

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



Vigil of Christmas  
Masses at 4:00pm, 4:15pm  
6:00pm, and 10:00pm

Christmas Day  
Mass at 9:30am

December 15, 2013 ✚ Third Sunday of Advent

## Pastor's Column

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

### The Holiday Season

Recently, a friend of mine went to the Post Office to buy stamps. He said, "I would like some religious Christmas stamps." The clerk queried, "Oh, do you want Hanukkah or Kwanzaa stamps?" A bit dumb-founded, my friend asked again, "I want religious Christmas stamps!" The clerk then responded, "Oh, so you want Christian Christmas stamps. You want the Madonna and child." Exasperated, my friend simply said, "Yes," bought his stamps and went home.

This conversation is humorous and it displays a delightful ignorance on the part of the clerk, but it also reflects a misunderstanding, that is, I believe, commonplace in our culture today.

Christmas has become "The Holiday Season," the time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Now devoid of most of its religious roots and meaning, it has become a time for celebration, good will, and commitment to family and community.

*(Continued on page 2)*



### Retirement Fund for Religious

This national collection supports retired priests and religious. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has launched blog posts by religious who tell what the religious life has meant to them.

Visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) and click on *Religious Blog about Their Lives*.

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 (attached to the bulletin recently) any time during December. Thank you!

### Did You Know?

In the last fiscal year (FYE 2013), landscaping maintenance costs (both gardening services and irrigation) exceeded \$37,700.

Whatever gift/donation you can make to our "Did You Know?" Campaign will help greatly to balance our budget for this fiscal year!

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

Celebrating "The Holiday Season" is a good thing, not a bad thing! It strengthens us as a people and creates a desire to reach out to one another in care and concern. It also creates a neutral umbrella under which people of all faiths and people with no faith can come together and mutually celebrate the strengthening of our community and society.

But as we do so, we should not remain ignorant, or not share the proper meanings, for fear of offending others, of the various feasts that we celebrate.

We need to be aware that the roots of "The Holiday Season" are Christian. Christians are celebrating the Feast of the Incarnation, the birth of the Christ, the Messiah, who came in the person of Jesus of Nazareth some 2,000 years ago. Christians believe that God became flesh in the person of Jesus. That is the origin and reason for this time that so many Americans now simply call "The Holiday Season."

The Christmas Season, for Christians, begins on December 25 and continues through the Feast of Epiphany on January 6. It is from this celebration that comes the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

So in our "Holiday Season," one feast we celebrate is the Christian Feast of Christmas.

Also in this "Holiday Season," the Jewish Feast of Hanukkah takes place. Hanukkah is an eight-day celebration also called "The Festival of Lights." This feast celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in 165BC. This year Hanukkah began on November 27 and ended in the evening on December 5.

Hanukkah is not a Christmas Celebration. It is a Jewish Feast that falls within the cycle of what we Americans call "The Holiday Season."

Kwanzaa is a Pan-African, non-religious celebration of family, community, and culture. This celebration, that has its roots in the first harvest celebrations of Africa, begins on December 26 and continues through January 1.

Kwanzaa is not a Christmas Celebration. It is becoming an evermore-popular celebration that takes place in "The Holiday Season."

Celebration of faith, family, community, and culture is good! In "The Holiday Season," we Americans celebrate the Jewish Feast of Hanukkah, the Christian Feast of Christmas, and the Pan-African Feast of Kwanzaa.

May we enjoy this diversity and celebrate with each other, rather than claiming the Season for ourselves—for one specific faith or culture. But to honestly celebrate, let us know what we celebrate and why!

*Fr. Mike*

**Advent Reconciliation Services at Local Parishes**

Date	Time	Parish
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

**Congratulations to****Tim & Beverly Kowallek**

who celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary December 14.  
*May God continue to bless your marriage, and may you be an inspiration to other married couples.*

**In Memoriam**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

**Rita Shepard**, who died on December 6. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, December 19, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep her family, including her husband Jack, in your prayers.

*May her soul 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?

*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](mailto:thomasgoeltz@aol.com) or 760-727-8442.

