

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 22, 2013 ✚ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pastor's Column

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

Come Home for Christmas!

We hear much about “coming home” for the holidays. My Christmas greetings and prayers for you and yours are contained in these words from Fr. Henri Nouwen:

Coming Home

There are two realities to which you must cling. First, God has promised that you will receive the love you have been searching for. And second, God is faithful to that promise. So stop wandering around. Instead, come home and trust that God will bring you what you need. Your whole life you have been running about, seeking the love you desire. Now it is time to end that search. Trust that God will give you that all-fulfilling love and will give it in a human way.

Before you die, God will offer you the deepest satisfaction you can desire. Just stop running and start trusting and receiving. Home is where you are truly safe. It is where you can receive what you desire. You need human hands to hold you there so that you don't run away again. But when you come home and stay home, you will find the love that will bring rest to your heart.

Many of us have found our way home. Many of us continue to search. The Faith Community of St. Thomas More is here for all of us.

As Pastor, I pledge that I will do all that I can to ensure that our Parish will be a place and a people where you are truly safe; where you can share your story in trust; where, with other seekers, you will find human hands to hold you so that you don't run away again.

For those of us who are here every week, we have found rest for our hearts. This Christmas, we give thanks to God!

For those of us who are guests this Christmas, who do not have a faith community, and who are looking for a home, please come back again and again!

If you feel the call to belong to a Faith Community, but are not sure how to go about it, feel free to give me a call or set up an appointment. I would welcome an opportunity to chat with you.

Come home for Christmas!

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Fr. Mike

Oplatki – Christmas Wafers

The word Bethlehem means “House of Bread.” The breaking of bread is a sign of charity, unity, and friendship.

Religious family traditions and customs bring the truths of Faith into the home.

One of these beautiful Christmas customs is the Christmas Wafer. A wafer bearing a simple design commemorative of Christ’s birth is given to everyone present gathered together for the Christmas meal.



With a simple prayer for God’s grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family, the designated family member then invites everyone to go to another person, and with a gesture of a hug, kiss, or handshake, ask forgiveness for anything they may have done to hurt that family member in the past year, and to seek God’s blessings upon them in the coming year.

Each person, as the words are said, then breaks a piece off of each other’s wafer and consumes the piece that has been broken off.

The spiritual lesson in this age old custom is unity of the family—the main pillar of society. The bond of unity is the Christ-like charity that should exist among the members of the family.

The members of the family are the links in the unbroken chain of One Body, One Bread, One Christ, and the One Church. The family is part of the eternal procession no matter where they are. For there is a universal longing to be always with one another, with God.

All this brings to mind clearly our charity for one another, to seek salvation together. Family customs remind us that we seek and obtain salvation with the help of others at all times.

These Christmas Wafers, and the home ritual surrounding their use, originated in Poland. This custom and ritual is also popular in Slovakia, Lithuania, Ukraine, and other parts of Catholic Eastern Europe.

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.

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.

Welcome New Parishioners

Fred & Linda Story

Announcing the Baptism of

Mundo James Gonzalez

on December 23



Our Christian community welcomes you with great joy!

2013 National Needs Collection

\$1,520.82

2013 Typhoon Haiyan Relief

\$6,687.00

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.

Our Mission is to: worship God,

In addition to Mass, Reconciliation, and Eucharistic Adoration (see page 1 for schedules), there are opportunities to participate in liturgical and music ministries.

*For further information, contact Douglas Lynn,
Director of Liturgy and Music,
at 760-758-410 x140 or douglasl@stmoside.org.*

Matrimony (9 months advance notice required), communion for the sick/homebound, and anointing are available by request.

*For further information, contact the Parish Office
at 760-758-4100 x100 or Parishoffice@stmoside.org.*

teach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ,

There are programs for faith development and enrichment for all ages, including preparation for celebrating the sacraments.

*For further information, contact Kathleen Bell,
Director of Faith Formation,
at 760-758-4100 x110 or kathleenb@stmoside.org.*

and serve God’s people in word and deed.

