.

Christmas Angel Ministry

Thank you for returning the “stocking” gifts so quickly. We filled eight boxes back stage! If you have yet to return yours, please bring them to the Parish Office—we will not turn them away! The stocking/gift bag stuffing party will be on **Saturday, December 14 at 9:00am** on the lower level. This is a fun morning (lasting approximately 1-2 hrs.) filling the stockings/bags with several items for boys and girls ages 0-12 years of age. All are welcome to participate.

Thank you for the warm response to the Camp Pendleton family adoptions. We have currently adopted 46 families! Those gifts need to be returned to the parish office **NO LATER THAN THIS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11.**

Please continue to take star and snowflake ornaments from the tree and return those gifts by **Sunday, December 15.**

Marti and John Harper
760-724-1181 or 4johnmysangel@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 *A Culture of Death*.

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

Women's Guild News

You have only one more week to get your raffle ticket stubs in the Women's Guild Christmas drawing. Thank you to all who have already returned your envelope. We love getting your returns because then your chance to win one of the three cash prizes is assured. Fr. Mike will be pulling the winners names after the 10:30am Mass on the Plaza on December 15. We have lots more sheets of chances if you want more. They are in the Parish Office and we'll have them available on the Plaza. Can you believe it is only one and a half weeks away from Christmas?

Our monthly luncheon meeting with its Advent theme is this Monday December 9. If you have not yet made reservations please call Vera Bayliss at 760-295-0059 to make sure there is a place for you and enough German food to celebrate our theme: Preparing for Christmas in Germany. Our catered German lunch cost is \$10. There will be plenty of door prizes to win, and a raffle, so get out the green, red, silver, and gold, etc., and come join our celebration as we honor St. Boniface, Germany's patron saint. It's also time to light the third candle on the Advent wreath and open up another window on the Advent Calendar (day 14/15). Jesus' Birthday is coming soon.

See you on Monday. —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.

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	\$300/each



11/20/13

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.

Brother Benno's...

...sends their heart felt thanks for helping put a smile on the faces of those who frequently have little to smile about. Your generosity in providing pies for their "Thanksgiving Feast" gave everyone a nostalgic touch of home for the holiday. Thank you and may God bless you!

Liturgy & Music

Worship God

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

ADVENT

A Sense of the Season

Have you ever traced your family tree? Looked at old photos, read letters from grandparents, checked your family bible for births, marriages, and deaths? We use the tree symbol to help us sort out relationships and how we got here. The symbol of a tree is a vehicle to tell the story of God in the Old Testament, and to connect the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across 4,000 years of history. The branch is a biblical sign of newness out of discouragement, a way to talk about the expected messiah. It is therefore an appropriate symbol of Jesus Christ, who is the revelation of the grace and faithfulness of God in his Incarnation.

The story begins with 1 Samuel 16, in which Samuel follows God's direction and anoints David, the youngest son of Jesse. Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he arrives here." Jesse had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth with beautiful eyes, and good looking. The LORD said: There—anoint him, for this is the one! And Isaiah 11—a prophecy of God's deliverance of the chosen people from exile and cessation of enmities: A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

Advent reminds us that we need to be alert to the signs of the times, the signs when Jesus is truly present. Advent teaches us that we first need to be patient. We can't be alert if we are in too much of a hurry. We need to slow down, look around, and see when, where, and how Jesus is present. When we hurry we miss opportunities and moments to see and make Christ present. Advent teaches us humility. We can't be alert if we think that Jesus cannot be found in certain places and faces, like the silence of our hearts or in the faces of the lowly, the poor, the aged, or those different from us. And Advent teaches us about hope. We can't be alert if we think that this world of ours is beyond hope.

Our environment reveals the color purple for Advent, the branch at the foot of the cross, and the Advent wreath with four candles to count the weeks until we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you to our banner team led by Joe Buhlert, Rosanna Eppich, Mary Castle, Kathy Quinn, and Tony Arciero for implementing the design for our celebration. Thank you all for your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure!

On Sunday, December 22, after the 10:30am Mass we will transform our worship space for the Glory of Christmas, please join us...and again on Monday, December, 23 after Morning Mass, the Poinsettias arrive! We could use your help! Please consider giving your St. Thomas More community the gift of your time! Contact me (see box at right) to volunteer!