**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](mailto:scrip@stmoside.org)
4. Phone at 760-758-4100 x150

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

**Our Mission is to:**

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

**Readings for the Week Ahead**  
 Sunday Year A; Weekday Year II  
 Readings online at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).  
**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  
**Monday, December 16 (187)**  
 Numbers 24:2-7,15-17a  
 Psalm 25:4-9  
 Matthew 21:23-27  
**Tuesday, December 17 (193)**  
 Genesis 49:2,8-10  
 Psalm 72:1-4,7-8,17  
 Matthew 1:1-17  
**Wednesday, December 18 (194)**  
 Jeremiah 23:5-8  
 Psalm 72:1-2,12-13,18-19  
 Matthew 1:18-25  
**Thursday, December 19 (195)**  
 Judges 13:2-7,24-25a  
 Psalm 71:3-6,16-17  
 Luke 1:5-25  
**Friday, December 20 (196)**  
 Isaiah 7:10-14  
 Psalm 24:1-6  
 Luke 1:26-38  
**Saturday, December 21 (197)**  
*Peter Canisius, priest, doctor*  
 Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a  
 Psalm 33:2-3,11-12,20-21  
 Luke 1:39-45  
**Sunday, December 22 (10)**  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
 Isaiah 7:10-14  
 Psalm 24:1-6  
 Romans 1:1-7  
 Matthew 1:18-24

Mass Intentions
Saturday, December 14, 5:00pm Mary Springer ☩
Sunday, December 15, 8:30am Jack Fischer ☩
Sunday, December 15, 10:30am Joseph Vozza ☩
Monday, December 16, 8:15am Maureen Oleinik
Tuesday, December 17, 8:15am Victor Lizardi ☩
Wednesday, December 18, 8:15am Jack and Peggy Fischer ☩
Thursday, December 19, 8:15am Charles I. Walsh ☩
Friday, December 20, 8:15am Larry Fortier ☩
Saturday, December 21, 5:00pm Eunice Masseth ☩
Sunday, December 22, 8:30am Jack Williams ☩
Sunday, December 22, 10:30am Mari-Jo Porter & Joseph Immerso ☩

**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  
 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  
 Carol Costa  
 Steven Cresencia  
 Lené Crowe  
 Karen Flaharty Daley  
 The Davis Family  
 Beverly de Gelder  
 Brendan & Ryan Devlin  
 Carole Dillon  
 Judith DiMatteo  
 Art Dossman  
 Dave Dossman  
 John Drazkowski, Jr.  
 La Vonne Dumas  
 Debbie Ebaugh  
 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  
 Brian Frink  
 Jim Gallagher  
 The Joe Garcia Family  
 Kathy Gardner  
 Jack & Marge Gillen  
 Wendy Gonzales' Dad  
 Rick Gonzalez  
 The Greig Family  
 Rosemary Haeffelin  
 Susan Hallahan  
 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  
 Sue Johnston  
 Betty Karch  
 The Keeffe Family  
 Paul Kennedy  
 Peggy Kiernan  
 Debbie Kinney  
 Martha Knutzen  
 Deway Kolbo  
 Tony Korwin  
 Helen Kuhn  
 Lillian Lachance  
 The Lamelin Family  
 Brandon LeBlanc  
 Jeremiah Lemus  
 Claudia Leué  
 The Paul Leué Family  
 Ashley Load  
 Cassandra Loretto  
 Lauren Loretto  
 James MacArthur  
 The Magnus & Bosse Families  
 Joaquin Maldonado  
 Paige Mansell  
 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  
 Perry Postulka  
 Douglas Price-Williams  
 The Joe Prokop Family  
 Barbara Ramm  
 The Reiter Family  
 Jan Riley  
 Rita Ritchie  
 Adela & Elena Rivera  
 Maria Rogers  
 The Rossmassler & McDuff Families  
 Dorothy Rouse  
 The Russo Family  
 Cindy Sanelli  
 Linda Schmidt  
 Rita Schmedar  
 Julie Schweighofer  
 Don Shaw  
 Joan Shea  
 The Shephard Family  
 Elizabeth Shirzad  
 The Smith & Berry Families  
 Nick Soltau  
 Fred & Gilda Spiegel  
 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.  
 Barbara Upson  
 Corrie & Robert Vasquez  
 Lucy Vienna  
 Dorina Visciglio  
 Vanessa Vitiello  
 Kevin Watson-Graff  
 Sue Welch  
 Paul West  
 John Whitton  
 Marceline Williams  
 Erin Young  
 Patricia Zavala  
 Martin Zschoche

**Calendar Highlights**  
 More details at [www.stmoside.org](http://www.stmoside.org),  
 Schedule and Calendar

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 22 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses

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 13 Women's Guild Luncheon

Jan 19 High School RE.A.CH Classes

Jan 19 Spirited Seniors at AVO Playhouse

Jan 25-26 STM Authors Book Signing Event

Jan 26 RE.A.CH Classes at Church, including High School

Feb 8 Women's Guild Fashion Show

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

December 16 Sr. Soledad Hernandez, SSP
December 17 Sr. Electa Hevener, OCD
December 18 Sr. Mary Hotz, RSCJ
December 19 Sr. Bernard Ibrahim, DMI
December 20 Sr. Catherine Rose Iverson, SHF
December 21 Sr. Barbara Jackson, OSF
December 22 Sr. Francine Jackson, RSM

**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

What first attracted me to *Engaging Spirituality* was the name of the program. I was searching for something to guide me toward a more spiritual relationship with the Lord. *Engaging Spirituality* met my "Holy Longing". The Wednesday night meetings became the highlight of my week. The required readings became books I couldn't put down. The weekly subject matter deepened my feelings; the facilitated readings and participant involvement pulled us all into the sharing process. The "Bearings Letters" became examples and advice on how to follow in Jesus's footsteps. The participants became special friends and we all grew more spiritually together. —*Connie Kniesel*

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. Contact Sr. Maureen at 760-758-4100 x131 or [maureenb@stmoside.org](mailto:maureenb@stmoside.org) to sign up now!

### 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, Past-President, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops*

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

### Journey through Scripture— "Genesis to Jesus"

#### Starting January 2014 at STM

It is time to sign up for this great Dr. Scott Hahn Bible Study!!! Fill out the form on the bottom of the flyer from last week's bulletin, stick it in an envelope, and return it to Kathleen Bell. The 10-week session begins on Wednesday, January 22, at 9:00am or Thursday, January 23, at 7:00pm. Any questions please call Addie at 760-305-8355.

### 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](mailto: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—Marriage Unique for a Reason:**

For a wealth of Church teaching on marriage, statements by United States Bishops on marriage and many other tools to equip ourselves in the efforts to defend marriage as a sacred union of one man and one woman, go to <http://www.marriageuniqueforareason.org/> on the internet.

**Bishops' Letter on Marriage—Same-Sex Unions:** "Marriage is a unique union, a relationship different from all others. It is the permanent bond between one man and one woman whose two-in-one-flesh communion of persons is an indispensable good at the heart of every family and every society. Same-sex unions are incapable of realizing this specific communion of persons. Therefore, attempting to redefine marriage to include such relationships empties the term of its meaning, for it excludes the essential complementarity between man and woman, treating sexual difference as if it were irrelevant to what marriage is." To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

**Marriage Moments**—"Couples sometimes relate by making little jokes with a tiny barb in them—"Oh, never marry a youngest child!" and the retaliation, "Never marry a Jones." Humor is great but beware of the temptation to be funny at the expense of your beloved. It can slowly erode your affection for each other. Talk about how you kid each other. Make sure your "jokes" don't have barbs in them.

**Parenting Pointers**—(Winter Solstice) Dec. 21 is the longest night of the year. Advent is about waiting in the uncertainty of darkness. Ponder the times you have waited in the dark with a family member. Perhaps it was illness, a child afraid of the dark, or another fear, that kept you in vigil together. Why not take your child outside on Saturday and marvel at the stars together. Be not afraid.

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

### Community Service Numbers:

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

### Christmas Angel Ministry

The spirit of Christmas and the joy of giving are abundant at STM! The stockings and gift bags have been filled. The Camp Pendleton Family packages will be delivered Monday. Please bring any remaining "angel" gifts and gift cards in this week. Make another stop at the scrip table for last minute gift card donations. We will deliver the last items on Thursday, December 19.

Thank you for making Christmas wonderful for so many children and military families with children. God bless you all for contributing your time, talent, and treasure! Your generosity is overwhelming!

Marti and John Harper  
760-724-1181 or [4johnmysangel@cox.net](mailto: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 *The Third Millennium of Families*.

For more information, contact Deacon John Fredette at [johnf@stmoside.org](mailto:johnf@stmoside.org) or 760-758-4100 x132.

### Women's Guild News

**Christmas Raffle**—This is the weekend we have been waiting for. Thank you for sending in your ticket stubs to be part of the Women's Guild Raffle. By noon on Sunday we will have three happy winners and you and the Parish will be blessed by your giving. We are that much closer to celebrating Christmas in our new worship space embraced by its beauty. We thank you with warm hearts.