There are many groups who serve our Parishioners and provide outreach to the local community (see page 10).

*For further information, contact Chris Smith,
Director of Stewardship and Development,
at 760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org.*

See page 10 or www.stmoside.org for more details.

Readings for the Week Ahead

Sunday Year A; Weekday Year II

Sunday, December 22 (10)

Forth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalms 24:1-6

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

Monday, December 23 (199)

John of Kanty, priest

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24

Psalms 25:4-5,8-9,10,14

Luke 1:57-66

Tuesday, December 24 (200)

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

Psalms 89:2-5,27,29

Luke 1:67-79

Wednesday, December 25

Nativity of the Lord

Midnight (14)

Isaiah 9:1-6

Psalms 96:1-3,11-13

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

Day (16)

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalms 98:1-6

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

Thursday, December 26 (696)

Stephen, first martyr

Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59

Psalms 31:3-4,6,8,16,17

Matthew 10:17-22

Friday, December 27 (697)

John, apostle, evangelist

1 John 1:1-4

Psalms 97:1-2,5-6,11-12

John 20:1a,2-8

Saturday, December 28 (698)

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

1 John 1:5-2:2

Psalms 124:2-5,7-8

Matthew 2:13-18

Sunday, December 22 (17)

The Holy Family of

Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14

Psalms 128:1-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

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
- Monica Broussard
- Janet Brown
- Todd Brown
- Mary Bruzas
- Anita Buerger
- Bridget Buford
- Jeff & Janelle Butler
- Tony Calderone
- Shelby Campbell
- Brianne Campos
- Claudia Caplinger
- Aria Cappeluti
- Paul Cassidy
- John Castagna
- Marilyn Clarke
- The Vaughn Clevenger Family
- Dolly Cole
- Carl Coleman
- James Coleman
- Thomas Cornwall & Family
- Carol Costa
- Steven Cresencia
- Lené Crowe
- Karen Flaharty Daley
- Beverly de Gelder
- Brendán Devlin
- Ryan Devlin
- Carole Dillon
- Judith DiMatteo
- Art & 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 Haefffelin
- Susan Hallahan
- Pat & Tom Hannon
- The Harker Family
- Barbara Hatem
- Heidi Heaton
- Lilian Hills
- Samara Hook
- Susan Hori
- Rick Hughes
- Iolanda Iacobelli
- Linda Iacobelli Bennett
- Sue Johnston
- Betty Karch
- Paul Kennedy
- Peggy Kiernan
- Debbie Kinney
- Dewey Kolbo
- Tony Korwin
- Helen Kuhn
- Lillian Lachance
- The Lamelin Family
- Brandon LeBlanc
- Jeremiah Lemus
- 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
- Esther Ortega
- Bernadette Padovan
- The Pal Family
- Art Palle
- Ethan Palm
- Perry Postulka
- Douglas Price-Williams
- The Joe Prokop Family
- Barbara Ramm
- Jan Riley
- Rita Ritchie
- Adela & Elena Rivera
- Maria Rogers
- The Rossmassler & McDuff Families
- Dorothy Rouse
- The Russo Family
- Cindy Sanelli
- Linda Schmidt
- Rita Schnedar
- The Douglas E. Schulte Family
- 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,
Schedule and Calendar

- 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

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- Jan 1 Mary Mother of God—Mass at 9:30am
- Jan 5 Twelfth Night
- Jan 6 Choral Festival at STM
- Jan 6 Moms & Kids Get Together
- 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
- Feb 22 Women's Prayer Breakfast
- Jun 13 STM Annual Gala
- Jun 22 New Member Luncheon

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

Pray for Women Religious

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

December 23	Sr. Teresa Jaramillo, MMS
December 24	Sr. Yesica Jimenez, HCJS
December 25	Sr. Katherine Jobson, MMS
December 26	Sr. Jane Joppa, OCD
December 27	Sr. Mary Magdalene Kalinda, CVI
December 28	Sr. Baouth Kassab, DMI
December 29	Sr. Maureen Keegan, SCMM