—Kathy Arciero
 Liturgy Chairperson, Art & Environment



Matthew 3:3

Upcoming Music

✠

DECEMBER 9
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:15am Mass

Cantor and
 Congregation

7:00pm Mass

Cappella Choir

✠

DECEMBER 15
3rd Sunday of Advent

5:00pm Mass

Sanctuary Choir

8:30am Mass

Praise Team

10:30am Mass

Tower Bells

DECK THE HALLS...

CAN YOU HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH?

FOR CHRISTMAS?

IN THE FUTURE?



CAN YOU HELP?

CONTACT KATHY ARCIERO
760-231-1022
KARCIERO@HOTMAIL.COM

Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

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

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

Sunday is a **RE.A.CH** day at Church

Two- in- a- row at church

Chocolate

Thank you to all who contributed to November's Youth Justice Foundation table!

You helped EDGE's team members Anna, LaNay, Lauryn, Sarah, Lauren, Sophia, and Gabby sell over one-hundred bars of fairly traded chocolate and raise enough in proceeds to donate TWO rasps of guinea fowl to families in Zimbabwe, plus \$50 to the efforts of Catholic Relief Services in the Philippines.



Look for St. Thomas More EDGE and Youth Justice teams when they return to the plaza next weekend,.

December 14-15.

Proceeds from this month's sales will go toward the donation of a sheep to a family in Romania. Heifer International will provide a sheep along with training and education in its care.

Photo credit: Heifer Foundation

Gifts that give thrice!

***Buy fairly traded treats for their stockings
And help our Parish youth donate a sheep
for Christmas.***

Bible Study

***Journey Through Scripture—"Genesis to Jesus"
Beginning January 2014 at STM***

We have an exciting Scripture Study planned for ten weeks beginning January 22. It is a program designed to help ordinary Catholics to grow in their knowledge of the Scriptures while deepening their understanding of the riches of our faith.

This study will be presented by Addie Moneymaker who was trained to be a presenter of the "Journey through Scripture Series" by a team from the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology founded by Scott Hahn.

We will begin with "Genesis to Jesus," the first of five parts which will look at the whole story of Biblical History as the series of covenants that God has made with his people from creation through the present.

This is our story; it's where we've come from and where we are going. It's for anyone who wants to grow in their knowledge of the Bible and are willing to make an effort to study, read and pray...to enter into the Word of God and share it with your Parish family.

What a great New Year's Resolution!! There are morning and evening sessions—please see the flyer in the bulletin. We hope to see you there!!!!

Birthday Gift for Jesus

Jesus would be very grateful for a small jar of peanut butter or jelly for his birthday.

Where do we find Jesus today?

In the children in our own neighborhoods that go without enough food on a daily basis.



PBJ Update

(Food for Children at the Emergency Crisis Center)

2014 GOAL:
Collected to date:

65 pounds
6 pounds

Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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 30/December 1, 2013

Number of Registered Households		1,068
Offertory*	\$	8,780.26
Offertory (Loose Collection)		1,052.50
Children's envelopes		0.00
Total	\$	9,832.76

* 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

Some sixty years ago, a pastor named Robert Goodrich was assigned to a church in El Paso, Texas. He had not been there long when he noticed a letter that had arrived with several offering envelopes in it. On each envelope the words "My Tithe" were written in red. Pastor Goodrich noticed a short note which read simply: "I can't attend church any longer; I am bedfast now, but here is my tithe."

The pastor's interest was stirred. He asked someone about the sick man and learned that he lived in a small lean-to shack behind someone's house. His name was Joe Prime and he had severe tuberculosis. Fortunately for Joe, a Christian nurse volunteered to stop and see him each morning on her way to work. She prepared his food for the day and gave him whatever medical help she could provide.

Soon, Rev. Goodrich went to pay a visit to the suffering man. Upon entering the one room house, he saw only Joe, a bed, a refrigerator, a table, and a couple of chairs. Obviously, Joe had very few material goods. The pastor learned that he had a small pension of only thirty dollars a month.

What impressed the pastor most, however, was the spiritual depth of Joe Prime. Immediately, he could tell by Joe's upbeat demeanor and his expressed love for God and the church that Joe Prime was a person who knew God intimately. Joe was a man of gentle love, a man of prayer, and one who gave a tithe even of his meager income. Spiritually, he was a very healthy man.

The Christmas Gift ~

The pastor was so impressed by the ailing man that he thought he deserved a Christmas gift from the church's fund for the needy.

A few days before Christmas, Rev. Goodrich went to see Joe with \$100 in an envelope. When he entered the little shack, he handed the envelope to Joe, telling him that the church wanted him to have \$100 for Christmas. He could spend it anyway he wished, he was told.