It's time to light candle number three on the advent wreath and open windows 14/15 on the Advent Calendar, reminding us that we are only one and a half weeks away from the big celebration. The anticipation builds as we make preparations. We had a wonderful example at our last meeting of how we share with people all over the world, the GOOD NEWS, with interesting customs and their origins. Christmas brings us all together. May your Advent continue to be blessed.

**Fashion Show**—With our fashion show coming up very quickly on February 8, we are always looking for donations of door prizes (valued at \$15 or more) or opportunity baskets (valued at \$75 to \$100 ). If you can help or want further information, please contact Maureen Tutino at 760-598-8211. —*Ann Buko, president*

### The Knightly News

Thank you for your continued support of the Knights of Columbus by attending our Parish breakfasts. With a special thanks going to the choir; a profit of over \$600 was made at the last breakfast. These breakfasts and the Lenten fish dinners are significant fundraisers for us. The funds are put back into various Parish, local, and regional charities and faith-supporting functions.

**MEN OF THE PARISH;** as our Parish continues to grow, so is your Knights of Columbus chapter. It is a great fellowship of men that love and serve God and his people. Please consider checking us out on the first Tuesday of the month at our monthly fellowship gatherings on the lower level with food and refreshments, 6:30-7:30pm. We would love to see you there. For more information, please call Andy Frost at 858-245-6305.

### Catholic Widows and Widowers of North County

Check the bulletin board on the lower level of the Parish Center for our calendar of activities, which include potlucks, outings to restaurants, and much more! RSVPs are recommended. For more information, call Carol Kope at 760-726-0533 or Gerri Wilmott at 760-758-9949.

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

<b>Pipe Organ</b>	<b>\$850,000</b>
<b>Memorial Garden</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>Reflection Garden</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>Church Doors (Bronze)</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Crucifix</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>St. Thomas More Shrine (Tapestry)</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>Pew Seating for the Church</b> (1,000) 900 available	<b>\$300/person</b>
<b>Daily Mass Chapel and Choir Chairs</b> (200) 137 available	<b>\$300/each</b>



12/09/13

*For more information on our progress, visit our website, [stmoside.org](http://stmoside.org), and click on Our New Church.*

### Stay Up to Date on Construction Activity!

Check the Parish website ([www.stmoside.org](http://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.

### Rosary

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



# Liturgy & Music

Worship God

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

## A (SECRET) MESSAGE FOR THE FINAL DAYS OF ADVENT

The **O Antiphons** are used at Vespers (the sunset evening prayer service) the last seven days of Advent, December 17 through December 23. Each antiphon is a name of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture.

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



Matthew 11:7



**O Wisdom**, O holy Word of God,  
 you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care:  
*Come, show your people the way to salvation.*

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

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



**O Flower of Jesse’s Stem**, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples;  
 kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down before you:  
*Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.*



**O Key of David**,

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

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



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

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

**O King of All the Nations**, the only joy of every human heart;

O Keystone of the mighty arch of humankind:

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



**O Emmanuel**,  
 king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people:  
*Come and set us free.*

### Upcoming Music



DECEMBER 22  
 4th Sunday of  
 Advent

5:00pm Mass

Cappella Choir

8:30am Mass

Cantor &  
 Congregation

10:30am Mass

Praise Team

## DECK THE HALLS...

**CAN YOU HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH?**

**FOR CHRISTMAS? IN THE FUTURE?**

**CONTACT KATHY ARCIERO, 760-231-1022 OR 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

## We Celebrate FORGIVENESS

Sunday is our Parish's communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 4:00pm.

All Parishioners are strongly encouraged to attend, not only for our own experience of the forgiveness of our loving God, but also to bear witness and celebrate with our children who approach this Sacrament for the first time.

*Maxwell Alexander Abelson*  
*David Fabian Arredondo*  
*Eleanor (Mary) Ghassan Asfour*  
*George Ghassan Asfour*  
*Michaelis Ann Barela*  
*Matias Isaiah Chavez*  
*Melia Patricia Crimaldi*  
*Arianna Elisa Flores*  
*Priscilla Yasmin Flores*  
*Elsa An Garcia-Nguyen*  
*Fe Dung Garcia-Nguyen*  
*Tessa Irene Haubert*  
*Cole Ray Headrick*  
*Alanna Danielle Jarvis*  
*Matthew Edward Mansell*  
*Cielo G. Mendez*  
*Colton James Myers*  
*Savana Navadel*  
*Brendan Austin Norbert O'Malley*  
*Alexander Heitman Paliotti*  
*Ava Ratajczak*  
*Mia Ratajczak*  
*Andre Jameson Socha*  
*Brian Rhys Viado*  
*Braden Javier West*  
*Meredith Anne Williams*



## Chocolate

Look for St Thomas More EDGE and Youth Justice teams on the plaza this weekend.