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 21, 5:00pm	Eunice Masseth ☩
Sunday, December 22, 8:30am	Jack Williams ☩
Sunday, December 22, 10:30am	Mari-Jo Porter & Joseph Immerso ☩
Monday, December 23, 8:15am	Angela Aren
Tuesday, December 24, 4:00pm	Donald Fox ☩
Tuesday, December 24, 4:15pm	Marie Strahan ☩
Tuesday, December 24, 6:00pm	Elaine Tschumper ☩
Tuesday, December 24, 10:00pm	Martin Stephen Lilly Jr. ☩
Wednesday, December 25, 9:30am	Anna & Luigi Luce ☩
Thursday, December 26, 8:15am	Joseph Conroy ☩
Friday, December 27, 8:15am	Becky Kaufman ☩
Saturday, December 28, 5:00pm	Rob Petruzzzo Jr.
Sunday, December 29, 8:30am	Ida Lea Roberts ☩
Sunday, December 29, 10:30am	Shirley Darcy ☩

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 to sign up now!

The Mission of the St. Thomas More Social Justice Committee is to:

- † provide awareness and education of Catholic social justice teaching;
- † participate in creating a society with more just laws and social structures;
- † work with other faith groups on justice issues within social, economic, and political structures.

Community Service Numbers:

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

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 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 \$41,143

from this program. Thank you donors!



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

Marriage & Family Life

Come Join Us! Are you a mom with infant-school age children looking to meet other moms? Want to find a great way to meet friends for both you and your children? Join us for some bagels at our first meet-up of the Moms and Kids ministry on Monday, January 6, at South Buena Vista Park (on South Melrose) from 10:00am-12:00noon. See you there!



The Divorce Healing Ministry of St. Luke Parish invites those going through a separation and divorce to a 12-week program of recovery entitled, *The Catholic’s Divorce Survival Guide*. Our support group meets on the first and third Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00pm at the Church of St. Luke, 1980 Hillsdale Rd., El Cajon. You can start and end the series at any time. No charge. Seating limited; call to reserve your place with us: 619-401-6445.

Bishops’ Letter on Marriage—Similar, but Different: “Male-female complementarity is intrinsic to marriage. It is naturally ordered toward authentic union and the generation of new life. Children are meant to be the gift of the permanent and exclusive union of a husband and a wife. A child is meant to have a mother and a father.” To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

Marriage Moments—(Christmas) “Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is 14; from David to the Babylonian exile, 14 generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Christ, 14 generations.” (Mt 1:17) How well do you know your beloved’s ancestry? See how far back you can go.

Parenting Pointers—One of the Spiritual Works of Mercy is to “forgive offences willingly” (Mt 6:14). Christmas is generally thought of as a family time, but the hectic pace that precedes it and family gatherings can also be a time of conflict and hurt. Teach your child to forgive siblings, classmates, neighbors. Do it yourself.

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

Christmas Angel Ministry

The Angel Tree is now adorned with golden crowns to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our newborn King and to begin the final phase of the Christmas Angel Ministry. Help us support Birth Choice by taking crown ornaments over the next two weeks and purchasing baby items to help those mothers who have chosen life over abortion. Return your baby items and present them at the manger on the weekend of January 4-5, the Feast of the Epiphany.

The stockings, gift bags and toy after toy.

Have all been delivered—oh, what Christmas joy!

The noise we might hear now from Camp Pendleton?
Must be happy families crying “thank you” once again!

So there’s just one thing left, as we slip out of sight. . .

Merry Christmas to all

On this most Holy Night!

Thank you, STM, for your overwhelming generosity!

John & Marti Harper
and the Christmas Angel Team
760-724-1181 or 4johnnysangel@cox.net



Parish Events

Attention Men!

Join us for the weekly *That Man is You!* Program, which meets Saturday mornings from 6:45-8:30am. We'll resume in January—watch for the dates!