Joe's eyes lit up, the tears began streaming down his cheeks. "This is so wonderful," he said, "Now I'll be able to do something I've never been able to do before. I'd like to give \$50 to the orphanage and \$50 to the missions." And that is what was done.



One day, not long afterward, the nurse came to prepare his food and give him his medicine. Upon entering the little room, she found Joe Prime had gone to be with the Lord. Near his body, on the table, she found three or four church envelopes and on each of them the words "My Tithe" were written.

—Parish Publishing LLC, December 2013 (with permission)

*We the hands, we the eyes, we the voice of Christ.
O faithful God, we entrust our treasure to your heart.*

—Timothy R. Smith, ©1993 spiritandsong®

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.



Diocesan Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe—Sunday, December 8, San Diego. Procession at 10:00am beginning at San Diego City College, 1313 Park Blvd., San Diego. Mass at 2:00pm, Gold Hall, 202 C St., San Diego, with Bishop Cirilo Flores and Bishop Gilbert Chavez.

Voices for Children Starfish Gift Collection—Unique, hand-blown starfish gift items will make the holidays brighter for the special people in your life and for foster children in San Diego County. All purchase proceeds benefit Voices for Children. Visit the Starfish Store at <http://starfish-store.speakupnow.org/> and enter the following code at checkout for a 10% discount: THANKS2013.

Advent Concert in Escondido—Friday, December 13, 7:00pm, Church of St. Timothy, 2960 Canyon Rd., Escondido. "Noel Nouvelet—Love Is Come Again" Medieval and Traditional Music of Advent performed by The Goliards with voices and period instruments. For more information, contact 619-884-4723.

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*.

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.

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.

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.

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., #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 Choice 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.

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

Faith Formation & EvangelizationRory Griffin 760-414-3939

- Religious Education (Adults)..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
- Small Church Communities Sondra Parks 760-598-1269
- Little Rock Scripture Studies Pauline Lapre 760-727-8339
- Religious Education (Children)..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
- Liturgy of the Word for Children..... Cathy Meyer 760-598-7853
- Sacramental Preparation..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
- Mid. Sch. Youth Ministry Marcus Cabrera 760-758-4100 x161
- High School Youth Ministry Marcus Cabrera 760-758-4100 x161
- North County Young Adults Marcus Cabrera 760-758-4100 x161
- Women's Ministry Shannon Oswald 760-889-1469
- Men's Fellowship..... Dcn. John Fredette 760-758-4100 x132
- Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Regina Aulisio 760-295-5530
- Vocations Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 760-727-8442
- RCIA..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110

LiturgyKathy Arciero 760-231-1022

- Altar Linen CareAnna Meyers 760-727-4998
- Art & Environment Kathy Arciero 760-231-1022
- Bereavement FacilitatorSr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- Eucharistic Adoration Available
- Interior Design Team Pat & Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414
- Liturgical Ministries.....Douglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140
- Liturgical Music.....Douglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140
- Sick & Homebound (*Eucharist*).Jean McCloskey 760-758-4100 x100

Marriage & Family Life Jen Frost 858-692-7438

- Bringing the Celebration Home Jen Frost 858-692-7438
- Family Nights Jen Frost 858-692-7438
- Family Services..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
- Marriage Preparation..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
- Widows & Widowers of North County.....Carol Kope 760-726-0533
- Germaine Wilmott 760-758-9949

Parish Organizations & Events..... Lisa & Pat Attardo 760-940-1505

- Historian..... Brandon Oswald 760-845-5450
- Knights of Columbus Andrew Frost 858-245-6305
- Social ActivitiesHenny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100
- Spirited Seniors..... Jim and Marilyn Day 760-509-4545
- St. Thomas More Gala Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
- Treasures Rummage Sale..... John & Wendy Murphy 760-497-6117
- Walking MinistryDiane Pal 760-815-2519
- Women's Guild..... Ann Buko 760-726-8831