Proceeds from this month's sales will go toward the donation of a sheep to a family in Romania.



Photo credit: Heifer Foundation

Heifer International will provide a sheep along with training and education in its care.

## Happy Birthday Jesus!

On December 1, we invited our RE.A.CH families (and you) to get a birthday present for Jesus and bring it to our December 8 class. The shopping list for the birthday present included peanut butter and jelly.

The children were assured that this present would go directly to Jesus because we find Jesus this very day in the children in our own community who are without food.

The response?

What a birthday present!

On December 8 we counted 247 pounds of peanut butter and jelly.

Thanks to Richard Kahl for delivering this to Jesus for his birthday at Catholic Charities.



Pope Francis said in a recent address:

***"...the whole of life is a meeting with Jesus!  
This meeting happens in prayer,  
when we go to Mass,  
and when we do good works:  
when we visit the sick,  
when we help the poor,  
when we think of others."***

Local children go hungry everyday, not just at Christmas time, and so our collection of PBJ continues year round. You will always find the container outside the Faith Formation Office and are welcome to add a jar.

Small jars go further, and plastic instead of glass results in fewer accidents.

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

# 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](mailto:chriss@stmoside.org)

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

### Collection for Week of December 7/8, 2013

Number of Registered Households		1,068
Offertory*	\$	16,585.40
Offertory (Loose Collection)		1,585.00
Children's envelopes		0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>18,170.40</b>

\* Offertory envelopes, credit card withdrawals, automatic checking or savings account deductions (credit card and automatic bank account withdrawals are posted at STM on the 5th and/or 20th of each month).

### Ways to Help Support Your Parish

We offer a variety of options for easier giving. In addition to the extra mail-back envelopes included in your packet, we offer automatic credit card withdrawal (Visa, MC, or Discover) and automatic checking/savings account deduction. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 760-758-4100 x100 or [Parish\\_office@stmoside.org](mailto:Parish_office@stmoside.org).

### St. Francis and St. Thomas More Offertory Envelopes

Any St. Francis Offertory Envelopes given to the offertory collection at St. Thomas More will be returned to St. Francis.

Any St. Thomas More Offertory Envelopes given to the offertory collection at St. Francis will be returned to St. Thomas More.

### Christian Stewardship and Advent

From the loneliness of his prison cell John the Baptist asks of Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" The weeks before Christmas offer much to be joyous about, celebrating with family and friends, the glitter of seasonal decorations, the excitement of gift giving and receiving.

But in our midst there are the lonely and neglected, the poor, the hospitalized, the wayward, the shut-ins. There are those who seem to be without hope. To whom should they look?

Discipleship in the Lord includes being good stewards of others. Are there those in our family, our neighborhood, our community to whom we can reach out to show them a sign of Christ's presence in their midst?



Come Lord Jesus!  
 Make us good stewards of Advent.  
 Strengthen our faith; calm our fears.

Come Lord Jesus!  
 We hear John the Baptist's cry.  
 Open our hearts. Give us the humility to repent.

Come, Lord Jesus! Let us walk in your light!  
 Show us how we prepare your way;  
 and make straight your paths.

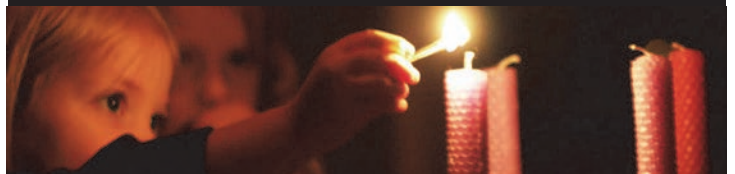
Come, Lord Jesus!  
 We give you thanks and praise,  
 for the shining star and angelic host,  
 for Mary and Joseph, good stewards, both.

Come, Lord Jesus!  
 We rejoice and are glad  
 for the Good News you bring and God's glory you revealed.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen!

—excerpted from ICSC Stewardship e-bulletin, December 2013 (with permission)

**Despite the great spiritual significance of this feast, we can sometimes let the season become a time of material excess.**





## News and Information from the Larger Church

**Lessons and Carols Concert**—Sunday, December 15, 3:00pm, Mission San Luis Rey, 4050 Mission Ave., Oceanside. A traditional festival that combines readings from the Bible alternating with musical selections.