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

Women's Guild News

Christmas Raffle—We have three happier Parishioners as a result of Sunday's raffle drawing. Humor paid off when two of the winners approached Fr. Mike and jokingly asked if their name was drawn. They were laughingly surprised when he told them "yes," they had won! The third winner was so surprised that she spontaneously and generously decided to donate it back to the church, which she did not have to do. We are all blessed because of your generous giving. Thank you many times over for your support of the fundraisers for our annual parish donation. The winners are: Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Keane—\$500; Carol Kope—\$300; Shirley Riley—\$200.

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.

It's time to light the last of the candles on the Advent wreath and open up window 21/22 on the Advent calendar. As we prepare to enter into the mystery of God becoming man with our celebration of the birth of Jesus, all of us in the Women's Guild would like to wish each of you in our Parish family a Holy and Blessed Christmas. May your joy be full as we begin the twelve days of celebration. **Merry Christmas!** —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

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) 899 available	\$300/person
Daily Mass Chapel and Choir Chairs (200) 137 available	\$300/each



12/16/13

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.

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

CHRISTMAS IN A TIME OF TRANSITION



Matthew 1:24

Upcoming Music



DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve

4:00pm Mass

Praise Team
 Youth Choir

4:15pm Mass

Tower Bells

6:00pm Mass

Cappella Choir

10:30am Mass

Sanctuary Choir



DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day

9:30am Mass

Sanctuary Choir

Tower Bells



DECEMBER 29 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

5:00pm Mass

Sanctuary Choir

8:30am Mass

Praise Team

10:30am Mass

Tower Bells



As we look out on the plaza and into the construction site, we see wonderful things happening—fencing appears, dirt moves, grading occurs, forms are built, rebar is placed, concrete is poured, and more fencing appears!

Construction, as we all know, is a wonderful thing, but it has had an impact on our campus. The expanding construction zone means we cannot use the plaza for overflow seating and we cannot use the dirt lot for overflow parking.

Here are some things you need to know!

Christmas Eve Mass Added at 4:15pm

To accommodate everyone who wants to attend an early Christmas Eve Mass, we will be adding a second, more intimate Christmas Eve Mass at 4:15pm on the Lower Level in addition to our usual 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass on the Upper Level. The Praise Team and Christmas Youth Choir will be our musicians for the 4:00pm Mass and the Tower Bells will play at the 4:15pm Mass.

Christmas Eve 6:00pm and 10:00pm Masses

The 6:00pm Mass is our most lightly attended liturgy of Christmas Eve, and it is a great choice if you want all the liturgy—and all the carols—without all the crowds. The Cappella Choir will be singing at this Mass.

The 10:00pm Mass is our “Midnight” Mass. Join us at 9:30pm for extended caroling before Mass. The Sanctuary Choir will sing at this liturgy.

Christmas Day 9:30am Mass

For those who like to celebrate on Christmas Day, join us for our 9:30am Mass. The Sanctuary Choir and Tower Bells will be our musicians on

Christmas morning.

Carpooling

Because we do not have any extra parking in the dirt lot, we are encouraging everyone to carpool. If you and your neighbor are going to the same Mass, please share a vehicle. If your family usually comes to church in two or three cars, please use a single car this year.

We Aren't Able to Save Seats

Our Hospitality Ministers love you, and they love your friends and family members too, but this year they will not be able to let you save seats for those who are arriving separately. If you have a large number of people in your family or group who want to sit together for the Christmas Masses this year, come early, come together, and sit together.

We appreciate your help in making our Christmas in a Time of Transition a peaceful one. Thank you.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

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

Today is a RE.A.CH Sunday at Home
Check your Annual Plan
(Next Church Session: January 12)

Bible Study

*Journey Through Scripture –
“Genesis to Jesus”*



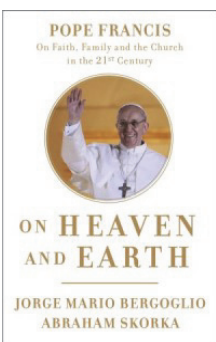
Join us for our new approach to Bible Study on Wednesday, January 22, at 9:00am **or** Thursday, January 23, at 7:00pm.