Social Ministries Cherie & Greg Abrahms 760-598-6776

- Blood Drive Linda Dicus 760-726-5081
- Brother Benno's Collections..... Deacon Tom Goeltz 760-727-8442
- Mike Nichols 760-822-3664
- Brother Benno's Kitchen Servers George Jones 760-940-9288
- Christmas Angel Ministry..... John & Marti Harper 760-724-1181
- Culture of Life Jane Kelleher 760-822-7041
- CPR/AED Classes..... Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414
- Disability Facilitation Ann Eriksson 760-599-7151
- Jail Ministry Rita McCarthy 760-758-4100 x100
- Prayer Request Line..... Pat Wong 760-806-1310
- Norma Flanagan 760-630-0180
- Project Linus..... Mary Coxon 760-599-8760
- Social Justice Committee Henri Black 760-758-8137
- Engaging Spirituality Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice
- Joyce Meehan 760-724-4974
- JustFaith..... Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP)
- Craig & Mary Castle 760-727-3097

Solutions for Change Kevin & Lyn Leahy 760-643-0872

- Family Shoe Ministry Rick & Heidi Madden 760-470-4998
- St. Bonaventure Mission..... Deacon Tom Goeltz 760-727-8442
- Youth Justice Foundation Cherie & Greg Abrahms 760-598-6776

Office Support..... Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100

- General Support..... Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100
- Chair Set-Up..... Lorraine Doering 760-758-4100 x102
- Kitchen Overseer Rebecca Eyer 760-758-4100 x100

Development Council Committees

- Annual Catholic Appeal..... Flora Fallone 760-758-4100 x100
- New Construction Brian Leahey 760-224-1674
- Parish Membership Valerie Thompson 760-630-1703
- Planned Giving Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
- Publicity/Public Relations..... Jane Gladden 760-659-6168
- Scrip Sales Mike Nichols 760-727-7522
- Andrea Sweeney 760-216-6389
- Stewardship Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
- Vehicle Donations..... Diana Diaz 760-758-4100 x100
- Welcome Ministry Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor	760-758-4100 x100	michaelr@stmoside.org
Rev. Karl Bauer, Senior Priest	760-758-4100 x133	karlb@stmoside.org
Deacon John Fredette.....	760-758-4100 x132	johnf@stmoside.org
Deacon Tom Goeltz	760-758-4100 x100	thomasg@stmoside.org
Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate.....	760-758-4100 x131	maureenb@stmoside.org
Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation	760-758-4100 x110	kathleenb@stmoside.org
Marcus Cabrera, Youth Advocate.....	760-758-4100 x161	marcusc@stmoside.org
Stacey Griffin, Faith Formation Office Assistant	760-758-4100 x110	staceyg@stmoside.org
Douglas Lynn, Director of Liturgy and Music.....	760-758-4100 x140	douglasl@stmoside.org
Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director	760-758-4100 x100	kathys@stmoside.org
Sally Fay, Organist/Choir Accompanist	760-758-4100 x100	sallyf@stmoside.org
Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development	760-758-4100 x120	chriss@stmoside.org
Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance	760-758-4100 x151	joeg@stmoside.org
Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary.....	760-758-4100 x100	hennyj@stmoside.org
Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper.....	760-758-4100 x104	nataliep@stmoside.org
Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician.....	760-758-4100 x102	lorrained@stmoside.org
Brian Leahey, Director of Construction.....	760-758-4100 x152	brianl@stmoside.org

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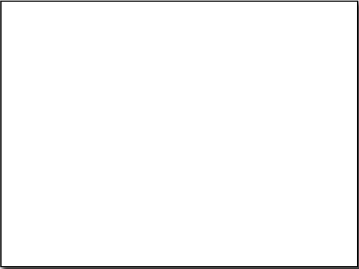
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“Whatever needs doing, whether it’s scrubbing floors or teaching children, I’m happy to do it,” says Sister John Margaret Walsh, 76. Serving others has been a way of life for her since she entered the Congregation of Divine Providence some sixty years ago. Though retired, Sister John Margaret’s days remain filled with prayer and ministry—whatever needs doing. “Do all you can,” she says, “and leave the rest to God.”



Retirement Fund for Religious

A lifetime of prayer and service unites Sister John Margaret with nearly 34,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Like Sister John Margaret, they often ministered for little pay, resulting in today’s shortage of retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

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[10 Sessions]

Registration due by January 19,
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Contact: Addie

(760) 305-8355 or addie@usa.com

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Date: _____

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Email _____ Payment Enclosed \$ _____

Please return form and payment to Kathleen Bell at the Parish Office.

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***Engaging Spirituality 2014* Response Form**

Please complete and return to Parish Office or Offertory Collection Basket or Table on the Plaza by December 29.

Name:	Phone:
Address:	Email:
City/State/Zip	
Preferred day/time: <input type="checkbox"/> Monday evening <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday morning	