**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.

**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](mailto:vnims@fst.edu) or visit [fst.edu](http://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](mailto:mburton@cathedralcatholic.org) or 858-523-4000 x1215.

**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](mailto:privera@diocese-sdiego.org) or 619-291-7446.

**Spirituality and Life Choices: The Practice of Discernment—A Retreat for Young Adults**—January 11, 10:00am-4:00pm, University of San Diego, Hahn University Center, Forum C. \$30 per person, lunch included. RSVP by January 3 to 619-260-4600 or visit [www.sandiego.edu/ccs](http://www.sandiego.edu/ccs) for more information.

**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.

### News from St. Francis Church

525 W. Vista Way, Vista • 760-945-8000 • [stfrancis-vista.org](http://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.

**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.sandiego.edu/ccs).

**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](http://www.speakupnow.org) or 858-598-2235.

**Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center in Oceanside** has an ongoing schedule of retreats! Visit [www.sanluisrey.org](http://www.sanluisrey.org) for more details.

**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](mailto: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.

#### 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](http://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](http://ihradio.com/sandiego)

#### Young Adult Ministry Activities

Visit [www.yamsd.org](http://www.yamsd.org) for complete information on events for young adults. Service Project at Catholic Charities December 16, Christmas Party for 18-25 year-olds December 20 in Escondido, and more!

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](http://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 & Evangelization .....Rory Griffin 760-414-3939**

- Religious Education (Adults)..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
- Small Church Communities ..... Sondra Parks 760-598-1269
- Little Rock 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

**Liturgy .....Kathy Arciero 760-231-1022**

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

**Marriage & Family Life ..... Jen Frost 858-692-7438**

- 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 Activities .....Henny 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 Ministry .....Diane 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 .....	<a href="mailto:michaelr@stmoside.org">michaelr@stmoside.org</a>
Rev. Karl Bauer, Senior Priest.....	760-758-4100 x133 .....	<a href="mailto:karlb@stmoside.org">karlb@stmoside.org</a>
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Deacon Tom Goeltz.....	760-758-4100 x100 .....	<a href="mailto:thomasg@stmoside.org">thomasg@stmoside.org</a>
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Marcus Cabrera, Youth Advocate.....	760-758-4100 x161 .....	<a href="mailto:marcusc@stmoside.org">marcusc@stmoside.org</a>
Stacey Griffin, Faith Formation Office Assistant .....	760-758-4100 x110 .....	<a href="mailto:staceyg@stmoside.org">staceyg@stmoside.org</a>
Douglas Lynn, Director of Liturgy and Music.....	760-758-4100 x140 .....	<a href="mailto:douglasl@stmoside.org">douglasl@stmoside.org</a>
Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director .....	760-758-4100 x100 .....	<a href="mailto:kathys@stmoside.org">kathys@stmoside.org</a>
Sally Fay, Organist/Choir Accompanist .....	760-758-4100 x100 .....	<a href="mailto:sallyf@stmoside.org">sallyf@stmoside.org</a>
Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development .....	760-758-4100 x120 .....	<a href="mailto:chriss@stmoside.org">chriss@stmoside.org</a>
Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance .....	760-758-4100 x151 .....	<a href="mailto:joeg@stmoside.org">joeg@stmoside.org</a>
Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary.....	760-758-4100 x100 .....	<a href="mailto:hennyj@stmoside.org">hennyj@stmoside.org</a>
Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper.....	760-758-4100 x104 .....	<a href="mailto:nataliep@stmoside.org">nataliep@stmoside.org</a>
Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician.....	760-758-4100 x102 .....	<a href="mailto:lorrained@stmoside.org">lorrained@stmoside.org</a>
Brian Leahey, Director of Construction.....	760-758-4100 x152 .....	<a href="mailto:brianl@stmoside.org">brianl@stmoside.org</a>

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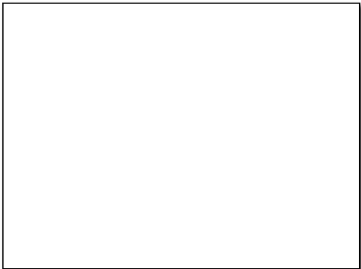
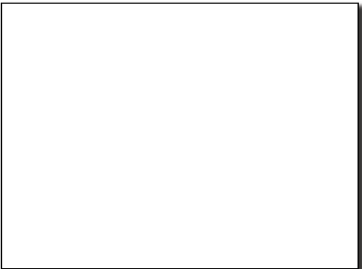


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