Addie Moneymaker, a trained facilitator for the program and also a Parishioner, will facilitate the sessions. Questions can be answered by calling Addie at 760-305-8355.

Because the books for this program cannot be returned, we will order for as many as have signed up. Please try to turn in your registration form right away so we can have your books for the first session.

What a great way to start the new year by growing in understanding of God’s Word. If you’ve never tried a Bible Study group, this is your opportunity!

Fr. Mike’s Bookies



Our next book
for reading and discussion is
On Heaven and Earth
by Pope Francis

From the man who became Pope Francis, Jorge Mario Bergoglio shares his thoughts on religion, reason, and the challenges the world faces in the 21st century with Abraham Skorka, a rabbi and biophysicist.

For years Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Rabbi Abraham Skorka were tenacious promoters of interreligious dialogues on faith and reason. They both sought to build bridges among Catholicism, Judaism, and the world at large.

The hardcover book is available at the Parish Office for \$16. It is also available for \$9.78 on Kindle through *Amazon.com* and other

Youth Ministry

Youth Group

*There will be NO youth group
on December 23 or December 30.*

I pray that you use this time to pray with your families, or get together with your small group leaders for some prayer and reflection time!

If you are not in a small group, get involved by contacting me (Marcus) and try us out! All of our small group leaders are fun, energetic, and Christ-loving college students looking to minister to the high schoolers in this journey we share together.

Solutions for Change

Tutoring the children at the homeless shelter will resume the week of January 5. If you love kids, need service hours, or both, we’d love to take new high school volunteers.

You’ll quickly learn that these children are looking for someone to look up to, and it’s really not about the school work. Come make a difference! Again, shoot me a quick email and be a blessing in someone’s life!

College, Coffee, & Catching Up

If you’re a college student who was heavily involved with STM’s youth, or even if you weren’t and we’ve never met, I invite you to please plug in to someone who can reflect with you about college—your successes, fears, mistakes, and relationship with Christ.

Send me an email marcusc@stmoside.org and I’ll respond with my cell number—my door is open to you 24 hours a day.

Welcome home for winter break!

Just remind me what you’re looking for and I’ll plug you in ASAP! God bless.

PBJ Update

(Food for Children at the Emergency Crisis Center)

2014 GOAL:	365 pounds
Collected to date:	275 pounds

It’s going to be a VERY good year!

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 December 14/15, 2013

Number of Registered Households		1,069
Offertory*	\$	9,740.64
Offertory (Loose Collection)		1,166.00
Children's envelopes		0.00
Total	\$	10,906.64

- * 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

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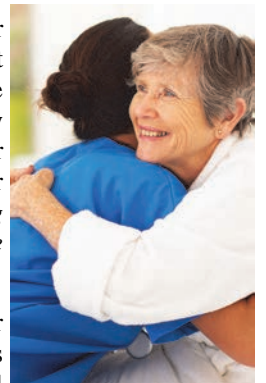
Christian Stewardship and Generosity

With all the giving that will be taking place this month I felt it an opportune occasion to reflect on the virtue of generosity—one of the hallmarks of Christian stewardship.

Authentic generosity is born out of the virtue of gratitude, and we in North America certainly have much for which to be grateful. In fact, we do well to always and everywhere give thanks to God, because all that we possess is his gift. When we are grateful to God we are inspired to give, not out of a sense of obligation or duty, but because giving is one way we can say thank you to God.

For generosity to be authentic it needs to be sacrificial and at the same time joyful. We need to give up something! Giving what we do not need is nice; but, it is not necessarily being generous.

Sacrifice means that we give out of our own need and not simply from what is left over. When we sacrifice it makes the generous act more joyful because by saying no to something that we need or want, we are able to say yes to the greater good. *There is nothing more life-giving than knowing that someone less fortunate is benefiting from your sacrifice.*



Whether you are giving your time or money, when the virtue of gratitude is behind the gift, the spirit of joy will naturally accompany the generous act. Joy makes the generous act mutually beneficial—joy shared is joy multiplied. Imagine giving, but doing it reluctantly or under compulsion; you would not be very motivated because there is no joy there. Joy is found inside an attitude of gratitude.

A simple formula for authentic generosity could be—share ten percent, save ten percent, spend eighty percent, in that order. I call it the 10-10-80 lifestyle. When we live well within our means we cultivate an acute awareness of our abundant blessings and this creates the desire, and the confidence, to share our gifts with authentic generosity.

In gratitude our generosity is then rooted in our needing to give rather than giving to a need.

—excerpted from part six in a series of 12 reflections on stewardship virtues by ICSC member, Dan Potvin, Director of Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, Canada, December 2013 e-newsletter (with permission)



*Joy is found inside an attitude of gratitude ~
Blessings and Peace this Christmas!*

News and Information from the Larger Church

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 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.

Relationship Skills Workshops—Tuesdays, 7:00pm, beginning January 7 and ending April 22, Diocesan Pastoral Center, 3888 Paducah Dr., San Diego. Come and explore how to improve your relationships. You can attend one workshop, several, or all. For more information, contact Deacon Ralph Skiano at 858-490-8292.

Monthly Holy Hour for Priestly and Religious Vocations—Third Wednesday of each month (next is January 15), 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.

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 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

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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. 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.



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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 Erin Barela 760-580-5659
- 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 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
- Moms & Kids..... Jen Abelson 410-570-6962
- Mindy Leonard 760-400-8822
- 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
- Spiritual 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

Social Ministries Cherie & Greg Abrahms 760-598-6776

- Women's Guild..... Ann Buko 760-726-8831
- 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

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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	lorraine@stmoside.org
Brian Leahey, Director of Construction.....	760-758-4100 x152	brianl@stmoside.org

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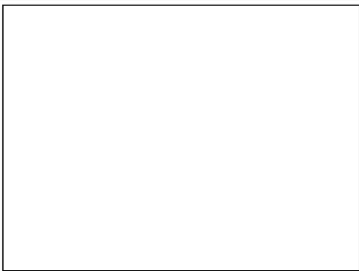
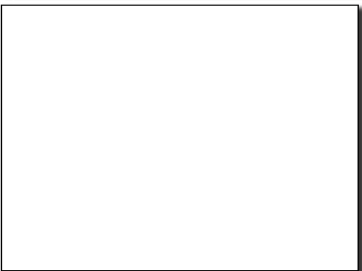
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Vista, CA 92083



join
moms & kids
for our
first get together
of 2014!

are you a mom with infant to school-
aged children? **want to meet other
moms for fun and friendship?** looking
for a way to get to know some other
parish families?

bagels and play at the park

South Buena Vista Park
(corner of S. Melrose and Mountain Pass Circle)
January 6, 2014
10:00am-12:00noon

contact:

jen abelson: 410-570-6962
mindy leonard: 760-400-8822



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH
MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE



1450 South Melrose Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056
760-758-4100 • www.stmoside.org

'The Spirited Seniors PRESENTS

Join us at the Avo Playhouse to see the production *Nunsense*. The Little Sisters of Hoboken invite you to their sister act full of musical madness. Discover why this heaven-sent musical comedy is Off-Broadway's second longest-running musical in history!



Sunday, January 19, at 2:00pm
Ticket price: \$25 per person

Depart from the STM parking lot at 1:15pm (carpooling available)
Avo Playhouse, 303 Main Street, Vista

After the play, have an early dinner on your own with friends!

Deadline for reservations is January 13

Please complete the registration form and a check made out to "STM Spirited Seniors." Place in an envelope marked "Spirited Seniors Avo Playhouse" and return it in the offertory collection or to the Parish Office, Box 12, by January 13.

For more information, contact Judy Buoniconti at 760-758-5113.



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The Spirited Seniors Avo Playhouse • January 19 • Registration forms and checks due by January 13.

Name:	Telephone:	Today's date:
Guest Name(s):	Email:	Number of reservations:
		_____ @ \$25
___ Carpool: I/we can drive ___ people	___ Carpool: I/we would like a ride for ___ people	\$_____ Total enclosed